

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 275/05 (AMR 51/168/2005, 19 October 2005) and follow-ups (AMR 51/188/2005, 02 November 2005; AMR 51/016/2006, 19 January 2006) - Death Penalty

USA (Texas) Jaime Elizalde (m), Hispanic, aged 34

Jaime Elizalde was executed on 31 January, after the US Supreme Court rejected appeals that he might be mentally retarded and that lethal injection, the state's method of execution, causes pain.

Jaime Elizalde was sentenced to death in 1994 for the murders of two men. No physical evidence linked him to the crimes, and key evidence against him had been called into question.

In his final statement, Jaime Elizalde reportedly thanked friends for their support and urged death row inmates to "keep the faith and stay strong and put your faith in the Lord."

Within moments of announcing its ruling, the US Supreme Court halted the execution of Arthur Rutherford in Florida, who had presented a similar claim concerning lethal injection.

Thank you to everyone who sent appeals. No further action is necessary.