

Sender

Date:

Attorney General William Barr
U.S.A. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
USA

Dear Attorney General Barr,

I am writing to ask to call off the executions of three people convicted under USA federal law, currently set for 19 November and 8 and 10 December 2020.

With seven executions carried out in just over two months, your administration has now put to death more people in 2020 than the rest of the country combined; and has tripled the total number of federal executions recorded since 1977, when US judicial killings resumed in the post-Furman v. Georgia era.

This relentless pursuit of executions has not only put the spotlight on the flaws and arbitrariness that have long affected the USA death penalty system, but has also shown cruel contempt on the part of the administration for safeguards and restrictions established under international law and standards to guarantee protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. Racial bias and flawed legal representation are some of the common factors that have contributed to unreliable judicial decisions on life or death, including for people with severe mental and intellectual disabilities. I ask you to intervene and lead the urgent review of the broken USA death penalty system.

As of today, 22 US states and the District of Columbia have abolished the death penalty, and 11 others have not carried out executions in more than 10 years.

I encourage you to do everything in your power to call off the scheduled executions and end the cycle of violence.

Yours sincerely,

Copies will be sent to the Embassy of the United States in Berne, Switzerland