

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis welcomes the clemency decision for Texas death row man

Strasbourg, 31.08.2007 - "I welcome the decision by the Texas Governor Rick Perry to commute the death sentence for Kenneth Foster who was sentenced to die in spite of the fact that he did not kill anyone. The Governor's decision has saved one human life and prevented an obvious perversion of justice as well as a colossal embarrassment for the State of Texas and the United States of America as a whole. I am glad that the Governor has responded to the large number of representations from people in the USA and abroad, including myself as the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who asked for a stay of execution.

This is the latest in the series of developments which give some hope that common sense, human decency and the respect for justice will eventually prevail, and that the United States of America will follow the example of Europe where we do not execute people because this inhuman and degrading form of punishment is contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights."

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