

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/32/90

Distr: UA/SC

14 September 1990

Further Information on UA334/90 (AMR 51/32/90, 15 August 1990) - Death Penalty

USA: (Illinois) Charles Walker

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Amnesty International has learned that the execution of Charles Walker, scheduled for 12 September in Illinois, has been carried out as planned. Thank you to all who sent appeals.

Amnesty International is concerned that three physicians reportedly participated in Mr Walker's execution by inserting the intravenous line through which the medication was injected. If these allegations are confirmed, this would be the first time that physicians have so directly helped to carry out an execution in the USA.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has condemned physicians' participation in executions, stating that this violates the AMA's 1980 position that "physicians should not be participants in a legal execution." In 1981 the World Medical Association (WMA) passed a resolution condemning physician participation in executions stating that "it is unethical for physicians to participate in capital punishment."

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Express and airmail letters:

- expressing regret at Illinois' resumption of executions.
- expressing concern that Mr Walker's execution was carried out while the constitutionality of the state death penalty statute is still open to question;
- expressing concern that physicians reportedly took part in Mr Walker's execution; citing the AMA's and the WMA's resolutions relating to physicians' participation in executions.

LETTERS TO:

The Hon. James Thompson
Governor of Illinois
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706
USA

NESWPAPERS:

<u>Chicago Tribune</u> 435 N. Michigan Illinois 60611 USA	<u>Chicago Sun Times</u> 401 N Wabash Chicago, IL 60611 USA	<u>The Monitor</u> 1501 State Street East St Louis, IL 62205 USA
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<u>New York Times</u> The New York Times Company 229 W 43 St New York, NY 10035 USA	<u>Washington Post</u> 1150 15th Street NW, Washington DC 20071 USA
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COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE START ACTION IMMEDIATELY AND CONTINUE THROUGH TO 10 OCTOBER 1990.