

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AMR 51/98/93
Distr: UA/SC**

EXTRA 100/93 Death Penalty

19 November 1993

USA (Virginia): David PRUETT, white

David Pruett is scheduled to be executed in Virginia, USA, on 16 December 1993.

He was sentenced to death in 1986 for the rape, robbery and murder of Wilma Harvey, white, in February 1985.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As of 6 October 1993 there were 47 prisoners under sentence of death in Virginia.

Twenty-one prisoners have been executed in the state under its present death penalty laws. The most recent person to be executed in Virginia was Joe Louis Wise, Sr, on 14 September 1993. The method of execution is electrocution. In Virginia the authority to grant executive clemency lies with the state governor. The present governor of Virginia, Governor L Douglas Wilder will be leaving office in January 1994.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters in English, or call by telephone:

- urging Governor Wilder to grant clemency to David Pruett and commute his sentence of death.
- noting that Governor Wilder will be leaving office in January 1994 and expressing your belief that such action would represent an important step in the promotion of human rights in Virginia, and would set an important precedent for future governors to follow.

APPEALS TO

The Honorable L Douglas Wilder
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23219, USA

Telegrams: Governor Wilder, Richmond, VA 23219

Telephone: +1 804 786 2211

Faxes: +1 804 786 3985

Salutation: Dear Governor

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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY, TO ARRIVE BY 15 December 1993.