

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 48/01 (AMR 51/113/2001, 3 August 2001) - Death penalty / Leg

USA (North Carolina) Antwoun Kyrals Sims [m], black, aged 18

On 24 August, a North Carolina jury sentenced Antwoun Kyrals Sims to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. The prosecution had sought the death penalty, in violation of international law which prohibits the use of the death penalty against defendants who were under 18 at the time of the crime. Antwoun Sims was 17 at the time of the murder of 89-year-old Elleze Kennedy.

The jury sentenced Antwoun Sims's co-defendant, Bryan Christopher Bell, to death. He was 18 at the time of the murder.

To sentence a defendant who was under 18 at the time of the crime to life imprisonment without the possibility of release is also a violation of international law, prohibited by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The USA and Somalia are the only two countries not to have ratified this treaty. The USA has signed it, however, thereby binding itself in good faith not to do anything which would undermine the object and purpose of the convention.

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