

URGENT ACTION

ALABAMA EXECUTION GOES AHEAD

Eddie Duval Powell, a 41-year-old African American man, was executed on the evening of 16 June in the US state of Alabama.

Eddie Duval Powell was executed by lethal injection at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama. He had been convicted in 1998 of the murder of 70-year-old Mattie Wesson in 1995. His lawyers claimed that he had a mental disability that would render his execution unconstitutional.

Final appeals to the federal courts had challenged Alabama's lethal injection protocol, and the state's recent switch from sodium thiopental to pentobarbital as the barbiturate component of the three-drug combination. Shortly before the execution, the US Supreme Court refused to intervene. Governor Robert Bentley denied clemency.

Eddie Powell is the 22nd person to be executed in the USA this year, and the 1256th since judicial killing resumed in 1977. Alabama accounts for 53 of these executions, four of which have been carried out this year.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals. Eddie Powell's lawyer has expressed his gratitude for Amnesty International's action on this case.

This is the first update of UA170/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/050/2011/en>

Further information on UA: 170/11 Index: AMR 51/055/2011 Issue Date: 17 June 2011

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