



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

N. 135.156

From the Vatican, 12 February 2010

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to request, in the name of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, your intervention on behalf of Mr. Martin Grossman, who is scheduled to be executed in the State of Florida this coming Monday, 15 February, for a crime committed twenty-five years ago.

An appeal on Mr. Grossman's behalf was addressed to His Holiness by the Chief Rabbi of Haifa (Israel), Shear-Yashuv Cohen, according to whom, in the considered opinion of reliable persons, the prisoner has repented and is now a changed person, having become a man of faith. I would therefore ask you to take whatever steps may be possible to save the life of Mr. Grossman.

In informing you that steps are also being taken by the Papal Representative in Washington, I take the opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Archbishop Fernando Filoni
Substitute

His Excellency Miguel H. Díaz
Ambassador of the United States of America
ROME