

PETITION FOR CLEMENCY

My name is Michael Angelo Morales. Son to John and Josie Morales. Brother to three siblings, and father to three children. I write this petition so that those to whom it matters may have some insight into my mind and heart. It should be noted that up until now much of what's been said of me has come from others. Comments and hearsay statements which for the most part have been bias and untrue in one way or another. The sum of my character has been determined by this one terrible crime, which is understandable, but hardly what I consider to be accurate. There's no denying that the taking of innocent life is a awful, awful thing. And even though I've been found guilty of such a crime, and have become an object of hatred to many, I don't feel my soul to be that of a monster or evil man as some have suggested. That's not who I am. I wasn't raised to be a person of hate or violence, and I think my past history will bare that out. But the fact is that in my youth I did lose myself for a few years. Entering into what could be called a dark period in my life. I failed to safeguard practical wisdom and because of that my foolishness led me astray. Emotionally troubled, I followed the bad way. I got involved with drinking and drugs, and soon started to become the things I experienced. A person of loose conduct and poor attitude. I lacked any real direction or purpose. Another words, I became a good for nothing man. And I say this not to make excuses, but only as an explanation of sorts. The truth is there is no excuse for such a senseless

CRIME AS THE ONE I'VE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF.

DO I CARE THAT A PERSON'S LIFE WAS TAKEN? OF COURSE I DO. AND I'M FULLY AWARE OF WHAT WAS LOST AND THE HARM DONE. AND NOT JUST MERELY AN INTELLECTUAL RECOGNITION, BUT A HEART APPRECIATION OF THIS SAD AND PAINFUL FACT. AND HAVING EXPERIENCED MY OWN SON BEING SHOT AND PARALYZED, I UNDERSTAND A LITTLE OF WHAT ANGUISH CAN DO TO A PERSON. MY REMORSE ISN'T JUST TO GAIN SYMPATHY HERE AND NOW. ITS SOMETHING I'VE EXPRESSED EVEN BEFORE MY ARREST WAS MADE AS THE RECORD WILL TESTIFY TO. UNFORTUNATELY AN APOLOGY, NO MATTER HOW HEARTFELT, JUST DOESN'T CARRY ENOUGH POTENCY IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS TO BRING ANY REAL COMFORT OR AMEND ANY OF THE WRONG. SO I'VE TRIED TO DO THE ONLY THING A PERSON IN MY POSITION CAN, AND THAT'S CHANGE MY HEART.

HAVING BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IT WOULD OF BEEN EASY TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE BAD WAY, THINKING I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE. BUT I DIDN'T WANT THAT. I WANTED BOTH MY ATTITUDE AND MY LIFE TO REFLECT MY REMORSE, AND STAND AS EVIDENCE OF MY TRUE REPENTANCE. FOR ITS MY BELIEF THAT REMORSE AND REPENTANCE ARE MEANINGLESS UNLESS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY GOOD WORKS. SO I'VE DONE MY BEST OVER THE YEARS TO STRIP OFF THE OLD PERSONALITY WITH ALL ITS FLAWS AND SHAMEFUL PRACTICES, AND PUT ON A NEW PERSONALITY. ONE SHAPED BY GOOD MORALS AND STRONG VALUES. MY DEEDS NOW ARE SIMPLE, FOR I'M A SIMPLE MAN. BUT THEIR HONEST, UPRIGHT, AND COME FROM A SINCERE HEART. DOES THIS MEAN I'M PERFECT NOT HARDLY. BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME FOOLISH MISGUIDED PERSON I ONCE WAS.

WHAT IS THE STATES DEFINITION OF CLEMENCY? I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN IT IF ANYTHING? AGAIN I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT I DO REALIZE IS THAT LENIENCY CAN BE A DIFFICULT THING TO COME BY THESE DAYS. ITS CERTAINLY NOT THE NORMAL WAY OF DEALING WITH SOMEONE WHO'S CRIMES ARE AS SERIOUS AS MINE. BUT HOPEFULLY YOURS IS AN ADMINISTRATION WHO BELIEVES IN REPENTANCE AND REFORM. WHO BELIEVES IN EXERCISING RESTRAINT MOTIVATED BY COMPASSION. AND WHO BELIEVES IN EXTENDING MERCY WHENEVER AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

I WOULDN'T DARE TO PRESUME ON YOUR MERCY OF COURSE. NOR AM I ASKING THAT THE STANDARDS OF JUSTICE BE IGNORED. QUITE THE CONTRARY. FOR I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY THAT CERTAIN ACTIONS HAVE CERTAIN CONSEQUENCES. CONSEQUENCES WHICH I'VE ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR. BUT AFTER CONSIDERING MY CASE, PERHAPS THERE MIGHT BE A CLEAR BASIS FOR STRIVING TO SEEK A MERCIFUL COURSE WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF JUSTICE, AND EVEN FOR JUSTICE SAKE. THAT'S MY HOPE. AND I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR FAIR AND IMPARTIAL CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

MICHAEL MORALES