

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/132/2003

29 October 2003

Further information on EXTRA 23/03 (AMR 51/063/2003, 01 May 2003) and follow-ups (AMR 51/067/2003, 02 May 2003 and AMR 51/125/2003, 22 September 2003) - Death penalty

USA (Missouri)

John Clayton Smith (m), aged 42, white

John Clayton Smith was executed in Missouri on 29 October. He was sentenced to death in 1999 for the murder of his former girlfriend Brandie Kearnes and her stepfather, Wayne Hoewing, in 1997.

John Smith had dropped his appeals against his conviction and death sentence. On 28 October, the state governor refused to intervene to stop the execution. Two clemency petitions had been presented to him; one by Smith's former lawyer, and one by the Missouri Catholic Conference.

John Smith becomes the 58th person to be executed in the USA this year, and the 878th person to be put to death since judicial killing resumed there in 1977. Missouri accounts for 61 of these executions.

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