

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 19 September 2005

Dear Governor,

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

The Council of Europe, and its 46 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 Alan Matheney is particularly distressing inasmuch as it is reported that he suffers from mental illness. His execution would not only flout the Resolutions adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission on the question of the death penalty, including Resolution 2005/59 but would also contravene international legal standards, including those drawn up by the Council of Europe.

Once again, I appeal to you, in the name of human decency, to stop Alan Matheney's execution.

Yours sincerely,



Terry Davis

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