

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/11/98

20 February 1998

Further information on EXTRA 37/97 (AMR 51/13/97, 17 March 1997) and follow-ups (AMR 51/20/97, 14 April 1997, AMR 51/04/98, 15 January 1998) - Death Penalty

USA (IOWA) Possible reintroduction of the death penalty

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The Iowa legislature will not debate or vote upon reinstatement of the death penalty. Proponents of the death penalty decided on 12 February 1998 to drop their plans for a full debate because of lack of support. The issue will not be raised again during 1998.

Public hearings were dominated by opponents of the death penalty. The Governor of Iowa, Terry Branstad, described the opposition to the death penalty as "strong and organised" but stated that reintroduction was "...a matter of time." He also stated that "unfortunately, the rape and kidnap victims that murdered are not here to testify at those public hearings."

Thank you to all those who appealed to stop the reintroduction of the death penalty in Iowa. No further actions is required by the Urgent Action Network.