



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

Washington, 13 May 2014
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FR/aj

The Honourable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
State Capital
P.O.Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Fax 512 463 1849

Subject: Death Penalty Case – Mr Robert James Campbell

Dear Governor Perry,

The European Union is writing to make an urgent appeal as regards Mr Robert Campbell, whom we understand has received a date for execution of May 13, 2014.

The European Union recognizes the serious nature of the crime involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathies to the surviving family and friends of the victim.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights.

In the present case, the European Union notes with concern that Mr Robert Campbell was barely 18 years old at the time of his crime and that there have been substantiated allegations that Mr Campbell has limited intellectual capabilities.


The European Union considers that the execution of people with mental disorders, including limited mental competence, is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments. The U.S. Supreme Court also ruled in *Atkins vs. Virginia* that the execution of mentally retarded prisoners violated the U.S. Constitution.

The European Union is equally disturbed by the confidentiality concerning the supplier of the drug that will be used in the execution of Mr Robert Campbell, and by the

possibility that extreme suffering might be caused. The European Union notes that the State of Oklahoma has stayed all executions pending an investigation on the botched execution of another inmate, Clayton Lockett, on 29 April, and that a review of the use of capital punishment is being launched at federal level.

In view of the risk of executing a mentally disabled person and of the uncertainty regarding possible unexpected effects of the drugs to be used, the European Union respectfully urges you to commute the death sentence of Mr Robert Campbell.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

João Vale de Almeida