

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 08/03 (AMR 51/016/2003, 07 February 2003) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Oklahoma)

Bobby Joe Fields (m), black, aged 39

Bobby Fields was executed in Oklahoma on the evening of 13 February. He was sentenced to death in 1994 for the murder of Louise Schem, white, in 1993.

Members of Bobby Fields's family were present at the execution. In his final statement, Bobby Joe Fields asked his cousin to look after his son, and urged his sister to "stay strong and hold the family together".

Governor Brad Henry rejected the state Pardon and Parole Board's recommendation for clemency, which it had made by three votes to one on 6 January. The Board had heard testimony about Bobby Fields's inadequate legal representation at trial, and expert evidence supporting his claim that the shooting of Louise Schem had been accidental. This was Governor Henry's first clemency decision since taking office last month.

Bobby Joe Fields was the 12th person to be put to death so far this year and the 832nd in the USA since judicial killing was resumed in 1977. Oklahoma accounts for 57 of these executions.

No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.