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**Swedish Presidency
of the European Union**

Governor Bobby Jindal
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Washington D.C., December 14, 2009

Dear Governor,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Gerald Bordelon is to be executed in the State of Louisiana on January 7, 2010. Representing the European Union, Sweden, as the current Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with Spain, the incoming Presidency, and the EU Delegation, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Gerald Bordelon.

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 considers that nations, which have not as yet abolished the use of capital punishment, should not impose this punishment when a de facto moratorium has been in place for an extended period. The execution of Mr. Bordelon would break the de facto moratorium in the State of Louisiana, where the last execution took place on 10 May, 2002.

The European Union believes that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the application of the death penalty represents an irreparable and irreversible loss of human life. No legal system is immune from mistakes and there is no reliable evidence that the death penalty provides added value in terms of deterrence.

The European Union also notes 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.

Taking account of these factors, we respectfully urge you, Governor, to continue the de-facto moratorium currently in place within the State of Louisiana and to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Gerald Bordelon relief from the death penalty.

Respectfully Yours,



Jonas Hafström

Ambassador of Sweden



Jorge Dezcallar de Mazarredo

Ambassador of Spain



Angelos Pangratis

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Delegation of the
European Union