

Strasbourg, 26 April 2004

Dear Ms Owens,

I write to you in your capacity as Chairperson of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to express my deepest concern and abhorrence about the imminent execution of Kelsey Patterson and would ask you, as a matter of urgency, to recommend a stay of 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 Kelsey Patterson is particularly abhorrent 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, the most recent of which was adopted on 21 April 2004, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter Schwimmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Walter SCHWIMMER

Ms Rissie OWENS
Chairperson
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
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