



EU Presidency

EMBASSY OF GREECE
Washington D.C.

26 February, 2003

Mr Terry Jenks, Director
Pardon and Parole Board
4040 N. Lincoln Blvd, Suite 219
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Mr Jenks,

The European Union has learnt that Mr. Scott Allen Hain is to be executed in the State of Oklahoma on April 3, 2003. On behalf of the European Union, Greece, as its current president, together with Italy, its subsequent president, and the European Commission, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Hain.

Mr. Hain was 17 years old at the time of the crime, for which he has been sentenced to death. The European Union considers that in those countries, which have not yet abolished the death penalty, this penalty should not be imposed on persons under the age of 18 at the time of the crime.

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, as explained at the EU Memorandum on the Death Penalty (it can be found on the web page : www.eurunion.org/legislat/deathpenalty/eumemorandum.htm). In countries that maintain the death penalty, the EU aims at the progressive restriction of its scope and respect for the strict conditions set forth in several international human rights instruments, under which the capital punishment may be used.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of juvenile offenders is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and the minimum standards of human rights set forth by the United Nations. A significant number of treaties, including treaties signed and ratified by the United States, prohibit such executions, specifically the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights (ICCPR) and the American Convention on Human Rights. Article 6 of the ICCPR – to which the United States is a party – explicitly forbids the execution of juvenile offenders.

For the abovementioned reasons, we have requested Governor Henry to grant clemency in favor of Mr. Hain. We therefore urge you, Mr. Jenks, and your fellow board members, to submit to the Governor a favorable recommendation regarding the commutation of Mr. Hain's sentence to any penalty other than capital punishment in accordance with international law.

Sincerely,

*George Savvaides
Ambassador of Greece*

*Pierandrea Magistrati
Minister,
Charge d' Affaires a.i.*

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