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EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Washington, 16 September 2011
D(2011) 2537

FAX

To: Ms La'Quandra Smith, Telephone:
Legal Counsel Fax: 404-651-6670

From: J. Vale de Almeida Telephone: (1-202) 862.9586
Fax:

Number of pages: 2

Subject: Letter to Mr James E. Donald
Chairman, State Board of Pardons and Paroles -- Mr Troy Davis



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The Head of Delegation

Washington, 16 September 2011
D(2011) BW/ip 2537

James E. Donald
Chairman
State Board of Pardons and Paroles
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 458, Balcony Level East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4909

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Union to raise our grave concerns about the case of Mr. Troy Davis, a U.S. citizen sentenced to death in the State of Georgia.

When the Board reviewed this case in 2007, you stated that it would not allow an execution to go ahead "unless and until its members are convinced that there is no doubt as to the guilt of the accused." Despite the ensuing legal process since 2007, serious and compelling doubts continue to surround this case. After a long and arduous legal process, the Board of Pardons and Paroles now has the power to prevent an execution. I therefore appeal to you to show mercy and I urgently call for Mr. Davis' sentence of execution to be commuted.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime and their families, we recall that with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of life. Seeing that no legal system anywhere in the world can be immune from error; the European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances.

Please allow me to assure you of the highest regard in which the European Union and its twenty seven Member States hold you and the state of Georgia.

Yours sincerely,

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador