

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 12/01 (AMR 51/024/2001, 14 February 2001) and follow-up (AMR 51/042/2001, 8 March 2001) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Missouri) Antonio Richardson, black, aged 26

On 26 March 2001, in the case of Ernest McCarver in North Carolina, the US Supreme Court agreed to consider the issue of whether the execution of prisoners with mental retardation violates the US Constitution's Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment (see EXTRA 11/01, AMR 51/023/2001, and updates).

Antonio Richardson, who also has a learning disability, has the same issue before the court, and his case will therefore be put on hold pending the Court's decision in the McCarver case. The Court is due to hear oral arguments in the McCarver case towards the end of this year, and will rule on it some time in 2002.

In Antonio Richardson's case, there is also a petition pending before the Court that challenges the death sentence on the grounds of Richardson's age, 16, at the time of the crime. International law prohibits the use of the death penalty against those who were under 18 at the time of the crime.

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