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Further information on EXTRA 43/92 (AMR 51/51/92, 14 April 1992) and follow-ups AMR 51/59/92 of 30 April 1992 and AMR 51/64/92 of 7 May 1992 - Death Penalty

USA (Florida):Nollie MARTIN

Nollie Martin was executed in Florida's electric chair on 12 May 1992, five hours before his seven-day death warrant expired. Nollie Martin suffered from severe mental illness throughout his life and required constant medication for paranoia, hallucinations, psychosis and deep depression. He was born into great poverty, and was subjected to physical and sexual abuse throughout his early life.

In 1978, Nollie Martin was convicted of the murder of Patricia Greenfield. At the time of the crime he was not receiving medical attention for his illness, and had been drinking alcohol.

Amnesty International believes that Nollie Martin's execution contravened United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1989/64, adopted in May 1989, which recommends "...eliminating the death penalty for persons suffering from mental retardation or extremely limited mental competence, whether at the stage of sentence or execution."

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing deep regret at the governor's failure to intervene to stop the execution of Nollie Martin and your belief that no interests of justice were served by the execution of one so mentally impaired;

- citing Nollie Martin's very serious mental illness and Amnesty International's belief that his execution was in contravention of UN ECOSOC resolution 1989/64 which calls on states not to execute persons suffering from mental retardation or extremely limited mental competence;

- urging the state of Florida to lead the nation away from the use of the death penalty by seeking alternative punishments that are more in keeping with the principles and values of a civilized society.

APPEALS TO:
The Honorable Lawton Chiles
Governor of Florida
State Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001, USA
FAX: +1 904 487 0801

Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.