

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 16 December 2002

Dear Governor,

I write to you to express my deepest concern and abhorrence about the imminent execution of Ronald Chris Foster and would ask you, as a matter of urgency, to stay this execution.

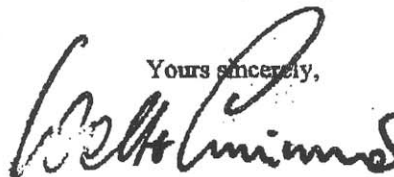
The Council of Europe and its 44 member States are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty, considering that it has no place in a civilised democracy.

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

The case of Ronald Foster 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.

Once again, I appeal to you, in the name of human decency to stop Ronald Foster's execution.

Yours sincerely,



Walter SCHWIMMER

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