

PUBLIC

AMR 51/170/2002

15 November 2002

**Further information on EXTRA 81/02 (AMR 51/162/2002, 29 October 2002) -
Death penalty/Legal concern**

USA (Georgia)Curtis Malcolm Woodyard (m), black, aged 19

Curtis Woodyard has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Gordon Edward Petty, committed in November 2000. The prosecution had intended to seek a death sentence against him at his trial, scheduled to begin in Augusta, Georgia, on 12 November 2002. On that day, however, the defendant entered a guilty plea on all counts and was sentenced to life imprisonment, with the possibility of parole, pursuant to a plea arrangement negotiated with the prosecution.

Curtis Woodyard was 17 at the time of the murder of Gordon Edward Petty. International law, respected in almost every country in the world apart from the USA, prohibits the use of the death penalty against people who were under 18 years old at the time of the crime.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Curtis Woodyard's lawyer has expressed his thanks for Amnesty International's action in this case.