

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/14/92

Distr: UA/SC

22 January 1992

Further information on UA 340/90 (AMR 51/34/90, 22 August 1990, and follow-ups AMR 51/40/90 of 25 September 1990, AMR 51/41/90 of 13 November 1990 and AMR 51/02/92 of 3 January 1992) - Death Penalty

USA (Wyoming)

Mark Hopkinson

Amnesty International has learned that Mark Hopkinson was executed as scheduled by the state of Wyoming, USA, on 22 January 1992. This is the first execution to be carried out in Wyoming for 26 years.

In October 1990 the Casper Star-Tribune, a Wyoming newspaper, received many letters from Amnesty International members and others on this case. In an article published on 7 October 1990, Charles Levendosky, the Editorial Page Editor, wrote "Amnesty International, through its letter writing campaign, pushed us to reflect upon the issue and indirectly led us to scrutinize our reasons for supporting or not supporting the death penalty. Any serious examination of basic issues is healthy for a society ... We owe Amnesty our gratitude; it forced us to face death as a penalty."

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing deep regret that Mark Hopkinson was executed on 22 January 1992 by the state of Wyoming;

- expressing concern that, after 26 years without executions, Wyoming has taken this retrograde step.

To the Governor:

- urging that no further executions be carried out in the state of Wyoming.

To Casper Star Tribune:

- thanking the editor for publicizing the death penalty debate in the newspaper;

- urging that he continues to give publicity to this debate.

APPEALS TO:

The Honorable Mike Sullivan
Governor of Wyoming
State Capitol

Cheyenne, WY 82002

USA

Telgrams: Governor Sullivan, Cheyenne, WY 82002, USA

Faxes: + 1 307 777 6869

Salutation: Dear Governor

Page 2 of FU 340/90

Casper Star Tribune (newspaper)

Attn: Charles Levendosky

PO Box 80

Casper, WY 82602

USA

Faxes: + 1 307 266 0501

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.