

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 51/16/85**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**EXTRA 08/85 Death Penalty**

**24 January 1985**

**USA (Texas)**

**Willie Ray Williams  
Jeffrey Motley  
Samuel Hawkins  
Alvan Ray Murphy**

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**Willie Ray Williams, black, is scheduled to be executed in Texas on 31 January 1985. Willie Ray Williams was convicted for the 1980 murder of a white female.**

**Jeffrey Motley is scheduled to be executed in Texas on 7 February 1985.**

**Alvan Ray Murphy is scheduled to be executed in Texas on 16 February 1985.**

**Samuel Hawkins, black, is scheduled to be executed in Texas 21 February 1985. Hawkins was sentenced to death for the rape and murder of a white woman and the murder of a young girl on separate occasions in 1977. He has been under sentence of death since March 1978. According to his attorney, testimony presented at trial indicated that Samuel Hawkins was suffering from mental problems at the time of the crimes.**

**Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Amnesty International is deeply concerned at the number of executions being carried out in the USA in general, and in Texas in particular. Of the 259 executions carried out in the USA since the death penalty was resumed in the mid 1970s, 87 have been carried out in Texas. The method of execution is lethal injection.**

**In Texas the governor may commute a sentence of death only if he receives a favourable recommendation from the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The Board consistently refuses to hold full clemency hearings in death penalty cases, and apart from a number of commutations granted in the 1980s as the result of two key court rulings, the Board has never recommended clemency in any death penalty case in recent years.**

**As of October 1984 there were 390 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas. The most recent person to be executed in Texas was Mario Márquez, on 17 January 1985. The method of execution is lethal injection.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION Please telephone, send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters in English if possible:**

- expressing deep concern that Willie Ray Williams, Jeffrey Motley, Samuel Hawkins and Alvan Ray Murphy are scheduled to be executed in Texas on their respective dates; at the same time expressing concern and sympathy for the families of victims of violent crime;**
- urging the Board of Pardons and Paroles to recommend that Governor Bush grant clemency to the four prisoners;**
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases.**

#### **APPEALS TO**

**Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles  
Executive Clemency Unit  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
Pardons and Paroles Division**

PO Box 13401  
Austin, TX 78711  
USA  
Faxes: +1 512 487 0045  
Telephone: +1 512 406 5852  
Telegrams: Pardons and Paroles Board, Austin, Texas  
Salutation: Dear Board Members

**COPIES TO**

The Honourable George W. Bush  
Governor of Texas  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 12428, Capitol Station  
Austin, TX 78711  
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Salutation: Dear Governor  
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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**