

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 27 February 2003

Dear Chairman,

I write to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles about the case of Mr James Colburn, whose clemency appeal you are to consider in the coming days.

I call on you, as a matter of urgency, to exercise your powers to stop the execution of James Colburn scheduled for Wednesday, 26 March 2003.

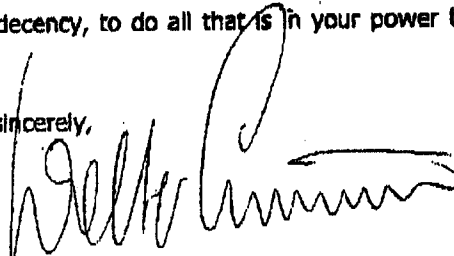
The Council of Europe, and its 44 member States are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty, considering that it has no place in a civilised democracy.

As an Observer to this Organisation, the United States of America is deemed to share the same fundamental values and principles.

The case of James Colburn is particularly abhorrent inasmuch as it is reported that he suffers from mental illness. His execution would not only flout Resolution 2002/77 of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted on 25 April 2002 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 James Colburn's execution.

Yours sincerely,



Walter SCHWIMMER

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