

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/142/99

2 September 1999

Further information on UA 203/99 (AMR 51/125/99, 10 August 1999) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Nevada) Kenshawn Maxey, aged 18

On 31 August 1999, Kenshawn Maxey's trial was postponed until 11 January 2000 after his lawyer resigned from the Clark County Public Defender's Office. The teenager will now be appointed a new lawyer. His trial had been due to begin on 7 September.

In reporting the development on 1 September, the *Las Vegas Sun* noted that "an international letter-writing campaign protesting a possible death sentence for Kenshawn Maxey had heated up as his 7 Sept. 7 trial date neared." It reported that the Deputy District Attorney, the prosecutor in this case, had "received about 50 letters this week alone." The article goes on to say that "in the letters -- from such countries as England, Holland and Germany in addition to the United States -- prosecutors were politely chastised for their death penalty stance". The newspaper quoted from some of the letters and explained the international law issue.

The news article also reported that the prosecutor had said that there were no plans to abandon the state's pursuit of the death penalty against Kenshawn Maxey.

Kenshawn Maxey is charged with shooting bartender Salvatore Zendano Jr. during a robbery of O'Acres Bar and Grill in Las Vegas in May 1998. Kenshawn Maxey was 17 years old at the time of the crime. International law forbids the use of the death penalty for crimes committed by under-18-year-olds.

No further action is requested by the UA Network at present, although those who wish to may write to the prosecutor expressing regret at reports that he still intends to seek the death penalty against Kenshawn Maxey, and asking him to reconsider this decision in accordance with international customary law, binding on all jurisdictions in all countries.

Many thanks to all who sent appeals on this case.

The Honourable David Schwartz
Deputy District Attorney
200 South Third Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101, USA

Fax: + 1 702 383 8465

Salutation: Dear Deputy District Attorney