

PUBLIC

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25 May 2000

Further information on EXTRA 42/00 (AMR 51/61/00, 18 April 2000) and follow-up (AMR 51/63/00, 28 April) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Oklahoma) Charles Adrian Foster, black, aged 51

Charles Foster was executed in Oklahoma in the first few minutes of 25 May 2000. He was sentenced to death for the murder of Claude Wiley in 1983.

Charles Foster, a learning-disabled man whose defence lawyer failed to investigate alibi evidence or present mitigating evidence at the trial, consistently maintained that he did not kill Claude Wiley (see original EXTRA). Drew Edmondson, who was the county prosecutor at the 1983 trial and is now Oklahoma's Attorney General (it was his first capital case), said after the execution: "His guilt was proven beyond a reasonable doubt and there is not a shadow of a doubt in my mind of his guilt."

Charles Foster becomes the sixth prisoner executed in Oklahoma this year and the 37th nationwide.

Since the USA resumed judicial killing in 1977, it has executed 635 prisoners.

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