

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: AMR 51/16/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**29 January 1992**

**Further information on UA 10/92 (AMR 51/06/92, 8 January 1992) - Death Penalty**

**USA (Arkansas):**

**Ricky Ray RECTOR**

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Ricky Ray Rector was executed by lethal injection, as scheduled, by the state of Arkansas on 24 January 1992.

Amnesty International has learned of the disturbing manner in which this execution was carried out. Witnesses to the execution reported hearing moans or outbursts coming from the execution chamber as technicians searched for almost an hour to find suitable veins in which to inject the chemicals. Ricky Rector was apparently aware of the problem and helped the execution team in their task. In an article in one of the state newspapers, the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, on January 26 1992, John Byus, the administrator of medical and dental services for the Arkansas Department of Correction said, "We weren't just sticking him every minute. We were looking for a new vein. We kept thinking the next one would be it... We thought we had it, but we didn't, that's unusual, but it happens. He had spindly veins that collapsed easily. We searched. We were lucky to find a vein at all".

Amnesty International is further disturbed to note that Governor Bill Clinton, the Democratic Presidential candidate for the elections to be held in November 1992, is publicly supporting the death penalty as part of his electoral campaign.

Executions are carried out by lethal injection in 13 states, and a further six states, including Arkansas, provide it as an option. A number of states have recently changed their method of execution to lethal injection. The most recent state to change to this form of execution was Louisiana in January 1991, citing it as a "more humane" alternative.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing deep regret that Ricky Ray Rector was executed on 24 January 1992 by the state of Arkansas;
- expressing deep concern at the manner in which this execution was carried out which further demonstrates the extreme cruelty of the death penalty;
- reiterating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death

penalty;

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

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**APPEALS TO**

The Honourable Bill Clinton  
Governor of Arkansas  
250 State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
USA

**Telegrams:** Governor Clinton, Little Rock, AR 72201, USA

**Telephone:** + 1 501 682 2345

**Faxes:** + 1 501 682 1382

**Salutation:** Dear Governor

**COPIES TO:**

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

PO Box 2221

Little Rock, AR 72203

USA

**Faxes:** + 1 501 372 3908

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**