



Botschaft  
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
Washington

=U 2007 DE

Washington, June 18, 2007

**Klaus Scharioth**

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Honorable  
Mike Rounds  
Governor of South Dakota  
Office of the Governor  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

CASE OF MR. ELIJAH PAGE

Dear Governor Rounds,

The European Union has learned that Mr. Elijah Page is to be executed in the state of South Dakota in the week of July 9, 2007. On behalf of the European Union, Germany as current holder of the EU Council Presidency, together with Portugal, the next holder of the presidency, and the European Commission, would like to make an urgent humanitarian appeal to spare the life of Mr. Elijah Page.

The European Union opposes the death penalty in all cases and accordingly strives to achieve its universal abolition, with a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step.

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 execution of Mr. Page would break the de facto moratorium in the state of South Dakota, where the last execution was carried out April 8, 1947.

We therefore respectfully urge you, Governor Rounds, to take these factors into account and to exercise all the powers vested in your office to grant Mr. Page clemency.

Sincerely,

Klaus Scharioth  
Ambassador of Germany

Joao de Vallera  
Ambassador of Portugal

John Bruton  
Ambassador of the Delegation  
of the European Commission



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Chairman Jerome Lammers  
South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles  
1600 North Drive  
Box 5911  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5911

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