

'EU script' for consuls in Atlanta, to be used in their verbal approach to the Governor of Georgia

The European Union notes that Mr. Troy Davis may be facing execution in the State of Georgia. On behalf of the European Union, we wish to make a humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Davis. The European Union fully accepts that a horrible crime was committed and that victims and their survivors have been irreparably harmed. It, therefore, extends its full sympathy and compassion to those harmed in this case. However, true justice for these victims cannot be found by the ending of Mr. Davis's life.

The case of Mr. Davis for several years now, raised uncertainty of his culpability as well as many questions concerning the witnesses in the case as his multiple appeals and the complications of witness recantation of testimony have demonstrated repeatedly. No legal system is immune from error. Obviously any miscarriage of justice, or failure of the justice system in the application of the death penalty, represents an irreparable loss of life. The European Union continues to believe there are grounds in this case to fear such an outcome. Therefore, the European Union requests that you use your influence with the Board of Pardons and Parole to change this death sentence to life in prison.

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 elimination of the death penalty is a fundamental protection of human dignity, and is essential to the progressive development of human rights. In that regard, it is also necessary to object to the possible use of a new, untried method of execution which has not even been accepted for the euthanasia of animals by the necessary boards in the United States. The European Union strongly objects to subjecting human beings to practices which are not allowed for use on animals.

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 implement the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the practice. In addition to the general call for the establishment of a global moratorium, the European Union notes that the American Bar Association reviewed the death penalty in the State of Georgia and its final report issued in January 2006 also called for the establishment of a moratorium in the state of Georgia. The study highlighted many procedural problems which undercut the integrity of the legal system in Georgia. The European Union notes that few of the reforms called for either the American Bar Association or the Georgia Bar Association members who participated in the study have been implemented.

For all of the above reasons on behalf of the European Union therefore we respectfully urge you to take these factors into account and to exercise all of your considerable influence on the Board of Pardons and Parole to commute the sentence of Mr. Davis.