

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/11/97

6 March 1997

Further information on EXTRA 23/97 (AMR 51/08/97, 19 February 1997) - Death Penalty

USA (MISSOURI)Roosevelt POLLARD

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Roosevelt Pollard, who was scheduled to be executed in Missouri on 5 March 1997, has received a stay of execution to allow a judge to evaluate claims that the inmate is mentally unfit to die.

The Missouri Corrections Director, Dora Schiriro, requested a competency hearing based on the arguments of the clemency petition of Pollard's attorney, and her own agency's files. She stated that "the law is clear that it is not permissible to execute people who are insane at the time of execution. For that reason, based on allegations about his competency, it is necessary to have that assessment done by experts, and have those materials presented to the court." However, the Missouri Attorney General, Jay Nixon, has said that Pollard remains competent to be executed.

Thanks to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Roosevelt Pollard. No further appeals are required by the Urgent Action Network at present.