



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

Washington, 14 August 2018
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HB/AD/PA/df

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
Office of the Governor of Nebraska
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509-4848

Subject: Execution of Carey Dean Moore

Dear Governor Ricketts,

The European Union regrets that the State of Nebraska plans to execute Mr Carey Dean Moore on August 14th, 2018. On behalf of the EU, I wish to make an urgent humanitarian appeal regarding his case.

The EU recognises the grave nature of the crimes involved and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the victims. However, the EU does not believe that the use of the death penalty can ever be justified, or that it acts as a credible deterrent. It is the EU's position that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity. The EU therefore aims at the universal abolition of the death penalty, seeking a global moratorium as a first step.

The execution of Mr Moore would be the first in Nebraska since 1997. Ending this de facto moratorium runs counter to a nationwide and global trend against the use of the death penalty, and would constitute a political step that would set Nebraska back in the progressive development of human rights.

The EU is also concerned over the fact that the execution protocol planned for the execution of Mr Moore is new. Experimenting with new drug combinations raises the risk of error and of Mr Moore's suffering pain amounting to torture during his execution, especially since it would be the first time Nebraska carries out an execution using lethal injection.

We would like to stress that as a founding member of the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade, the European Union is committed to preventing the export of certain medical substances that may be used for implementing the death penalty. We also note that a company is still challenging the use of drugs it believes to have manufactured to be used for the execution for this particular purpose, as those would have been obtained by circumventing its policies. Proceeding with Mr Moore's execution would, in that regard, be a very concerning precedent.

For these reasons, Mr Governor, I respectfully urge you on behalf of the European Union to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute Mr Moore's sentence and to grant him relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

David O'Sullivan

Ambassador