

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 14 September 2011

Dear Mr Donald,

I write to you in your capacity as Chairman of the State Board of Pardon and Paroles to express my deep concern about the pending execution of Mr Troy Davis.

The Council of Europe and its 47 member states are unequivocally opposed to the death penalty and consider that it has no place in a civilised democracy. As an observer state to this Organisation, the United States of America is deemed to share our fundamental values and principles.

There can be no doubt that the crime Mr Davis was convicted for in 1991 is an extremely serious one. Nevertheless, the use of the death penalty bears the risk of making an irreparable mistake. In the case of Mr Davis, as I understand it, several witnesses have withdrawn their testimony against him in the past, and doubts concerning Mr Davis' guilt still persist following the federal evidentiary hearing in 2010.

As a matter of urgency, I ask you to stay the execution of Mr Davis and grant him clemency.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

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