

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*Please bring this to the attention of the campaign coordinator and/or those responsible for the death penalty action on juveniles in the USA.*

Further information on UA 444/91 (AMR 51/69/91, 17 December 1991) and follow up ~~AMR 51/04/92, 8 January 1992 - Imminent Execution of Juvenile Offender~~

USA: (Texas)

Johnny F Garrett

Amnesty International has just learned that Johnny Garrett is now scheduled to be executed on 11 February 1992.

Garrett had been scheduled to be executed on 7 January 1992 but Governor Ann Richards granted him a 30-day-reprieve to give more time for his case to be considered. The reprieve remains in force but this new execution date has been set for very soon after it has expired.

Amnesty International has also learned that His Holiness Pope John Paul II made an appeal on Johnny Garrett's behalf, asking for clemency. According to an article in the Texas newspaper, the Austin American-Statesman, the Pope's letter to Governor Richards said that to grant clemency in this case "would obviously be of special significance in promoting non-violence and in fostering the need for mutual respect and love in society."

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/telephone calls/express/airmail letters:**

- urging the Board of Pardons and Paroles to recommend that the Governor grant clemency to Johnny Frank Garrett by commuting his death sentence;
- making reference to the Pope's intervention in this case;
- drawing attention to the reports that Johnny Garrett is severely mentally impaired and that he was subjected to physical and sexual abuse when he was a child;
- expressing concern that the jury at Johnny Garrett's trial was not made aware of his medical history or abused upbringing;
- expressing concern at the imposition of a death sentence on an individual who was under the age of 18 at the commission of the offence, and pointing

out that contravenes internationally recognized human rights standards for minimum age for use of the death penalty.

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**APPEALS TO:**

Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles  
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd.  
PO Box 13401, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
USA

**Telegrams: Texas Board Pardons/Paroles, Austin, Texas 78711, USA**

**Telexes: 910 874 1340**

**Faxes: + 512 459 2735**

**Telephone: + 512 459 2700/2716/2800**

**Salutation: Dear Board Members**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 11 February 1992.