



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Acting Head of Delegation

Washington, 25 May 2010

BW/fh D(2010) 489

Rissie Owens, Chairperson
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
P.O. Box 13401
Austin TX 78711-3401

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Dear Mr. Chairman,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. David Lee Powell is to be executed in the State of Texas on June 15, 2010. The European Union, represented by the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, wishes to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Powell.

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 recalls that in November, 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.

Furthermore, the European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Powell has spent over 30 years on death row and has, during this time, endured a number of errors within the judicial process.

The EU considers long periods of time under the constant threat of death to be extreme. Indeed, it can lead to severe mental trauma and physical deterioration in inmates living under such conditions of confinement for an extended period of time.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the considerable efforts made by Mr. Powell to aid his and other's rehabilitation whilst on death row and his attempts to contribute to society.

We therefore respectfully urge you, Mr. Chairman, to take these factors into account and advise the Governor of Texas to grant Mr. David Lee Powell relief from the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Angelos Pangratis
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.