

Council of Europe The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 4 October 2001

Dear Chairman,

I write to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles about the case of Mr. Gerald Mitchell, whose clemency appeal you are to consider shortly.

I call on you, as a matter of urgency, to exercise your powers to prevent the execution of Gerald Mitchell, scheduled for Monday, 22 October 2001.

The Council of Europe; and its 43 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 Gerald Mitchell is particularly abhorrent inasmuch as it is reported that he was a minor at the time of the crime. His execution would not only flout Resolution 2001/68 adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission on 25 April 2001, but would also contravene international legal standards, including those drawn up by the Council of Europe.

I appeal to you, in the name of decency, to do all that is in your power to stop Gerald Mitchell's execution.

Yours sincerely,

Walter SCHWIMMER

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