



Éire 2004 Uachtaránacht an Aontais Eorpaigh
Ireland 2004 Presidency of the European Union

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EU PRESIDENCY

2234 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20008

April 26, 2004

Ms. Rissie Owens,
Chairwoman, Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
P.O. Box 13401
Austin, Texas 78711-3401

Dear Chairwoman Owens

The European Union has learned that Mr. Kelsey Patterson is to be executed in the State of Texas on 18 May, 2004. On behalf of the European Union, Ireland, as current Presidency together with The Netherlands, the subsequent Presidency, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr Kelsey Patterson.

The European Union opposes the death penalty in all cases and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. The European Union considers that in those countries which have not yet abolished the death penalty, this penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. Mr Patterson has a long history of severe mental illness from before the crime. He has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and has been hospitalised on several occasions before his arrest for capital murder.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments. Among them are United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, as well as Resolution 2004/94 adopted at the last session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This resolution specifically urges all States still maintaining the death penalty “not to impose the death penalty on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person.”

We therefore respectfully urge you, as we have also urged Governor Perry, to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr Patterson relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely

Noel Fahey
Ambassador of
Ireland

Boudewijn Van Eenennaam
Ambassador of
the Netherlands

Dr Guenter Burghardt
Ambassador, Head of Delegation
of the European Commission