

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 U.S.A.

March 31, 2004

Ref: **Gregory Thompson**
P-194/04
United States

Dear Mr. Passino and Ms. Bristol:

On behalf of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, I am please to address you in connection with the petition referred to above, concerning the situation of Gregory Thompson in the United States of America.

I also wish to inform you that, by note of today' s date, the Government of the United States has been provided with the relevant parts of your petition and additional information, with a period of two months to provide a response, in accordance with Article 30(3) of the Commission' s Rules of Procedure.

This request for information does not constitute a prejudgment with regard to any decision the Commission may adopt on the admissibility of the petition.

In addition, given the information contained in your petition indicating that Mr. Thompson' s execution is presently scheduled to take place on August 19, 2004, the Commission addressed the Government of the United States in the following terms:

By this note, the Commission also requests precautionary measures from the United States pursuant to Article 25(1) of its Rules of Procedure,¹ to avoid irreparable damage to the alleged victim in this complaint, Mr. Gregory Thompson. In this regard, the Petitioners' communication indicates that Mr. Thompson is a 42-year-old inmate on death row in the state of Tennessee and is scheduled to be executed on August 19, 2004 for the 1995 kidnapping and murder of Branda Lane. The Petitioners allege that the United States is responsible for violations of Articles I, XVII, XVIII and XXV) of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, on the basis that Mr. Thompson is mentally ill, and because of alleged irregularities in Mr. Thompson' s criminal proceedings.

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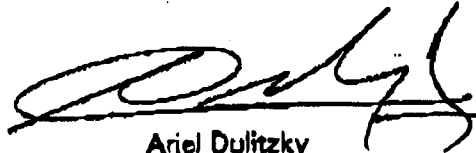
¹ Article 25(1) of the Commission' s Rules of Procedure states: "In serious and urgent cases, and whenever necessary according to the information available, the Commission may, in its own initiative or at the request of a party, request that the State concerned adopt precautionary measures to prevent irreparable harm to persons."

The petition also alleges that Mr. Thompson has raised the claims brought before the Commission in state and federal courts and that all of his claims have been rejected. They claim in particular that the United States Supreme Court denied his final petition for a writ of certiorari on December 1, 2003, that a rehearing was denied on January 20, 2004, and that their petition was lodged within 6 months of this last decision.

If Mr. Thompson is executed before the Commission has an opportunity to examine his case, any eventual decision will be rendered moot in respect of the efficacy of potential remedies, and he will suffer irreparable harm. Consequently, pursuant to Article 25(1) of its Rules of Procedure, the Commission hereby requests that the United States take the urgent measures necessary to preserve Mr. Thompson's life pending the Commission's investigation of the allegations in his petition. The Commission respectfully requests an urgent response to this request for precautionary measures.

We will advise you of any response that the Commission may receive from the State.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ariel Dulitzky', written over a horizontal line.

Ariel Dulitzky
In charge of the Executive Secretariat