

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 55/96

Death Penalty

22 April 1996

USA (GEORGIA) Ellis Wayne FELKER

Ellis Wayne Felker is scheduled to be executed in Georgia on 2 May 1996. He was sentenced to death in February 1983 for the murder of Joy Ludlam.

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 and degrading punishment as proclaimed in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Georgia is the host of the 1996 Olympic games. In their successful bid to host the games, the Georgian authorities claimed that the state capital, Atlanta, "embodies the values of human liberty and equality, as well as any city on earth. As the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement and for many the modern capital for human rights, Atlanta reflects the high ideals of Olympism" (from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games - 5 Volume Application to the International Olympic Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games). These claims are in contradiction to the support and use of the death penalty by the government and population of Georgia.

As of 31 January 1996, there were 103 prisoners under sentence of death in Georgia. The most recent execution in Georgia was of Darrell Devier, on 17 May 1995. Twenty prisoners have been executed in Georgia since the state resumed executions in 1983. The method of execution is electrocution.

In Georgia, the State Board of Pardons and Paroles (BPP) has sole authority to grant clemency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please telephone or send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express letters in English or your own language:

To the Board of Pardons and Paroles:

- expressing concern that Ellis Wayne Felker is scheduled to be executed in Georgia on 2 May 1996;
- urging the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant clemency to Ellis Wayne Felker and commute his sentence of death.

To the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games:

- expressing concern that Ellis Wayne Felker is scheduled to be executed in Georgia on 2 May 1996;
- stating that the use of the death penalty is contrary to the Committee's claim that Atlanta is "for many the modern capital for human rights";
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime, but stating that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging the Committee to do all it can to prevent the execution of Ellis Wayne Felker.

APPEALS TO:

Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles
Floyd Memorial Building
2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive

2

5 Floor, East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
USA

Faxes: +1 404 651 8502

Telegrams: Board of Pardons and Paroles, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Salutation: Dear Board Members

Billy Payne
President
The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games
PO Box 1996
Atlanta, GA 30301-1996, USA

Telephone: +1 404 224 1996

Faxes: +1 404 224 1997

Telegrams: Olympic Games Committee, PO Box 1996, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Salutation: Dear President and Committee Members

Copies of appeals to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games should be sent to:

Dr Leroy T. Walker, President
United States Olympic Committee
2525 Meridian Parkway, Suite 230
Durham, NC 27713, USA

Faxes: +1 919 361 2788

The Letters Editor

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and to diplomatic representatives of USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.