



## One week to his execution - the big tear

By Ines Aubert, Switzerland, 2015

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My friend Robert Pruett has an execution date in one week.

For thirteen years Robert and I have been on an eventful journey together: we shared a lot and went through a lot. I can say that Robert is familiar with all aspects of my life. He knows the people who are important to me and the challenges I face. Writing to him has long become a habit and a stable part of my life. No need to mention that Robert has been very dear to me for all these years.

And now this: I am here in Livingston, Texas to say goodbye to him.

One part of me feels that this is the one place on the planet I want to be: Here, near Robert whom I consider a son. The other part cries that I want to be anywhere else but here where such a cruel and violent act will be performed right in front of my eyes. These two motions are tearing me apart.

But then, when I think about it, there will be a big tear and a scar in my soul anyway if they proceed to execute Robert next week. So, I can't avoid the tear and I should rather accept that I will probably be going on living with a scar.

It comforts me to think of it as some kind of gem, a tear jewel so to speak.

I will wear it with love and light.