

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 141/99 (AMR 51/163/99, 8 October 1999) and follow-ups (AMR 51/174/99, 27 October 1999 and AMR 51/16/00, 27 January 2000) - Death penalty

USA (Florida) Terry Melvin SIMS, white, aged 58  
Anthony Braden BRYAN, white, aged 40

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Terry Sims and Anthony Bryan were executed on 23 and 24 February 2000 respectively. They became the first prisoners to die by lethal injection in Florida since the state adopted that method of execution in January as an alternative to the electric chair.

Terry Sims was sentenced to death in 1979 for the murder of George Pfeil, an off-duty police officer, during a robbery of a pharmacy in Longwood in December 1977.

Anthony Bryan was convicted of the kidnaping, robbery and murder of George Wilson, a 60-year-old night watchman, in Santa Rosa County in 1983. He was sentenced to death in May 1986.

The Florida Catholic Conference urged Governor Jeb Bush to stop Bryan's execution. In a letter on 23 February, the organization wrote: "Executions coarsen us. We daily condemn the violence around us but executions must be seen for what they are, legitimized killing by the state".

Florida has now put 46 prisoners to death since executions resumed in the USA in 1977. Nationwide, there have been 615 executions since 1977, including 17 so far this year.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**