

ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY

Washington, DC

EU Presidency

Milton E. Nix, Jr.
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Enclosure

File

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12 November, 2002

Dear Chairman Nix,

The European Union has learned that Mr. James Brown is facing imminent execution in the State of Georgia. On behalf of the European Union, Denmark, as current President, together with Greece, the subsequent President, and the European Commission would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. James Brown.

As stated in the EU memorandum on the Death Penalty, (www.eurunion.org/legislat/deathpenalty/eumemorandum.htm), 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.

The European Union considers that in those countries, which have not yet abolished the death penalty, this penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from a mental disorder. Mr. Brown has a long history of severe mental illness from before the crime. He has been diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia. His mental illness led to a sustained plea of insanity in the original trial.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments. Among them are United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 1989/64 of 24 May 1989 on the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing



protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty as well as Resolution 2002/77 adopted at the last session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This resolution specifically urges all states still maintaining 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. Chairman to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Brown relief from the death penalty.


Sincerely,



Ulrik Federspiel
Ambassador of Denmark



Georges Savvaides
Ambassador of Greece



Günter Burghardt
Ambassador, Head of the
Delegation of the European
Commission

CC: Governor of Georgia