



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Deputy Head of Delegation

Washington, 29 June 2018
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The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6117
Fax: 614 466 9354

Subject: Execution of Raymond Tibbetts

Dear Governor Kasich,

The European Union regrets that Mr. Raymond Tibbetts is to be executed in the State of Ohio on October 17, 2018. The European Union, represented by the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, wishes to make a humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Tibbetts, who has been on death row for twenty years.

The EU recognizes the serious nature of the crime involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the surviving family and friends of the victims. However, the European Union does not believe that the use of the death penalty can ever be justified.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly 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.

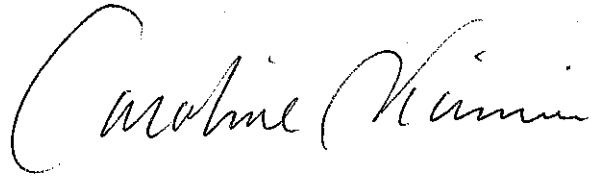
In jurisdictions that have not yet abolished the death penalty, the European Union considers it to be of utmost importance that defendants charged with crimes for which capital punishments may be imposed have access to adequate legal assistance at all stages of trial proceedings. In this regard, I wish to express concern about allegations that Mr. Tibbetts' defense failed through lack of preparation or malpractice to provide jurors with sufficient information about his abusive childhood and to correct potentially misleading characterizations of it provided by prosecutors. One of the original jurors, Ross Geiger, has stated that he would have not recommended the death penalty if he had been aware of the extent of abuse Tibbetts faced while growing up. It is my understanding that Ohio law rules out the death penalty in cases where even one of the jurors recommends against it.

We believe that any miscarriage of justice, or failure of the judicial system in the application of the death penalty, represents an irreparable loss of human life. No legal system is immune from error, nor is there any reliable evidence to support the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to

serious crime. Your power of executive clemency would act as fail-safe protection when information has come out too late for the courts to act.

Taking account of these factors, we respectfully urge you, Governor, to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute the sentence of Mr. Raymond Tibbetts and grant him relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Caroline Vicini". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Caroline Vicini