

*Council of Europe  
The Secretary General*

Strasbourg, 7 October 2002

Dear Governor,

I write to you to express my deepest concern over the case of Kevin Stanford for whom I understand a date of execution may soon be set and would urge you to grant him clemency at the upcoming hearing of this case.

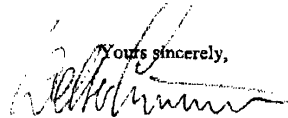
The Council of Europe, and its 44 member States are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty, considering that it has no place in a civilised democracy.

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

The case of Kevin Stanford is particularly distressing, since it is reported that he was a minor at the time of the crime. His execution would not only flout Resolution 2000/17 of the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights on the death penalty in relation to juvenile offenders, and Resolutions adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission including Resolution 2002/77, 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 decency, to exercise the powers vested in your office and grant clemency to Kevin Stanford.

Yours sincerely,



Walter SCHWIMMER

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