



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

Governor Haley Barbour
P.O. Box 139
Jackson
Mississippi, 39205.

Washington, DC, May 15th, 2008

Dear Governor Barbour,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Earl Wesley Berry is scheduled to be executed in the State of Mississippi on May 21st, 2008. Representing the European Union, Slovenia, as the current Presidency, together with France, the incoming Presidency, and the European Commission, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Berry.

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 the first step.

The European Union considers that in nations which have not as yet abolished the use of capital punishment, the death penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. In the present case, the European Union notes that there is evidence to suggest that Mr. Berry is suffering from mental retardation.

The EU considers that the execution of people with mental disorders is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction of the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international instruments. Among these are the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1996/15 on the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, in addition to Resolution 2005/59, adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights which specifically urges all states that still maintain the death penalty "Not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any mental or intellectual disabilities or to execute any such person".

We therefore respectfully urge you, Governor, to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Earl Wesley Berry relief from the death penalty.

Respectfully Yours,



Samuel Žbogar
Ambassador of Slovenia



Pierre Vimont
Ambassador of France



John Bruton
Ambassador,
Head of Delegation
of the European Commission

