

### Summary of Clemency Request

On October 22, 2009, John Muhammad's attorneys met with Governor Kaine's staff and advocated for the Governor to commute John Muhammad's death sentence to one of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Execution is not justified in this case because of John Muhammad's severe mental illness as illustrated by brain damage, brain dysfunction, neurological deficits as well as his psychotic and delusional behavior. John Muhammad's mental illness was certainly exacerbated by the Gulf War Syndrome that he suffered from after his deployment and military service as a Sergeant in the first Iraq war. Family members of victims of murder as well as the National Alliance on Mental Illness have spoken out against the execution of people with the same severe mental illnesses that John Muhammad suffers from. In addition, a juror in this case has stated that she would not have sentenced John Muhammad to death if she had known of his severe mental illness. Life in prison without the possibility of parole has and will keep the people of Virginia safe.

John Muhammad's attorneys presented the Governor with a compilation of audio interviews with attorneys, mental health experts and witnesses illustrating the above, rather than a written document (Virginia has no specific guidelines on the form of a clemency request). Mr. Muhammad's attorneys plan to file an appeal with the United States Supreme Court on November 3, 2009. At that time, his attorneys will also provide more information in support of his claims, in addition to making attorneys and others available for interviews.

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