



Washington, 3 May 2023

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 212
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4801

Dear Governor Stitt,

At the outset, please accept our deep condolences to the people of Oklahoma for the recent deadly tornadoes on April 19. We hope that all clean-up and assistance efforts are proceeding smoothly.

We are writing to you today regarding Mr. Richard Glossip's scheduled execution on May 18. We understand that the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals recently denied Mr. Glossip's request to vacate his conviction as well as his request for a stay of execution. Given that the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board was divided on its clemency recommendation for Mr. Glossip on April 26, we strongly urge you to grant another reprieve for Mr. Glossip and prevent the killing of a potentially innocent man.

Mr. Glossip has consistently maintained his innocence of the 1997 murder of Barry Van Treese. From our understanding, his conviction largely rests on the testimony of his co-defendant and confessed murderer in this case, Mr. Justin Sneed.

Mr. Glossip's defense team has presented evidence from multiple sources that Mr. Sneed admitted to falsely implicating Mr. Glossip. They further contend that the prosecution withheld evidence that Mr. Sneed attempted to recant his accusations.

An independent investigation commissioned by a bipartisan group of state lawmakers in 2022 exposed evidence of prosecutorial misconduct and destruction of evidence in Mr. Glossip's case.

As has been widely reported, Oklahoma's Attorney General Gentner Drummond has also noted his concerns about Mr. Glossip's trial, and urged the Pardon and Parole Board to recommend clemency.

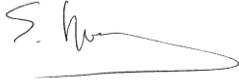
Indeed, concerns about Mr. Glossip's innocence have led his execution to be rescheduled eight times.

Mr. Glossip's case exemplifies one of the main reasons why the European Union and its Member States are resolutely against capital punishment: The death penalty is irreversible and even the most advanced legal systems risk executing innocent individuals. According to the latest available data, since 1973, 191 death row inmates have been exonerated throughout the United States, including 10 from Oklahoma.

Mr. Governor, what happened to Mr. Van Treese was a horrible crime and the perpetrator must be held accountable. However, it is now of utmost importance that a potentially innocent man is not executed.

Taking the above considerations into account, we respectfully urge you to exercise all powers vested in your office to halt Mr. Glossip's execution.

Respectfully yours,



Stavros Lambrinidis
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States



Karin Olofsdotter
Ambassador of Sweden to the United States

cc: Attorney General Gentner Drummond