

URGENT ACTION

FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS FLORIDA EXECUTION

A US federal court has stopped the execution of Paul Howell, who was scheduled to be put to death in Florida at 6pm on 26 February for the murder of a police officer in 1992.

On 23 February, a US District Court denied Paul Howell's emergency stay of execution, but allowed him to appeal to the US Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. On 25 February, a three-judge panel of the Eleventh Circuit court granted a temporary stay of execution in order to give the court time to consider the merits of his appeal. The state appealed to the US Supreme Court, but on 26 February the Court refused to lift the stay of execution.

On 26 February, the Eleventh Circuit ordered lawyers for Paul Howell to provide their initial brief to the court by 8 April.

Paul Howell's lawyers send their thanks to Amnesty International for its action on this case.

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

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