

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/015/2001

22 January 2001

Further information on EXTRA 03/01 (AMR 51/008/2001, 12 January 2001) -Death penalty /

USA (Federal)David Ronald Chandler, white

In one of his last acts as President, Bill Clinton commuted David Ronald Chandler's federal death sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Two hours before he left office, President Clinton signed executive orders pardoning 141 people and commuting the sentences of 36 others. Ronald Chandler was the only death row prisoner among these individuals.

There are serious doubts about Chandler's guilt, and about the adequacy of his legal representation at his 1991 trial. Welcoming President Clinton's commutation of the death sentence, Ronald Chandler's wife expressed her hope that without the threat of execution hanging over her husband, he will eventually win a new trial.

Ronald Chandler was the first person convicted under the 1988 law that reintroduced the federal death penalty. There has been no federal execution in the USA since 1963. Timothy McVeigh, convicted and sentenced to death in federal court for the 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City, is currently scheduled to be executed on 16 May 2001 after giving up his appeals against his death sentence.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.