



EUROPEAN UNION  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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The Ambassador

Washington, 24 February 2021  
DD/PR/st

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

**Re: Ramiro Ibarra Rubí, TDCJ # 999247**

Dear Governor Abbott,

At the outset, please accept my sympathy for the extreme weather that has impacted the State of Texas in recent days, and the challenges it has posed for you and the citizens of Texas.

With this letter, I am writing to relay the European Union's concerns about the case of Mr. Ramiro Ibarra Rubí, a Mexican national who is scheduled to be executed by the State of Texas on March 4, 2021. In light of the issues surrounding his case, and the EU's broader opposition to the death penalty, I respectfully request that you grant clemency to Mr. Ibarra.

There are compelling reasons for granting executive clemency in this case. Mr. Ibarra is one of 51 Mexican nationals specifically named in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case of *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*. In *Avena*, the ICJ found that U.S. courts must review and reconsider Mr. Ibarra's conviction and sentence to determine if the violation of his consular rights affected the fairness of his capital murder trial. However, no such review and reconsideration has been undertaken.

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 and other nationals detained in a foreign country have the right to prompt consular notification, resulting in timely consular visits and assistance. It is undisputed that Mr. Ibarra 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.

While the U.S. criminal justice system provides many safeguards to protect the legal rights of those facing criminal charges, consular officers often provide indispensable humanitarian, protective, and legal assistance to foreign nationals facing serious charges. This assistance ensures that foreigners facing criminal charges can prepare and present a full defense.

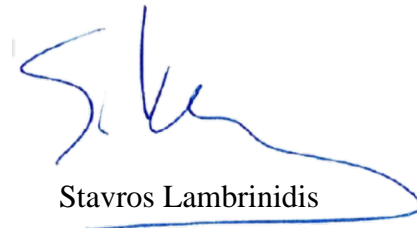
More broadly, while having fully abolished the death penalty, the European Union strongly stands by victims of violent crimes and their families, and rigorously prosecutes and punishes such crimes within its territory. In this context too, we wish to express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends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

At the same time, from both an ethical and a practical standpoint, the European Union has unequivocally concluded that the death penalty is neither an appropriate nor an effective means of preventing egregious crimes or of punishing their perpetrators, and we believe that it does not bring justice to the victims. It is incompatible with human dignity and with the inalienable right to life. Furthermore, judicial errors, which are inevitable in any judicial system including the most advanced ones, carry the risk of irreversibly executing innocent people – an outcome that no democracy should tolerate.

Mr. Governor, taking the above considerations into account, we respectfully urge you to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant clemency to Mr. Ramiro Ibarra Rubí.

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