



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Deputy Head of Delegation

Washington, 13 October 2017  
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The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Fax: (512) 463-1849

**Subject: Ruben Cárdenas Ramírez, TDCJ #999275**

Dear Governor Abbott,

The European Union has learned that Ruben Cárdenas Ramírez, a Mexican national, is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas on November 8, 2017. On behalf of the European Union we would like to convey our support for Mr. Cardenas Ramirez's clemency petition.

The European Union recognizes the terrible crime that lies at the heart of this case and extends its sympathy to the family of the victim.

As you may know, Mr. Cárdenas is one of 51 Mexican nationals specifically named in the case of Avena and other Mexican Nationals. In the Avena case, the International Court of Justice found that U.S. courts must review and reconsider Mr. Cárdenas' conviction and sentence to determine if the violation of his consular rights affected the fairness of his capital murder trial. The European Union acknowledges that the United States has recognized its international legal obligation to implement the remedies mandated by the ICJ in this judgement.

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (VCCR) grants all foreign nationals the right to unimpeded contact with their consular representatives. Article 36 of the VCCR further guarantees that Americans detained in a foreign country and foreign nationals detained in the U.S. have the right to prompt consular notification, resulting in timely consular visits and assistance. It is undisputed that Mr. Cárdenas was never informed of his right to consular notification, as required under the VCCR. Thus, Mexico was deprived of its parallel right under the VCCR to assist him throughout the criminal proceedings.

All Member States of the European Union are party to the Vienna Convention for Consular Relations. As such, the EU has an interest in securing compliance with the rights guaranteed under Article 36 and considers the observance of treaty obligations to be of vital importance to all aspects of the transatlantic relationship. A foreign national faces unique disadvantages when left to navigate a foreign country's legal system in the absence of support from his home country, even if he is represented by competent legal counsel. Like Mexico, EU Member States and their consular officers are committed to protecting the rights of their detained nationals. Strict compliance with Article 36 is crucial, for our consulates cannot provide timely assistance unless they are promptly notified that one of our nationals has been detained.

I have the honor to respectfully request that you grant clemency in the case of Ruben Cárdenas Ramírez so that his case can be reviewed.

Thank you for your consideration of this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Vicini  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.