

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 40/92

Death Penalty

3 April 1992

USA: (TEXAS)

Benjamin Boyle
David Gibbs
Billy White
Harold Lane

Lester Bower
Ricardo Guerra
James Earhart

Imminent execution warrants have been issued by the state of Texas, USA, to the above named prisoners. This brings the total number of prisoners scheduled to be executed by the state of Texas over the next six weeks to 10. (Leonel Herrera, Delma Banks, and Joseph Faulder are scheduled to be executed in Texas on 15 April, 30 April, and 6 May 1992 respectively.

See further information EXTRA 50/91, AMR 51/45/92, 31 March; further information EXTRA 25/92, AMR 51/44/92, 30 March 1992; further information EXTRA 02/92, AMR 51/40/92, 17 March 1992).

Information regarding the seven prisoners is as follows:

Benjamin BOYLE, white, sentenced to death 30 October 1986 for the murder of a white woman: **scheduled to be executed 16 April 1992.**

David GIBBS, white, sentenced to death 20 March 1986 for the murder of a white woman: **scheduled to be executed 19 April 1992.**

Billy WHITE, black, sentenced to death 25 October 1977 for the murder of a white woman: **scheduled to be executed 23 April 1992.**

Harold LANE, white, sentenced to death 11 May 1983 for the murder of a white woman: **scheduled to be executed 24 April 1992.**

Lester BOWER, white, sentenced to death 28 April 1984 for the murder of four white males: **scheduled to be executed 29 April 1992.**

Ricardo GUERRA, hispanic, sentenced to death 4 October 1982 for the murder of a white male: **scheduled to be executed 12 May 1992.**

James EARHART, no further information available: **scheduled to be executed 12 May 1992.**

As of December 1991, there were 345 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas. The last person to be executed in the state was Edward Ellis, on 3 March 1992. Execution in Texas is carried out by lethal injection.

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

Amnesty International is extremely concerned about the high rate of executions in the United States of America this year. In the first three months of 1992 ten prisoners have been executed in the USA, as against 14 in the whole of 1991.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes and telephone calls:

- urging the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to convene a clemency hearing to consider the cases of Benjamin Boyle, David Gibbs, Billy White, Harold Lane, Lester Bower, Ricardo Guerra and James Earhart;

- appealing to them to recommend that Governor Richards grant clemency to them by commuting their death sentences.

APPEALS TO:

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
[Salutation: Dear Board Members]
8610 Shoal Creek Boulevard, PO Box 13401
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78578-6887
USA

**Telegrams: Texas Board Pardons/Paroles, Austin
TX 78711, USA**

Telephone: + 1 512 459 2782

Faxes: + 1 512 459 2790

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Honourable Ann Richards
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
PO Box 12428, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Faxes: + 1 512 463 1849

AND TO THE LETTERS EDITORS OF THE FOLLOWING TEXAS NEWSPAPERS:

Austin American-Statesman
Cox Newspapers
Box 670, Austin, TX 78767
USA

Faxes: + 1 512 445 3679

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

Houston Chronicle
801 Texas Avenue
Houston, TX 77002
USA

Faxes: + 1 713 220 7868

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY to arrive, **at the very latest**, the day before each execution is scheduled.