

*Council of Europe
The Secretary General*

Reference:

Strasbourg, 23 May 2003

Dear Governor,

I write to you to express my deepest concern and abhorrence about the imminent execution of Mr Glenn Holladay and would ask you, as a matter of urgency, to stay this execution.

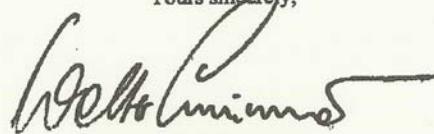
The Council of Europe, and its 45 member States are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty, considering that it has no place in a civilised democracy.

As an Observer to this Organisation, the United States of America is deemed to share the same fundamental values and principles.

The case of Glenn Holladay is particularly abhorrent inasmuch as it is reported that he is borderline mentally retarded. His execution would not only flout Resolution 2003/67 adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission on 24 April 2003 but would also contravene international legal standards, including those drawn up by the Council of Europe.

I appeal to you, in the name of human decency, to do all that is in your power to stop this execution.

Yours sincerely,



Walter SCHWIMMER

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