

To: Sections

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This printed version of EXTRA 50/91 is being sent to all sections in the weekly mailing for information only. From now on, EXTRAs will be given an AI Index number and sent out for information in the weekly mailing provided that the information contained within is EXTERNAL.

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/25/91

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 50/91 - Death Penalty

7 August 1991

USA (Texas): Leonel Herrera

Leonel Herrera, hispanic, now aged 43, is scheduled to be executed in Texas on 22 August 1991. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 1982.

As of 24 April 1991, there were 335 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas of whom 122 were black, 149 were white, 55 were hispanic, 5 were Native American and 4 were Asian. The last person to be executed in the state of Texas was Jerry Bird on 17 June 1991. Execution in Texas is carried out by lethal injection. Forty prisoners have been executed by the state of Texas since 1982, the largest number to have been executed in any US state since 1976 when a US Supreme Court ruling permitted individual states to reinstate the death penalty for murder.

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, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telephone calls/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- asking that clemency be granted to Leonel Herrera by commuting his death sentence;
- reiterating your opposition to the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

The Hon Ann Richards [Salutation: Dear Governor]
Governor of Texas
State Capitol
PO Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711
USA

Telegrams: Governor Richards, Austin, Texas, USA
Tel: (512) 463 2000
Telexes: 9108741340
Faxes: (512) 463 1849

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY, TO ARRIVE BY 21 AUGUST 1991.