

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 44/01 (AMR 51/104/2001, 16 July 2001) and follow-up (AMR 51/107/2001, 27 July) - Death penalty

USA (Texas) 250th Texas execution
Mack Oran Hill, white, aged 46

Mack Oran Hill was put to death on 8 August in Texas, becoming the 250th prisoner to be executed in the state since it resumed judicial killing in 1982.

In his final statement, Mack Hill proclaimed his innocence of the 1987 murder of Donald Johnson. He was pronounced dead eight minutes after the lethal injection began. According to reports, his relatives sobbed loudly as Mack Hill "gasped and sputtered and turned deep purple" as the drugs took effect.

Mack Hill had come close to execution two months earlier, on 6 June. On that occasion he was already eating what was to have been his final meal when he received a temporary stay of execution from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

Speaking after the new execution date of 8 August had been scheduled, he said: "This second time is a lot rougher. I feel like my head's on a chopping block with a sword hanging over it."

Mack Hill becomes the 11th prisoner to be executed in Texas this year, and the 43rd nationwide. The USA has now executed 726 men and women since resuming executions in 1977.

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