

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

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USA: (Texas)

Ignacio CUEVAS

Ignacio Cuevas is scheduled to be executed by the state of Texas on 23 May 1991. It is feared that the execution will go ahead as planned.

Ignacio Cuevas, hispanic, aged 60, was sentenced to death in June 1983 for the murder of Julia Stanley, white. Mr Cuevas, who was in prison at the time, was one of three prisoners involved in a prison takeover which culminated in a gun battle between prison authorities and inmates. Two inmates and two hostages, including Julia Stanley, were shot and killed. According to Mr Cuevas' lawyers, the state of Texas did not contend that he shot Julia Stanley. However, he received the death penalty for her murder under the "law of parties" (i.e. he had been a party to the conspiracy which had resulted in her death).

As of 21 January 1991, there were 332 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas, of whom 123 were black, 146 were white, 54 were hispanic, five were Native American and four were Asian. The last execution to be carried out in the state was that of Lawrence Buxton on 26 February 1991. Execution in Texas is carried out by lethal injection. Thirty-eight prisoners have been executed by the state of Texas since 1982, the largest number to have been executed in any US state since 1976 when a US Supreme Court ruling permitted individual states to reinstate the death penalty for murder.

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, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telephone calls/telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- asking that clemency be granted to Ignacio Cuevas by commuting his death sentence;
- reiterating your opposition to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO

The Hon Ann Richards
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
PO Box 12428
Austin
Texas 78711, USA

**Telegrams: Governor Richards,
Austin Texas, USA**
Telephone calls: (512) 463 2000
Telexes: 9108741340
Faxes: (512) 463 1849

COPIES TO:Diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY, TO ARRIVE BY 22 MAY 1991

