

29 January 1999

Further information on EXTRA 05/99 (AMR 38/01/99, 21 January 1999) and follow-up (AMR 38/03/99, 26 January 1999) - Death Penalty

JAMAICAPatrick Taylor
Anthony McLeod
Christopher Brown

Lawyers representing Patrick Taylor, Anthony McLeod and Christopher Brown, scheduled to be executed this week, requested stays of executions to allow motions challenging the constitutionality of the executions to be considered by Jamaica's courts.

The High Court refused the men stays of execution to allow consideration of constitutional motions, but has granted stays to enable this decision to be challenged in the Court of Appeal. Patrick Taylor and Anthony McLeod have been granted stays until the Court of Appeal considers their request and Christopher Brown has been granted a stay until 2 February 1999.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to send letters/telegrams/ faxes and e-mails in English or your own language:

- urging that the death sentences of Patrick Taylor, Anthony McLeod and Christopher Brown, and all others under sentence of death in Jamaica, be commuted;
- reminding the government that to execute Patrick Taylor and Anthony McLeod following the Human Rights Committee's findings and recommendations in each case would violate Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (ICCPR);
- reminding the government that it is still obliged to implement the Human Rights Committee's recommendations in individual cases including its recommendations to commute the death sentence of Patrick Taylor and to release Anthony McLeod if a new appeal is not brought;
- urging the government not to hang Christopher Brown while his petition is still pending before the Human Rights Committee and pointing out that to do so would irremediably deprive him of his right to seek redress for alleged violations of his fundamental human rights, undermine the international mechanism for the protection of human rights and violate the Jamaican government's continuing obligations under the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their relatives, but voicing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- stating the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishment and brutalises all involved in its application;
- stating that imposing the death penalty does not necessarily alleviate the suffering of the victims of violent crime;
- stating that execution is irrevocable and, despite the most stringent judicial safeguards, can be inflicted on the innocent.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister
The Rt Hon P. J. Patterson, PC, QC, MP
Office of the Prime Minister

Jamaica House

1 Devon Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kingston, Jamaica

E-mails: jis@jamaica-info.com

Faxes: + 1 876 929 0005

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Attorney General

The Hon A. J. Nicholson

Attorney General's Department

79-83 Barry St.

PO Box 456, Kingston, Jamaica

Telegrams: Attorney general, Kingston, Jamaica

Faxes: + 1 876 922 5109

Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Governor General

H E The Most Honourable Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVD, CD

Office of the Governor General

King's House, Hope Road

Kingston 6, Jamaica

Telegrams: Governor General, Kingston, Jamaica

Faxes: + 1 876 927 4561

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon Seymour Mullings

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

21 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5, Jamaica

Faxes: + 1 876 929 6733

and to diplomatic representatives of Jamaica accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.