



EMBASSY OF GREECE
Washington D.C.

EU Presidency

23 May, 2003

*Hon. Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36130*

Dear Mr. Governor,

On behalf of the European Union, Greece, as current president, together with Italy, its subsequent President, and the European Commission would like to convey to you an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Glenn Holladay, who has been sentenced to death and is scheduled to be executed in May 29, 2003.

As stated in the EU Memorandum on the Death Penalty (<http://www.eurounion.org/legislat/DeathPenalty/eumemorandum.htm>) which has been shared with you, the European Union is opposed to 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.

We understand that Mr. Holladay is reported to be suffering from a mental disorder. He has a long history indicating mental deficits, while extensive documentation by state agencies, schools and physicians delineates Mr. Holladay's mental retardation. The EU considers that the execution of people with mental disorders is contrary to human dignity and to international human rights instruments such as the United Nations Economic and Social Council 1984/50 Resolution on the safeguards for the protection of persons facing the death penalty and Resolution 2003/67 adopted at the last session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which specifically urges all states that still maintain 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, Mr. Governor, to take all the aforementioned factors into account and to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute Mr. Holladay's sentence to any penalty other than capital punishment in accordance with international law.

Sincerely,

*George Savvaides
Ambassador of Greece*

*Sergio Vento
Ambassador of Italy*

*Gunter Burghardt
Ambassador, Head of the
Delegation of the European
Commission*