

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/136/2003

5 November 2003

Further information on EXTRA 46/03 (AMR 51/133/2003, 29 October 2003) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Georgia)

James Willie Brown (m), white, aged 55

James Willie Brown was executed in Georgia on the evening of 4 November. He was sentenced to death for the rape and murder of Brenda Watson in 1975.

The state parole board denied clemency on 31 October. At the clemency hearing, a renowned expert on schizophrenia testified that James Willie Brown had this mental illness. Anita Tucker, a former inmate who had testified at the trial that James Willie Brown had confided in her that he was faking his mental illness, told the board that she had lied at the trial (see original EXTRA).

The execution was delayed by an hour while the US Supreme Court considered his appeal. The Court dismissed the appeal and the execution went ahead at around 8.30pm local time.

James Willie Brown becomes the 59th person to be executed in the USA this year, and the 879th since the country resumed judicial killing in 1977. Georgia accounts for 34 of these executions.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.