



EMBASSY OF GREECE
Washington D.C.

EU Presidency

May 30, 2003

Hon. Philip Bredesen
Governor of Tennessee
State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243-0001

Dear Mr. Governor,

Following up on the letter sent to the former Governor of Tennessee, the Honorable Don Sundquist, on April 5, 2002 during the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, Greece, as its 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 Abu – Ali Abdur Rahman, who has been sentenced to death and is scheduled to be executed on June 18, 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. Abu – Ali Abdur Rahman is reported to be suffering from serious mental disorders of longstanding duration. 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, as we have also urged the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Parole, to take all the aforementioned factors into account and to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute Mr. Abdur Rahman'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*

*c.c.
Mr. Robert E. Cooper
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