

URGENT ACTION

GEORGIA'S EXECUTION TOLL HIGHEST FOR 40 YEARS

Sixty-year-old John Conner was executed in Georgia on 15 July after 34 years on death row. He was sentenced to death for the murder of J.T. White committed in 1982. This was the sixth execution in Georgia this year, out of a national total of 15.

The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles denied clemency to **John Wayne Conner** on 13 July. John Conner was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection the following evening at 7pm, but final appeals were still pending. The execution took place at about half past midnight on 15 July after the US Supreme Court rejected the final appeal.

Justice Stephen Breyer dissented from the Court's refusal to stay the execution and to consider the constitutionality of keeping someone on death row for so long. In recent years, he has consistently argued that this issue should be considered by the Court. In *Glossip v. Gross* in 2015, for example, he noted that as long ago as 1890, the Court had recognized the "horrible" uncertainty a death row prisoner had to endure while waiting for execution. In that ruling over a century earlier, the Court was "describing a delay of a mere four weeks" between conviction and execution. Today, Justice Breyer pointed out, "we must describe delays measured, not in weeks, but in decades".

This is the 15th execution in the USA this year, and the sixth in Georgia. There have now been 1,437 executions in the USA since the US Supreme Court approved revised capital statutes, including Georgia's, on 2 July 1976. Georgia has already executed more people in 2016 than in any of the past 40 years.

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

This is the first update of UA 162/16. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/4417/2016/en/

Name: John Wayne Conner
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 162/16 Index: AMR 51/4487/2016 Issue Date: 19 July 2016

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