

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/032/2005

27 January 2005

Further Information on UA 330/04 (AMR 51/178/2004, 6 December 2004) and follow-up (AMR 51/179/2004, 7 December 2004; AMR 51/005/2005, 7 January 2005) - Death Penalty

USA (Connecticut)

Michael Bruce Ross (m), white, aged 45

Michael Ross is now scheduled for execution on 28 January at 2.01am local time.

A federal judge issued a stay of execution on 24 January, two days before Michael Ross was due to be executed, so as to hold a hearing into whether Ross is competent to waive his appeals. The state appealed, but the stay was upheld by the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on 25 January. The state has now appealed to the US Supreme Court to allow the execution to proceed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to send appeals as recommended previously, in English or your own language, to arrive as soon as possible:

- expressing sympathy for the families of the murder victims in this case, and explaining that you are not seeking in any way to excuse the manner of their deaths or to minimize the suffering caused;
- welcoming the fact that the State of Connecticut has not carried out an execution since 1960, during which time more than a hundred countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice;
- expressing regret at the Governor's announcement that she will not issue a reprieve in the case of Michael Ross;
- urging her to reconsider her decision, not out of sympathy for Michael Ross, or out of a lack of empathy for the murder victims and their families, but in order to reject her own and her state's involvement in the killing of a human being, however terrible the crimes of which he was convicted;
- urging her to do all in her power to prevent the State of Connecticut from taking this backward step, and not to veto any abolitionist bill that is passed by the legislature.

APPEALS TO:

Governor M. Jodi Rell, Executive Office of the Governor
State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106, USA

Email: Governor.Rell@po.state.ct.us

Fax: +1 860 524 7396

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. All appeals must arrive by 28 January 2005.