



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

Washington, 11 August 2010
D(2010) 789 BW/fh

Subject: Death Penalty - The Case of Mr. Cal Coburn Brown

Dear Governor,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Cal Coburn Brown is to be executed in the State of Washington on September 10, 2010. Representing the European Union, the Delegation of the European Union to the United States of America, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Cal Coburn Brown.

The European Union recognises that Mr Brown has been convicted of an exceptionally grave crime. Nevertheless, the European Union is opposed to the death penalty in principle, as it believes that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. 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.

The European Union considers that nations, which have not as yet abolished the use of capital punishment, should not impose this punishment when a de facto moratorium has been in place for an extended period. The execution of Mr. Brown would break the de facto moratorium in the State of Washington, where the last execution took place on August 28, 2001.

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. 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.

The European Union also notes that on November 20, 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolution adopted in December 2007, expressly asking all nations that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the practice.

Governor Chris Gregoire
Legislative Bldg.
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

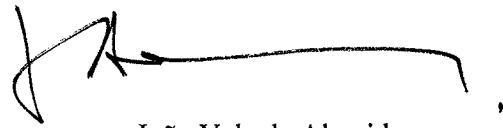
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2175 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20037-1831 Telephone: (202) 862.9500. Telefax: (202) 429.1766.
E-Mail Address: delegation-washington@ec.europa.eu

<http://www.eurunion.org>

Taking account of these factors, we respectfully urge you, Governor, to continue the de-facto moratorium currently in place within the State of Washington and to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute the sentence of Mr. Cal Brown to life in prison.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'J' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador