

PUBLIC

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Further information on

**HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH & STUDENT NETWORK
LETTER WRITING ACTION**

**Colin GONZALES, aged 16
USA (New Mexico)**

**(also see AI Index: AMR 51/136/99, 27 August 1999;
and AI Index: AMR 51/130/99, 13 August 1999)**

Summary

In his sentencing hearing on 13 September 1999, 16-year-old Colin Gonzales was sentenced to 19 years in prison for second-degree murder and other charges stemming from a shooting in New Mexico in March 1997, when he was 14 years old. His lawyers immediately filed a "motion for reconsideration", asking the judge to reconsider his original decision to treat Colin as an adult rather than a juvenile.

The judge will hear the motion to reconsider on 1 November 1999 at 2pm. In the meantime, Colin Gonzales remains in detention in San Miguel County Jail. If the judge confirms the sentence passed on 13 September, Colin Gonzales would immediately be moved to an adult prison where, in violation of international standards, he would not be separated from the adult inmates, unless held in solitary confinement.

Please refer to the earlier actions for more detailed background information on the case, including Colin Gonzalez' history of physical and mental health problems.

Recommended Actions

Amnesty International will issue a further update to this action in early November 1999 following the hearing on the "motion for reconsideration". No further action is requested at this stage.