

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 4 September 2008

Dear Ms Buckner

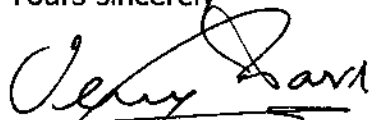
I write to you in your capacity as Chair of the State Board of Pardon and Paroles of Georgia to express my deep concern about the planned execution of Mr Troy Anthony Davis, and I appeal to you and the other members of the Board to recommend a stay of this execution.

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 the same fundamental values and principles.

The case of Mr Troy Anthony Davis is particularly distressing inasmuch as he has been on death row for more than fifteen years. It is reported that many witnesses have recanted their testimony against him, which, in the absence of any physical evidence, could call his guilt into question. His execution would contravene international human rights standards, including the recently adopted United Nations General Assembly Resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions.

As a matter of urgency, I ask you to recommend a stay of the execution of Troy Anthony Davis.

Yours sincerely



Right Hon Terry Davis

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