



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

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Ellis McSwain, Jr  
Chairman  
Missouri Board of Probation and Parole  
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**Subject: Death Penalty Case – Mr Cecil Clayton**

Dear Chairman McSwain,

The European Union would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal for Mr. Cecil Clayton, who is scheduled to be executed on March 17, 2015.

While recognizing the serious nature of the crime involved, and expressing our understanding and sympathies for the suffering of the deceased victim and of his surviving family, the European Union would like, respectfully, to draw your attention to the mental situation of Mr Clayton.

In particular, the European Union notes that Mr Clayton suffered the loss of part of his brain in an accident years before the commission of his crime, which led to several mental disorders. Mr Clayton is currently 74 years old and there is evidence indicating that his mental capacities are seriously impaired.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights. In this vein, the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 2014 a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012, expressly asking all countries that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

The execution of persons suffering from intellectual disability or mental illness is contrary to the minimum standards set forth in several international human rights instruments, as well as being prohibited by the US Constitution.

Therefore the European Union respectfully urges you, Chairman McSwain, to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr Cecil Clayton relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

  
David C. Sullivan  
Ambassador  
Deputy Head of Delegation