



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

Washington, 25 August 2010
D(2010) 810 BW/fh

Subject: Death Penalty - The Case of Mr. Kevin Keith

Dear Governor,

The European Union takes note of the fact that Mr. Kevin Keith is scheduled to be executed in the State of Ohio on September 15, 2010. The European Union, represented by the Delegation of the European Union in the United States, wishes to make an urgent humanitarian appeal on behalf of Mr. Keith.

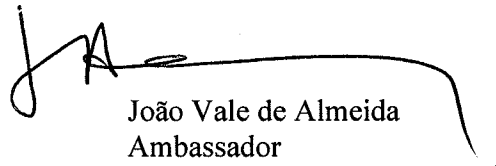
The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights.

The case of Mr Keith raises uncertainty and many questions as emerging evidence casts substantial doubt as to Mr. Keith's culpability. No legal system is immune from error. Obviously any miscarriage of justice, or failure of the judicial system in the application of the death penalty, represents an irreparable loss of human life.

The European Union also notes that on November 20, 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolution adopted in December 2007, expressly asking all nations that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the practice.

We therefore respectfully urge you, Governor, to take these factors into account and to exercise all powers vested in your office to ensure that the case of Mr Kevin Keith is given a full and thorough review.

Yours sincerely,



João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador

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Governor
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