



The Embassy of Hungary

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia

Washington, D.C., June 20, 2017

Subject: Death penalty case of William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American dual national

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

The Government of Hungary has noted with deep concern that William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American dual national was sentenced to death and is facing execution on July 6, 2017.

I would like to underline that the Government of Hungary deeply condemns the serious crimes involved in this case, and expresses its utmost sympathy to the families and friends of the victims. The use of death penalty will not be able to bring relief to their suffering.

As a member of the European Union and State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol aiming at the Abolition of the Death Penalty, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights and its Additional Protocols, No. 6 concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty and No. 13 concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty in all Circumstances, and other relevant international and regional instruments, Hungary strongly opposes the use of capital punishment under any circumstances.

The Hungarian Government, together with the EU and its Member States, also considers that the death penalty should not be imposed on persons suffering from mental disorder, mental illness, or deficiency. In that regard I sincerely appreciate the possibility granted to me and to the representative of the EUDEL in Washington D.C., Mr. Jeremie Gallon to discuss the issue of Mr. Morva in all its aspects with Counsel Hopkins, Secretary Moran and Chief Reagan in Richmond on May 31. We were heartened by the openness and frankness of the discussion and by the indication that you will evaluate all factors when arriving to the final decision. Due to the peculiarities of the case, you are the last person who can take the issue of severe delusional disorder into consideration while deciding on the fate of Mr. Morva.

While I would like to stress that the Government of Hungary has no intention to interfere in any way with the legal procedures and verdicts of the United States justice system, I would hereby like to make a humanitarian appeal on behalf of William Charles Morva. On behalf of the Hungarian Government, I respectfully request you, Governor McAuliffe, to use the clemency proceedings initiated on behalf of Mr. Morva to commute his sentence to life imprisonment without parole. Should you be able to decide to spare the life of Mr. Morva, the Government of Hungary would welcome and support such a decision.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Zsolt Hetesy
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

