

PUBLIC

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25 February 1999

Further information on EXTRA 06/99 (AMR 51/11/99, 22 January 1999) - Death Penalty

**USA (ARIZONA)Karl Hinze LAGRAND
Walter Burnhary LAGRAND**

Amnesty International very much regrets that Karl Hinze LaGrand was executed as scheduled on 24 February 1999.

The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals had stayed his execution on the grounds that death by lethal gas constituted cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the US Constitution. However, the US Supreme Court overturned the stay and allowed the execution to proceed.

Immediately prior to the execution Governor Jane Hull instructed the prison authorities to allow LaGrand to choose execution by lethal injection instead, which he did.

The Arizona Board of Executive Clemency voted 3 to 1 not to grant clemency to Karl LaGrand. This was despite pleas from the German authorities, who sent a representative to the clemency hearing.

Before the Board announced their decision, Governor Hull had declared in newspaper interviews that she would not grant clemency to LaGrand even if it was recommended.

Hull acknowledged the "strong feelings" coming from Germany but stated, "It [execution] is our law of the land, and it is the law that I will follow."

According to press reports, a petition of over 50,000 signatures from Germany urging Arizona to spare the brothers' lives was presented at the clemency hearing.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Karl LaGrand. Walter LaGrand remains scheduled for execution on 3 March 1999. Appeals on his behalf and expressions of regret at the execution of his brother should be sent to the authorities indicated in the original actions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

To the Arizona Board of Pardons and Paroles:

- urging the Board to recommend that Governor Hull grant clemency to Walter LaGrand;

To Governor Jane Dee Hull:

- requesting that she commute the death sentences of Walter LaGrand;

To both:

- expressing concern that the LaGrands were denied their rights under the Vienna Convention;

- acknowledging the seriousness of the offence for which the LaGrands were sentenced to death and expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their families.

APPEALS TO:

Chairperson

Arizona Board of Executive Clemency
1645 West Jefferson, Suite 326
Phoenix, AZ 85007, USA

Telegrams: Arizona Board of Executive Clemency, Phoenix, USA

Telephone: + 1 602 542 5656

Faxes: + 1 602 542 5680

Salutation: Dear Chairperson and Board Members

The Honorable Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona,
1700 West Washington,
Phoenix, AZ 85007 USA

Telephone: + 1 602/ 542-4331

Faxes: + 1 602 542 7601

Salutation: Dear Governor

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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.