



Embassy of Italy EU Presidency
3000 Whitehaven Street
Washington, DC 20008

December 10, 2003

The Honorable Michael Huckabee
Governor of Arkansas
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Huckabee,

The European Union has learned that Mr. Charles Singleton is facing imminent execution in the State of Arkansas. On behalf of the European Union, Italy, as current [President](#), together with Ireland, the subsequent President, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Charles Singleton.

As stated in the EU Memorandum on the Death Penalty, which has been shared with you on previous occasions (it can also be found on the web page (<http://www.eurunion.org/legislat/DeathPenalty/eumemorandum.htm>), the European Union is opposed to the death penalty in all cases and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

The European Union considers that in those countries, which have not yet abolished the death penalty, capital punishment should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. Mr. Singleton exhibits severe psychiatric problems and has apparently suffered from this mental illness for many years. Furthermore, the EU has been informed that Mr. Singleton has been involuntarily medicated since 1997. Indeed, on February 10, 2003, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals held that the State of Arkansas can continue to medicate Mr. Singleton so that he is sane at the time of his execution

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and in contradiction of the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments. Among them are [United Nations Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\) Resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989](#) on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty as well as [Resolution 2003/67](#) adopted at the last session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This resolution specifically urges all states still maintaining the death penalty “not to impose death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person.”

We therefore respectfully urge you, Mr. Governor, to take these factors into consideration and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Singleton relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,

Sergio Vento
Ambasciatore d'Italia
Ambasciatore d'Irlanda
Deputy Head of the European Commission Delegation

[Letter to Arkansas Post-Prison Transfer Board](#) .

Embassy of Italy

3000 Whitehaven Street

Washington, DC 20008

(202) 412-6400 Fax (202) 518-2154

E-mail: stampa@itwash.org

Website: <http://www.italyemb.org/>