



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
*The Ambassador*



AMBASSADE  
DE FRANCE  
AUX ÉTATS-UNIS

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

*L' Ambassadeur*

Washington, 5 April 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Texas Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Please accept our congratulations to the State of Texas for hosting the South by Southwest Conference again this year, which we were both privileged to attend in person. SXSW has become a highly successful annual event and a real showcase for the dynamism of the state and the city of Austin.

On a separate issue, in our capacities as EU Ambassador to the United States and as Ambassador of France, which holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU, we are also writing to respectfully request that you grant clemency to Ms. Melissa Lucio, who was sentenced to death on July 10, 2008 in Brownsville and is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas on April 27.

As you know, the European Union and its Member States have abolished the use of capital punishment in all circumstances. We firmly believe that it is possible to offer staunch support to all victims of abuse and crime as well as their families by rigorously and effectively prosecuting and punishing perpetrators, outside the framework of the death penalty.

We are especially concerned over the upcoming execution of Ms. Lucio given the sustained questions surrounding her guilt. Mariah's death was a terrible tragedy. It is now of utmost importance that a potentially innocent woman is not executed.

Ms. Lucio has maintained her innocence for 14 years and medical experts concluded that her daughter, Mariah, died from an accidental fall down the stairs. There are questions surrounding the extraction of her confession on the night of her daughter's death, also given her background as a survivor of sexual assault and domestic violence. The European Union is also concerned that Ms. Lucio's right to a fair trial was undermined, an opinion shared unanimously by the panel of judges on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who granted Ms. Lucio relief before the decision was reversed by an extremely close 10-7 vote. We further understand that the district attorney who prosecuted Ms. Lucio's case was subsequently convicted of bribery and extortion in 2014 for accepting funds in exchange for favorable outcomes in criminal trials.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathies to Ms. Lucio's children, who have stood by their mother despite the pain they have suffered in this awful

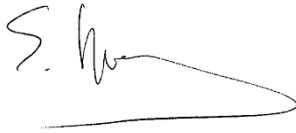
tragedy. It should be underlined that Ms. Lucio did not have a previous history of physical abuse towards her twelve children and none of her children served as witnesses during her trial.

Mr. Governor, in light of the above considerations, we respectfully urge you to exercise your power to grant clemency to Ms. Lucio, or at the very least, a reprieve.

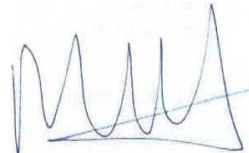
Please know that we greatly value the close relationship between the State of Texas and the European Union and its Member States. We look forward to working together with you in the future.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke that tapers to a point on the right.

**Stavros Lambrinidis**  
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a series of vertical, wavy lines that resemble a stylized 'M' or 'E' with a horizontal base.

**Philippe Etienne**  
Ambassador of France to the United States