



El Embajador de España

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
Fax: 804 371 6351

Washington DC, June 22, 2017

Subject: Death penalty case of William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American Dual Citizen

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

The Government of Spain has noted with deep concern the sentence to death of William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American dual citizen who is facing execution in the first days of July, and respectfully follows the request of the European Union and the Hungarian Embassy to grant clemency and commute his sentence to life imprisonment without parole.

I would like to highlight that the Government of Spain recognizes the serious nature of the crime involved, and expresses its sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the victims. However, we do not believe that the use of the death penalty would mitigate their suffering.

Spain strongly opposes the use of capital punishment under any circumstances, for it considers it a cruel and inhuman punishment that does not have any proven deterring effects on crime and that has irreversible consequences in case of judicial error. In the case of Mr. Morva, given that there is evidence to show that he suffers from severe mental illness, the Government of Spain, together with the EU and its member states, would like to put forward that the execution of persons suffering from mental illness is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms.

While I would like to stress that the Government of Spain has no intention to interfere in any way with the legal procedures and verdicts of the United States justice system, I would like to make a humanitarian appeal on behalf of William Charles Morva.



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Therefore, on behalf of the Government of Spain, 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 Spain would deeply support such a decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Morenés', followed by a long horizontal line and a period.

Pedro Morenés
Ambassador