



Washington DC, September 11, 2007

The Honorable
Ernie Fletcher
Governor of Kentucky
700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor,

The European Union has learned that Mr. Ralph Baze is scheduled to be executed in the State of Kentucky on 25 September, 2007. Representing the European Union, Portugal, as the current President, together with Slovenia, the subsequent President, and the European Commission, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Baze.

The European Union is unreservedly opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly strives to achieve its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as the 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 European Union believes that countries which have not yet abolished the death penalty should not impose this punishment when a *de facto* moratorium has been in place for an extended period. The planned execution of Mr. Baze would break the established *de facto* moratorium in Kentucky, where the last execution was carried out in May, 1999.

In light of recent developments and discussions on this issue, we would like to encourage you to consider preserving the moratorium in the State of Kentucky.

The European Union also respectfully urges you, Governor, to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Baze relief from the death penalty.

Sincerely

João de Vallera
Ambassador of Portugal

Miriam Teresa Mozgan
Chargé d'Affairs a. i.
Embassy of Slovenia

Angelos Pangratis
Chargé d' Affairs of the Delegation
of the European Commission

ADDRESS:
EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL
2012 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

TELEPHONE:
202.350.5400
202.350.5421

FAX:
202.462.3726

HOME PAGE:
www.eu2007.pt