

PUBLIC

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19 September 2001

**Further information on EXTRA 59/01 (AMR 51/130/2001, 31 August 2001) - Death penalty / Legal concern**

**USA (North Carolina) Robert Bacon, black, aged 41**

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On 18 September, the Governor of North Carolina postponed Robert Bacon's execution for two weeks to ensure that his lawyers have "full access to the courts" following last week's attacks on New York and Washington. Robert Bacon had been scheduled to be executed on 21 September. He was sentenced to death for the 1987 murder of Glennie Clark.

A spokesperson for Governor Mike Easley said: "Because of the travel and communications disruptions, as well as court closings, that followed last week's tragic events, the governor has requested that the secretary of corrections postpone the scheduled execution".

Robert Bacon is now scheduled for execution on 5 October.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in your own words, in English or your own language:**

- welcoming the stay of execution (you may express your sympathy for the victims of the 11 September attack and their families);
- expressing sympathy for the relatives of Glennie Clark;
- expressing deep concern at the allegations of racial discrimination that have marked Robert Bacon's case;
- noting that two state Supreme Court judges have stated that Bacon's death sentence is disproportionate when compared to others and his co-defendant's sentence, and that two federal judges have ruled that evidence of Bacon's background not heard by the jury should require a new sentencing hearing;
- calling on the governor to commute Robert Bacon's death sentence in the name of fairness and the reputation of his state and country.

**APPEALS TO:**

Governor Michael F. Easley  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301, USA  
**Fax: + 1 919 715 3175 or + 1 919 733 2120**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

You may also write, in not more than 250 words) to "Letters to the Editor":  
- *Raleigh News and Observer*, PO Box 191, Raleigh, NC 27602, USA. **Fax: + 1 919-829-4872. E-mail: [forum@nando.com](mailto:forum@nando.com)**  
- *Charlotte Observer*, PO Box 20848, Charlotte, NC 28230, USA. **Fax: + 1 704 377 6214. E-mail: [opinion@charlotteobserver.com](mailto:opinion@charlotteobserver.com)**

**Note:** One of the newspapers targeted in the original UA, the *Winston-Salem Journal*, noted on 8 September:

"As the scheduled execution of Robert Bacon draws nearer, Gov. Mike Easley and several major newspapers in the state are being flooded, by e-mail and

fax, with letters from around the world. The letters appeal to Easley to spare Bacon's life.

They note the grief of Glennie Clark's loved ones but express concern at allegations of racial discrimination; Bacon's sentence compared with his codefendant's; and his abusive childhood, which the jury didn't hear.

The letters seem mostly to be the work of members of Amnesty International, which sends out regular notices to members urging them to write to government leaders about human-rights violations. The intent is to flood the leaders with mail and so overwhelm them into freeing wrongly imprisoned individuals held on trumped-up charges.

Bacon belongs in prison, but it is a sad commentary on the unevenness with which the death penalty is applied that he is scheduled to be executed, under the circumstances.

Perhaps being pegged for attention by the well-respected Amnesty International will make Easley think again about calling a moratorium on executions so the death penalty can be re-examined."