

*Council of Europe*  
*The Secretary General*

*Reference:*

Strasbourg, 26 May 2003

Dear Governor,

I write to you to express my deepest concern and abhorrence about the imminent execution of Mr Abu-Ali Abdur' Rahman and would ask you, as a matter of urgency, to stay this execution.

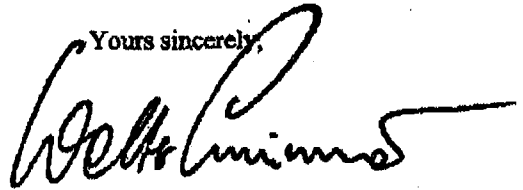
The Council of Europe, and its 45 member States are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty, considering that it has no place in a civilised democracy.

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

The case of Abu-Ali Abdur' Rahman is particularly abhorrent inasmuch as it is reported that he suffers from mental illness. His execution would not only flout Resolution 2003/57 adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission on 24 April 2003 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 this execution.

Yours sincerely,



Walter SCHWIMMER

The Honourable Philip BREDESEN  
Governor of Tennessee  
Fax: + 1 615 532 9711

Copies: Board of Pardons and Parole  
Fax: +1 615 963 1249  
Mr Robert E Cooper  
Legal Counsel  
Fax: + 1 615 532 2244

*Postal Address:*  
F 67075 Strasbourg Cedex  
France

*Tel.:* (33) 88 41 20 00  
*Fax:* Com 870963 F  
*Fax:* (33) 88 41 27 81/82/83