

URGENT ACTION

WOMAN EXECUTED IN GEORGIA

Kelly Gissendaner was executed in Georgia on 30 September. She was convicted in 1998 of orchestrating the murder of her husband, Douglas, in 1997. Her co-defendant, who actually killed Douglas Gissendaner, is serving a life sentence.

On 29 September, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles voted to adhere to its February 2015 decision to deny clemency for **Kelly Gissendaner**. Her lawyers had asked it to reconsider that decision. In saying that it was letting its earlier decision stand, the Board said that it had “thoroughly reviewed all information and documents pertaining to the case”, and further noted that “Gissendaner’s conviction and sentence have been upheld throughout the appeals process”.

Final appeals to the courts, including in relation to Georgia’s lethal injection protocol, were unsuccessful. The execution was delayed by about five hours from its scheduled time of 7pm on 29 September while these last-minute appeals to the courts were made and denied. This meant that the execution took place just after midnight on 30 September. Kelly Gissendaner became the first woman to be executed in Georgia since 1945.

There have been 22 executions in the USA this year, bringing to 1,416 the number of prisoners (16 women, 1,400 men) put to death nationwide since the US Supreme Court upheld revised capital statutes in 1976. Georgia accounts for 58 of these executions, three of which have been carried out this year.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA: 197/15. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/2512/2015/en/

Name: Kelly Renee Gissendaner

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 197/15 Index: AMR 51/2602/2015 Issue Date: 6 October 2015

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