

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 198/06 (AMR 51/119/2006, 19 July 2006) – Death penalty

USA (Montana) David Thomas Dawson (m), white, aged 49

David Dawson was executed in Montana on 11 August 2006. He was sentenced to death in April 1987 for the murder of Monica and David Rodstein and their 11-year-old son Andrew at a motel in Billings, Montana, in 1986. David Dawson had given up appeals against his sentence.

After the execution, Governor Brian Schweitzer issued a statement in which he said: "Today I pray for the Rodstein family, may they find peace and closure. May all those affected by the tragedy 20 years ago and its consequences also find that closure...I have reviewed the facts of this case and believe there was no question of guilt. David Dawson committed a horrible crime and was held accountable for that action. I fulfilled my oath to the people of Montana to uphold the Constitution and the laws of this great state."

David Dawson becomes the 35th person to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 1,039th to be executed nationwide since judicial killing resumed in 1977. At least 123 of these executions have been of so-called "volunteers" – prisoners who had given up their appeals. This was the first execution in Montana since February 1998, and the third in the state since executions resumed there in 1995.

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