

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/054/2004

22 March 2004

Further information on UA 93/04 (AMR 51/045/2004, 03 March 2004) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (South Carolina) David Clayton Hill (m), white, aged 39

David Hill was executed in South Carolina on 19 March 2004. He was sentenced to death in 1995 for the murder of a police officer in 1994.

A federal District Judge granted a stay of execution on 8 March after David Hill's lawyers appealed on the grounds that South Carolina's lethal injection procedures were unconstitutional. The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld the stay on 17 March, but on 19 March, by a vote of 5-4, the US Supreme Court dissolved it. The South Carolina Supreme Court rejected a last-minute emergency appeal for a stay of execution.

On 19 March, Governor Mark Sanford refused clemency. In a statement he said: "The South Carolina Supreme Court has denied Mr Hill's request for a stay and preliminary injunction. The United States Supreme Court has similarly granted our state's request to allow the execution to proceed. I have reviewed this matter with my legal counsel and can find no reason to intervene and overturn the findings of an exhaustive judicial process."

David Hill becomes the 18th person to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 903rd since judicial killing resumed in the United States in 1977. South Carolina accounts for 29 of these executions.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.