

MINISTÈRE
DES
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES
ET EUROPÉENNES

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
PARIS, LE **22 OCT. 2009**

Le Secrétaire d'État
chargé des Affaires étrangères
et des Droits de l'Homme

N° 3031

Dear Governor,

I am writing to convey to you, in the name of the European Union, our deep concerns about the situation of Mr. Troy Davis who is due to be executed on 27th October.

Following the United States Supreme Court's denial of certiorari, I wish to reiterate in the strongest possible terms the European Union's longstanding opposition to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and in all cases. 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.

The concept of American Justice is founded on its dedication to protecting individual liberties and is the hallmark of American democracy. Yet highly advanced legal systems, as seen in the United States, which rest upon the principle of the rule of law, including the principle of due process, are not immune to miscarriages of justice. The irreversibility of the death penalty eradicates all possibility of correcting such miscarriages, allowing for the execution of innocent people.

The execution of a potentially innocent person would severely challenge America's reputation within the world community as a beacon of justice.

I therefore call on you to request the Board of Pardons to reconsider its decision of September 12 in the case of Troy Davis and to use all powers vested in your office to ensure that the case of Mr. Troy Davis is reviewed in full and that he is granted relief from the death penalty.

Yours faithfully



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