

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 16/01 (AMR 51/032/2001, 1 March 2001) - Death penalty

USA (Georgia) Ronald Keith Spivey, aged 61, white

The Georgia Supreme Court granted a stay of execution to Ronald Spivey four hours before he was due to be put to death in the electric chair on 6 March 2001. Sentenced to death in 1977 for the murder of Billy Watson, he has been on death row for over 23 years.

In a 4-3 ruling, the court granted the stay until it decides whether execution in the electric chair violates the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Officials were reportedly just about to begin shaving Ronald Spivey's head and leg to attach the electrodes when the stay was granted.

Last year the Georgia legislature changed the state's method of execution to lethal injection, but only for those people convicted of crimes committed after 1 May 2000.

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