

November 30, 2004

Governor Michael F. Easley  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

Dear Governor Easley,

The European Union has learned that Mr. Charles Walker is to be executed in the State of North Carolina on 3 December, 2004. On behalf of the European Union, The Netherlands, as the current Presidency, together with Luxembourg, the subsequent Presidency, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Walker.


The European Union opposes the death penalty in all cases and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, urging all countries that maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards that goal. The European Union considers that in those countries that have not yet abolished capital punishment, this penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. Mr. Walker has a long and documented history of mental illness, exhibiting signs from the age of ten when he was diagnosed as having schizophrenic symptoms manifested in childhood with auditory hallucinations. He has also been diagnosed with associated mental illnesses including bi-polar disorder and extreme paranoia.

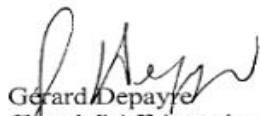
The EU believes strongly that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights standards and in contradiction to the minimum standards set out in several international human rights instruments. Among them are United Nations Economic and Social Council (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 2004/67 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 take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Charles Walker relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,

  
Boudewijn van Eenennaam  
Ambassador of  
the Netherlands

  
Arlette Conzemius  
Ambassador of  
Luxembourg

  
Gérard Depayre  
Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the Delegation  
of the European Commission

CC: Reuben Young, Legal Counsel  
Ruffin Poole, Special Counsel to the Governor