

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/40/91
Distr: UA/SC

The original request for urgent action was transmitted by telex/e-mail/fax to UA coordinators and was not printed for general distribution to the UA network for reasons of speed. This version is included in the weekly mailing for information only.

Further information on EXTRA 63/91 - Death Penalty

EXTRA 63/91-1

17 September 1991

USA (Georgia)

Warren McCleskey

Amnesty International has received news that Warren McCleskey's execution is scheduled to take place on 24 September 1991 at 7.00 pm (this will be midnight on 24 September in the United Kingdom and 1.00 am on 25 September in the rest of Europe).

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

Please continue appeals as below (as requested in EXTRA 63/91 - 11 September 1991, to arrive by 24 September 1991).

Sections are asked to organize appeals from prominent people in your country ONLY (parliamentarians, lawyers, judges, church leaders, sports celebrities and other influential or well-known figures). Give them AI's external paper on Warren McCleskey (AMR 51/24/91). Ask them to appeal in their private capacities:

- requesting the Board to grant clemency to Warren McCleskey;
- expressing concern at the evidence presented in McCleskey v Kemp which showed a clear and substantial risk that the race of the victim and the defendant may be the determining factors in who is sentenced to death for murder. Urge the Board to acknowledge that this risk is intolerable, and legitimate grounds for commuting Warren McCleskey's death sentence;
- expressing concern at the US Supreme Court's 1991 ruling that "procedure" takes precedence over the facts of a case - even a capital case and urging the Board not to allow this execution in light of the questionable nature of the testimony used to identify McCleskey as the actual killer.

APPEALS TO:

Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles
Floyd Veterans Memorial Building, 5th Floor, East Tower
2 Martin Luther King Drive, SE
Atlanta, GA 30334, USA

Telegrams: Georgia Pardons Paroles Board, Atlanta, GA 30334, USA
Telephone: (404) 656 5703 / 5887

Faxes: (404) 651 8502

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 24 September 1991.