



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Ambassador

Washington, 19 May 2021
DD/PR/st

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

With this letter, I am writing to relay the European Union's concerns about the case of Mr. Quintin Jones, who is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas on May 19. In light of the issues surrounding his case, and the EU's principled opposition to the death penalty, I respectfully request that you grant Mr. Jones a 30-day stay of execution.

There are compelling reasons for granting a reprieve in this case. Mr. Jones' legal counsel failed to provide adequate defense at the time of the sentencing and in subsequent post-conviction trials. Despite his deeply troubled childhood, Mr. Jones has expressed deep remorse for his actions, taking full responsibility for them and has also undergone a deep transformation in prison. And we understand that the family of the victim is also opposed to Mr. Jones' execution.

Mr. Governor, while having fully abolished the death penalty, the European Union strongly stands by victims of violent crime and their families, and rigorously prosecutes and punishes such crimes within its territory. In this context too, we wish to express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the victim, Ms. Berthena Bryant.

Taking the above considerations into account, we respectfully urge you to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Quintin Jones a 30-day stay of execution.

We greatly value the relationship between the State of Texas and the European Union, from trade and investment to people-to-people and countless other ties. Once conditions allow, I hope to be able to visit Texas and to work together with you to further strengthen these mutually beneficial and indispensable connections.

Respectfully yours,

Stavros Lambrinidis