

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/183/99

15 November 1999

Further information on EXTRA 160/99 (AMR 51/182/99, 12 November 1999) -Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (South Carolina) Leroy Joseph "Ricky" DRAYTON, black, aged 44

Ricky Drayton was executed by lethal injection at 6pm local time in the Broad River Correctional Institution, Columbia, South Carolina. He had been sentenced to death for killing Rhonda Darlene Smith, white, in 1984.

Ricky Drayton made no final statement before his execution.

The state Governor denied clemency at 5pm. His legal advisor had met with Ricky Drayton's lawyers in the morning to hear their plea for clemency.

Ricky Drayton becomes the 85th prisoner executed in the USA this year. This is the highest annual total since 1951. A total of 585 prisoners have been executed nationwide since the USA resumed executions in 1977.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. We have been asked by a member of the defence team in South Carolina to thank all those UA participants who were able to send appeals into the Governor at such short notice.