Texas Board of Clemency and Paroles

Clemency section

8610 Shoal Creek Boulevard

Austin Texas 78757

USA

Geisenbrunn (Germany), June the 20th 24

[bpp\_clemency@tdjc.texas.gov](mailto:bpp_clemency@tdjc.texas.gov" \t "_blank),

To the attention of the distinguished members of the Texas Board of Clemency and Paroles:

Sir,

Madam,

**Ramiro Felix Gonzales** (TDCJ #999513) is to be executed in Texas on 26 June 2024 for the capital murder of an 18-year-old woman in January 2001.

He was 18 years and two months old at the time of the murder and emerging from a childhood, showing serious neglect and abuse. A neuropsychologist testified at trial that Ramiro Gonzales “basically raised himself” and had the emotional maturity of a 13- or 14-year-old.

In 1982, the US Supreme Court stated: *“youth is more than a chronological fact. It is a time and condition of life when a person may be most susceptible to influence and to psychological damage.”* When finally banning the execution of under 18-year-olds in 2005, the Court noted that *“the qualities that distinguish juveniles from adults do not disappear when an individual turns 18*”. In the years since, neuroscience research has provided further evidence that brain development continues into an individual’s 20s, including the parts of the brain that enable impulse control and reasoned judgment. At the trial, the prosecution presented a psychiatrist who testified that Ramiro Gonzales posed a future danger of criminal violence, had “anti-social personality disorder”, and little or no prospect of rehabilitation. He also presented the jury with statistics of a very high rate of recidivism in cases involving sexual assault.

In 2022, the same psychiatrist acknowledged that these statistics were grossly inaccurate, and effectively recanted his trial testimony. At the time of the crime, the psychiatrist concluded, “Mr. Gonzales was barely 18 years old. With the passage of time and significant maturity he is now a significantly different person both mentally and emotionally”.

his opinion was that **Ramiro Gonzales** “does not pose a threat of future danger to society.”

Ramiro Gonzales, who is now 41 years old, has not committed a single act of violence since he has been on death row. He has acknowledged his crimes and expressed remorse for them. He spends his time reading and studying and is a talented artist.

As member /supporter of the ACAT (action of Christians for the abolition of torture) and FIACAT I urge you to stop the execution of **Ramiro Gonzales** and to ensure that his death sentence to be promptly commuted.

I ‘d express my deepest gratitude for this kind gesture, an act of humanity, indeed.

Yours sincerely,

Cécile Auriol, Hauptstrasse 14 B, 82205 Geisenbrunn Germany

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