



The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine

Office of the Governor
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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Dear Governor,

CASE OF MR. PERCY LEVAR WALTON

The European Union has learned that Mr. Percy Levar Walton is to be executed in the State of Virginia on 8 June 2006. On behalf of the European Union, Austria as current President, together with Finland, the subsequent President, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Percy Walton.

The European Union opposes 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 countries which have not yet abolished the death penalty, this penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. Mr. Walton has a long history of mental illness and has been diagnosed as psychotic and suffering from a severe form of schizophrenia. Moreover, there is also evidence to suggest that Mr. Walton may also be mentally retarded.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to 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 2005/59, 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 the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person."

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

Sincerely,

Eva Nowotny
Ambassador of Austria

Pekka Lintu
Ambassador of Finland

John Bruton
Ambassador,
Head of Delegation,
European Commission