

PUBLIC

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9 January 2002

Further information on EXTRA 79/01 (AMR 51/186/2001, 21 December 2001) - Death penalty

USA (Missouri) James R. Johnson, white, aged 52

Jim Johnson was executed in Missouri in the first few minutes of 9 January 2002. He had been sentenced to death in 1993 for the murder of three police officers and the wife of another officer in December 1991.

In his final statement, Jim Johnson said: "I am truly sorry that I have caused each family member, along with their friends, so much pain and suffering. I earnestly pray for your forgiveness".

Governor Bob Holden denied clemency late on 8 January. It was the eighth execution since he took office in 2001. He has not yet granted clemency in a capital case.

This was the first execution in the USA in 2002 and the 750th since executions resumed in the country in 1977. Fifty-four of these executions have been carried out in Missouri.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.