



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

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The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
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Austin, Texas 78711-2428

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**Subject: Death Penalty case of Mr Clinton Lee Young**

Dear Governor Abbott,

The European Union notes with concern the fact that Mr. Clinton Lee Young is scheduled to be executed on Thursday 26 October. The European Union, represented by the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, wishes to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on his behalf.

It is my understanding that Mr. Young was not provided adequate legal representation in his initial state post-conviction proceedings, and was thus prevented from raising meritorious issues. Mr. Young's current defense team believes that newly-obtained scientific evidence, not available at trial, shows he is innocent of capital murder, and that he was wrongly convicted.

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 on a global scale. Furthermore, we are convinced that applying the death penalty will have no deterrent effect.

The European Union recognises the serious nature of the crimes involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathies to the surviving families and friends of the victims. However, the European Union does not believe that their loss will be mitigated by the death of Mr. Young.

The European Union respectfully urges you, Governor, to take these factors into account and to commute the sentence of Mr Clinton Lee Young and grant him relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,



David O'Sullivan  
Ambassador