



The Honorable Phil Bredesen
The Governor of Tennessee

Governor's Office
Tennessee State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Phone: 615.741.2001
Fax: 615.532.9711

Dear Governor,

CASE OF MR. PAUL REID

The European Union has learned that Mr. Paul Reid is facing imminent execution in the State of Tennessee (28 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. Paul Reid.

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. Reid has a long history of severe mental illness. He has been diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia as well as a cognitive disorder. There is also evidence that this grave form of mental illness is compounded by brain damage which was induced from head trauma when he was a young boy.

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 exercise all powers invested in your office to commute the sentence of Mr. Reid.

Sincerely,

Eva Nowotny
Ambassador of Austria

Pekka Lintu
Ambassador of Finland

John Bruton
Ambassador,
Head of Delegation,
European Commission



Charles M. Traughber
Chairman

Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole
404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1300
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Phone 615 741-1150
Fax: 615 741-5337

Dear Mr. Chairman,

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We therefore respectfully urge you, as Chairman of the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, to exercise all powers invested in your office to commute the sentence of Mr. Reid.

Sincerely,

Eva Nowotny
Ambassador of Austria

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John Bruton
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