

AI INDEX: AMR 51/5/98
EMBARGOED FOR 26 JANUARY 1998

MEDIA ADVISORY

USA

Publication of a new document on

Violation of the Rights of Foreign Nationals under Sentence of Death
(AI INDEX: AMR 51/01/98)

More than 60 foreign citizens representing 22 nationalities are under sentence of death in the United States of America (USA). In a new document published today, Amnesty International reveals that in virtually every case, the arresting authorities failed to notify detained foreigners of their right to communicate with their consular representatives -- a direct violation on the Vienna Convention on Consular relations, which the USA ratified in 1969.

As a result of this, foreign nationals confronted by an unfamiliar legal system have been tried and sentenced to death without the benefit of the crucial support from the authorities of their native countries. The USA Government continues to oppose efforts by death-sentenced foreign citizens (and their governments) to obtain relief through the courts.

For further information, copies of the report or to arrange an interview, please call Soraya Bermejo. Press Officer, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, on +44 171 413 5562

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