

Ms. Chris Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

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March 9, 2009

Dear Governor,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Cal Coburn Brown is to be executed in the State of Washington on March 13, 2009. Representing the European Union, the Czech Republic, as the current Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with Sweden, the incoming Presidency, and the European Commission, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Cal Coburn Brown.

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. Brown would break the de facto moratorium in the State of Washington, where the last execution took place on August 28, 2001.

The European Union also notes that on November 20, 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 Washington and to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Cal Coburn Brown relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,



Petr Kolář
Ambassador of the Czech
Republic



Jonas Hafström
Ambassador of Sweden



John Bruton
Ambassador for the Delegation
of the European Commission