

EMBAJADA DE MÉXICO

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Washington, D.C., October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
#009147

The Honorable Paul Patton  
Governor of Kentucky  
700 Capitol Ave  
Suite 100  
Frankfort, KY, 40601  
Fax (502) 564-2517

Dear Governor Patton:

I am writing to you regarding the case of Mr. Kevin Stanford, a United States citizen sentenced to death in the state of Kentucky.

The Government of Mexico is deeply disturbed by the fact that Mr. Stanford was only 17 years old at the time of the crime. Within the international community, the execution of juvenile offenders is widely regarded as contrary to established norms of customary international law. In addition, the execution of a juvenile offender, such as Mr. Stanford, would violate article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty to which the United States is a party.

Even among those countries whose legal system permits the imposition of the death penalty, the United States is one of the only nations that continues to execute juvenile offenders. Even in the United States, there appears to be a growing recognition that the execution of juvenile offenders is inconsistent with evolving societal norms. Earlier this year, the Georgia Board of Pardons agreed to commute the death sentence of Alexander Williams, who was also seventeen at the time of the crime for which he received a death sentence. Mexico and other nations supported the Williams case. In addition, Mexico, along with other countries, supported the cases of Mr. Toronto Patterson and Mr. TJ Jones, both juvenile offenders executed in Texas in August, 2002.

(The Government of Mexico is also ...

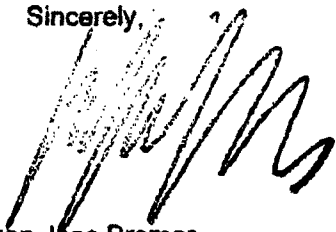
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The Government of Mexico is also concerned that in Mr. Stanford's case there was minimal mitigating evidence presented at the sentencing phase and that no in depth social history investigation was carried out. Moreover, Kevin was exposed to the neglect, maltreatment, and violence of his mother's biker lifestyle at a very young age. Kevin's mother never took responsibility for, or care of, Kevin, shuffling him from relative to relative. He was beaten in most of these homes. Most disturbing were the frequent sexual assaults. Kevin was first molested at the age of five by his babysitter. These assaults continued for many months. He was also a victim of abuse at the hands of his stepfather's nephew for over three years.

It is important to emphasize that Mexico has great respect for the judicial system in the United States. Nevertheless, as a responsible member of the international community and as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Mexico has a legitimate interest in promoting respect for norms of international law.

On behalf of the Government of Mexico, I respectfully urge you, to consider the position of the international community and to exercise all powers vested in your office to commute Mr. Stanford's sentence to any penalty other than capital punishment, in accordance with international law.

Sincerely,



Juan Jose Bremer  
Ambassador

c.c. Consultoría Jurídica. Con relación a su correo electrónico cja04319 del 10 de octubre de 2002.

MCB