

ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY

Washington, DC

EU Presidency

Governor Perry
State Capitol
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

3200 Whitehaven Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Phone: (202) 234 4300
Fax: (202) 328 1470
E-mail: wasamb@um.dk
www.denmarkemb.org



Enclosure

File
27.USA.1

24 October, 2002

Dear Governor Perry,

The European Union has learned that Mr. James Blake Colburn is to be executed in the State of Texas on November 6, 2002. On behalf of the European Union, Denmark, as current President, together with Greece, the subsequent President, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. James Blake Colburn.

As stated in the EU memorandum on the Death Penalty, which has been shared with you on previous occasions (it can also be found on the web page: www.eurunion.org/legislat/deathpenalty/eumemorandum.htm), 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. Colburn has a long history of severe mental illness from before the crime. He has been diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia characterized by hallucinations and delusions.

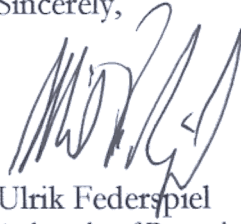
The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments. Among them are United Nations Economic and 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 Reso-



lution 2002/77 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, Governor, as we have also urged the members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles of Texas, to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Colburn relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely,



Ulrik Federspiel
Ambassador of Denmark



Georges Savvaides
Ambassador of Greece



P.O. Günter Burghardt
Ambassador, Head of the
Delegation of the European
Commission