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Attorney General William Barr /
Acting Attorney General Jeff Rosen

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

USA

Dear Attorney General Barr, dear Acting Attorney General Rosen,

I urge you to call off all set federal executions and **withdraw authorization to seek the death penalty as sentencing option in ongoing trials.**

The pursuit of 13 executions by the Trump administration has been unprecedented and goes against trends in the USA and globally away from the use of the death penalty. If all set executions are carried out, in under seven months your administration will be responsible for more than half of the annual number of executions recorded in the USA in recent years.

The resort to executions as shown in recent months has not only put the spotlight on the unjust flaws and arbitrariness that have long affected the USA death penalty system, but also failures on the part of your administration to uphold safeguards and restrictions established under international law and standards to guarantee protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. Racial bias, sentencing of people with severe mental and intellectual disabilities, and flawed legal representation are some of the common factors that have contributed to unreliable judicial decisions on life or death.

As of today, 22 USA states and the District of Columbia have abolished the death penalty, and 11 others have not carried out executions in more than 10 years. Instead of pursuing executions, in your final weeks in office **I urge you to call off all executions and immediately establish an urgent review of the broken death penalty system in the USA.**

Yours sincerely,