

PUBLIC

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18 April 2001

Further information on EXTRA 19/01 (AMR 51/048/2001, 23 March 2001) - Death penalty

USA (Ohio) Jay D. Scott, black, aged 48

The Ohio Supreme Court blocked Jay Scott's execution about an hour before it was due to be carried out on the evening of 17 April 2001. A lower court had asked the Supreme Court to issue a stay so that there would be more time to assess the issue of Scott's mental health.

Scott was sentenced to death in 1984 for the murder of 74-year-old Vinnie Prince, who was shot during an attempted robbery of her Cleveland delicatessen in May 1983. Jay Scott is reported to have developed serious mental illness in the past few years (see original EXTRA).

On 6 April, the Ohio Parole Board recommended against clemency, and on 10 April Governor Bob Taft denied clemency.

If Jay Scott is found competent for execution, the state would ask the Ohio Supreme Court to set a new date.

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