

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/54/97

UA 286/97

Death Penalty

27 August 1997

USA (COLORADO) Gary Lee DAVIS, 53, white

Gary Lee Davis is scheduled to be executed in Colorado on 11 October 1997. Davis's legal appeals are exhausted. His last hope is a clemency hearing in mid-September. This would be the first execution under the state's current death penalty laws. Luis Monge, who died in the gas chamber on 2 June 1967, was the last person to be executed in Colorado.

Gary Davis was sentenced to death in July 1987 for the kidnap, rape and murder of 33-year-old Virginia May in 1986. His wife was also convicted for the crime, and is serving a life sentence, plus 30 years.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel and degrading punishment, as proclaimed in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As of 1 August, there were five prisoners under sentence of death in Colorado. The method of execution is lethal injection. The Governor has sole authority to commute death sentences by reducing the penalty to imprisonment for life or a term of not less than 20 years hard labour.

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

- expressing deep concern that Gary Davis is scheduled to be executed on 11 October 1997, while acknowledging the seriousness of the crimes for which he was convicted;
- expressing concern and sympathy for the family and friends of the victim;
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter violent crime more effectively than any other punishment, and stating that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging Governor Romer to grant clemency to Gary Davis by commuting his death sentence;
- stating that the resumption of executions in Colorado would be a retrograde step running against international trends.

APPEALS TO

Governor Roy Romer
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203
USA

Telegrams: Governor Romer, Denver, USA

Tel: +1 303 866 2471

Fax: + 1 303 866 2003/2004

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Letters Editor
The Denver Post
1560 Broadway
Denver, CO 80202
USA

Tel: + 1 303 820 1010

Fax: + 1 303 820 1369

The Letters Editor
Gazette Telegraph
Box 1779
Colorado Springs, CO 80901
USA

Tel: + 1 719 632 5511

Fax: + 1 719 636 0202

and to diplomatic representatives of USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.