



## GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

January 5, 2011

Mr. and Mrs. Luis Santos  
1272 Sadler St., Apt. 1  
Concord, California 94521

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Santos,

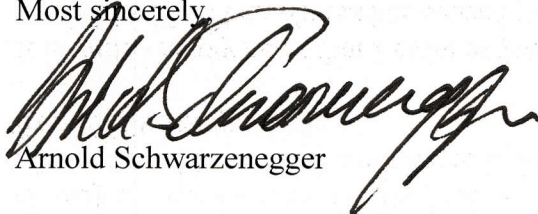
Words cannot adequately express the sorrow in my heart for the loss of your son, Luis. There is no way to explain or excuse the kind of indiscriminate violence that takes a life so young and full of promise. Maria and I continue to hold your family in our hearts and prayers as you try to heal from this tragedy.

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you in acknowledgement that my commutation of the sentence of Esteban Nunez has caused you more pain. I recognize that the last minute nature of my final acts as Governor provided you no notice, no time to prepare for or absorb the impact of this decision. For that, I apologize. The decision to commute a sentence, grant clemency or issue a pardon to someone convicted of a grave crime is the most solemn responsibility any Governor could face. I took this responsibility very seriously and considered each and every fact before making my decisions in the ten cases in which I chose to act.

As a parent, I know that reason has no place in judging the crimes of these men. And, as a father, I believe there is no sentence too harsh for the death of your son. But our system of justice demands that the facts of this case be weighed without the passion of a father's rage. And the facts of this case do not support equal sentences for both men.

I understand why you may never comprehend or agree with my decision. And I am profoundly sorry that my decision has added to your burden. I hope that you and your family find peace in the wake of this tragic loss. Maria and I send our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers.

Most sincerely,

  
Arnold Schwarzenegger