

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 45/02 (AMR 51/095/2002, 10 June 2002) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Texas) Gary Wayne Etheridge (m), white, aged 38

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted Gary Etheridge a stay of execution. He had been scheduled to be put to death in Texas on 27 June 2002. He was sentenced to death in November 1990 for the murder of Christi Chauvierre in February of that year.

The court issued the stay on 24 June based on claims that the judge who set the execution date did not have jurisdiction to do so. This was the same judge who presided over Gary Etheridge's 1990 trial, at which he called the defendant a "piece of trash" and a "blight on society."

The judge later removed himself from an appeal hearing on the case. There is also another defence request for his removal pending, which formed the basis for the last-minute appeal that led to the stay.

In the event that the judge is removed from the case, another judge would be appointed to set another execution date.

Gary Etheridge also came within two days of execution in November 2000 before getting a reprieve.

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