

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 79/99 (AMR 51/104/99, 30 June 1999) and follow-ups (AMR 51/109/99, 9 July and AMR 51/75/00, 22 May 2000) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern

**USA (ALABAMA) Pernell FORD, aged 35**

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Pernell Ford was executed in Alabama's electric chair in the first few minutes of 2 June 2000. He had been sentenced to death in 1984 for the 1983 murder of Linda Gail Griffith, 42, and her mother Willie Griffith, 74, when he was 18 years old. Ford, who had suffered from serious mental health problems and suicidal tendencies since he was a child, had given up his appeals.

Governor Siegelman dismissed a clemency request filed by Pernell Ford's former attorney. A spokesperson said that the governor considered the lawyer's request inappropriate, as the courts had ruled Pernell Ford competent to fire her and stop his appeals.

Pernell Ford becomes the fourth prisoner executed in Alabama this year and the 41<sup>st</sup> across the country as a whole. The USA has now put 639 prisoners to death since it resumed executions in 1977.

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