

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 14/04/96

26 March 1996

Further information (4) on EXTRA 62/95 (AMR 14/06/95, 31 May 1995) and follow-ups AMR 14/07/95, 16 June 1995, AMR 14/01/96, 6 March 1996, and AMR 14/03/96, 14 March 1996 - Death Penalty

BAHAMAS Dwayne MCKINNEY

Cyril DARVILLE

Amnesty International has learned that Dwayne McKinney is scheduled to be executed at 8am on Thursday 28 March 1996. He was previously scheduled to be hanged on 13 March but received a stay of execution. A petition to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) in London, the highest court of appeal for the Bahamas, was turned down on 21 March 1996. The following day, the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy in the Bahamas decided that Dwayne McKinney's case was not "a proper one in which the Prerogative of Mercy should be exercised", despite new evidence presented to the Committee which indicated that McKinney may have been acting in self defence at the time of the offence.

Cyril Darville also remains on death row, pending further appeals in his case.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing deep concern that Dwayne McKinney is scheduled to be executed on 28 March and urging that the death sentences on Dwayne McKinney and Cyril Darville be commuted;
- stressing that the continuation of executions, following the execution of Thomas Reckley on 13 March, would be contrary to a worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their relatives;
- noting that in Dwayne McKinney's case, it is reported that new evidence suggests he may have been acting in self-defence at the time of the offence.

Other points may also be added:

- noting that detailed research in many countries has produced no evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishment;
- the death penalty is brutalizing to all who are involved in the process;
- it is arbitrary and often falls disproportionately on minority and underprivileged groups;
- it denies the widely accepted principle of rehabilitating the offender;
- it does not alleviate the suffering caused to the victims of crime.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Orville Turnquest

Governor General

PO Box N8301

Nassau, The Bahamas

Telephone: +1 809 322 1875

Faxes: +1 809 322 4659

Telegrams: Governor General, Nassau, Bahamas

Salutation: Your Excellency

The Honourable Janet Bostwick

Attorney-General and Minister

2

of Foreign Affairs

PO Box N 3007

Nassau, The Bahamas

Faxes: +1 809 322 2255

Telegrams: Attorney General and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nassau, Bahamas

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

The Honourable Hubert Ingraham,
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Sir Cecil V. Wallace Centre
PO Box CB 10980
Nassau, The Bahamas
Faxes: +1 809 327 5806

The Honourable C.A. Smith
Minister of Public Safety and Immigration and
the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the
Prerogative of Mercy
PO Box N 3002
Nassau, The Bahamas
Faxes: +1 809 322 6546

The Nassau Daily Tribune (newspaper)
Shirley Street
PO Box N-3207
Nassau, The Bahamas
Faxes: +1 809 328 2398

and to diplomatic representatives of the Bahamas accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 April 1996.