

June 28, 2018

Dr. Paulo Abrão
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
Organization of American States
Washington, D.C. 20006

Re: Russell Bucklew
Case No. 12.958-A
Response to Report on the Merits

Dear Dr. Abrão:

The United States acknowledges the letter from your office dated April 12, 2018, transmitting Report No. 30/18 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (“Commission”) of April 11, 2018, the merits report in the above-referenced case with respect to Russell Bucklew, an inmate who was scheduled to be executed by the State of Missouri on March 20, 2018.

We have read the report and have taken under advisement the nonbinding recommendations set forth therein; we also acknowledge that the Commission has issued a nonbinding request for precautionary measures related to the petition.

The United States takes this opportunity to inform your office of recent developments in the Petitioner’s domestic proceedings. After granting a stay of execution for the Petitioner on March 20, 2018, the Supreme Court of the United States granted a petition for *writ of certiorari* on April 30, 2018 in order to examine questions related to the method of execution at issue in this case. The

Court plans to hear the petitioner's case in the next term, which begins in October 2018, with a decision being reached several weeks or months thereafter.

The United States requests that the Commission rescind its prematurely issued final report on the merits. The Petitioner continues to be engaged in active domestic litigation and is being afforded due process with respect to the matters at issue in the report.

Please accept renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Sullivan
Deputy Permanent Representative

Drafted: Kathryn Bacharach, L/HRR, May 2018

Approved: Kevin K. Sullivan, Deputy Permanent Representative, USOAS

Cleared:

USOAS: DCento (ok)

L/HRR: JBischoff (ok)

L/WHA: JKovar (ok)