



Rissie Owens, Chairperson
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
P.O. Box 13401
Austin TX 78711-3401
Fax: 1 512 463 8120

Dear Ms. Chairperson,

CASE OF MR. ANGEL RESENDIZ

The European Union has learned that Mr. Angel Resendiz is facing imminent execution in the State of Texas (27 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. Angel Resendiz.

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. Resendiz has a long history of severe mental illness. He has been diagnosed as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia as well as from a schizotypal personality disorder. Since he has been on death row, his condition has deteriorated significantly. He has been placed on anti-psychotic medication to control his auditory hallucinations and delusions.

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, as Chairperson of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Resendiz relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,

Eva Nowotny
Ambassador of Austria

Pekka Lintu
Ambassador of Finland

John Bruton
Ambassador,
Head of Delegation,
European Commission



The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
PO Box 12428
Austin TX 78711
Fax: 1 512 463 1849

Dear Governor,

CASE OF MR. ANGEL RESENDIZ

The European Union has learned that Mr. Angel Resendiz is facing imminent execution in the State of Texas (27 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. Angel Resendiz. 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. Resendiz has a long history of severe mental illness. He has been diagnosed as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia as well as from a schizotypal personality disorder. Since he has been on death row, his condition has deteriorated significantly. He has been placed on anti-psychotic medication to control his auditory hallucinations and delusions.

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We therefore respectfully urge you, Governor, as we have also urged the members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles of Texas, to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Resendiz relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,

Eva Nowotny
Ambassador of Austria

Pekka Lintu
Ambassador of Finland

John Bruton
Ambassador,
Head of Delegation,
European Commission