



UNITED STATES MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN GENEVA

April 11, 2017

Ms. Agnes Callamard  
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary,  
or arbitrary executions  
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Nils Melzer  
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman  
or degrading treatment or punishment  
Geneva, Switzerland

OHCHR REGISTRY

12 APR 2017

Recipients : **SPB**  
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Dear Ms. Callamard and Mr. Melzer:

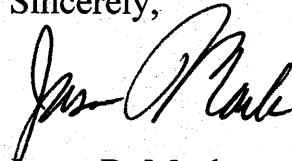
Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 2017, regarding the pending executions in the State of Arkansas of Mr. Don Davis and Mr. Bruce Ward on April 17, 2017; Mr. Ledell Lee and Mr. Stacey Johnson on April 20, 2017; Mr. Marcel Williams and Mr. Jack Harold Jones on April 24, 2017; and Mr. Jason McGehee and Mr. Kenneth Williams on April 27, 2017. We forwarded your letter to the Governor and Attorney General of the State of Arkansas on April 4.

We appreciate your confirmation of receipt of our reply of January 5, 2017. We would draw your attention to the fact that this reply, which is reattached to this correspondence, addressed issues raised in both the correspondence dated November 3, 2016 (Case USA 13/2016) and in the correspondence November 23, 2016 (Case USA 15/2016) in relation to the pending execution of Mr. Thomas Arthur. We regret that it inadvertently omitted reference to the earlier letter. We would thus ask that your offices treat our reply of January 5, 2017, as responding

to both the correspondences of November 3 and November 26th. We would further note that Mr. Arthur's execution by the State of Alabama remains stayed by the U.S. Supreme Court pending disposition of his petition for review. Although the Supreme Court denied his petition for writ of certiorari on February 21, 2017, his petition for rehearing remains pending and the stay this remains in effect.

As emphasized in our detailed response of January 5, the United States takes its obligations under the U.N. Convention Against Torture very seriously and is committed to preventing torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. It is equally committed to the fair trial guarantees and other protections required under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to ensure that the death penalty is not applied in a summary, arbitrary, or discriminatory manner, as further addressed in that response. Again, we reiterate our commitment to these international obligations and our strong support for your respective mandates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason R. Mack", written in a cursive style.

Jason R. Mack  
U.S. Deputy Permanent  
Representative to the UN Human  
Rights Council