

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 231/99 (AMR 51/145/99, 3 September 1999) and follow-ups (AMR 51/180/99, 5 November 1999 and AMR 51/15/00, 26 January 2000) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (South Carolina) Brett Blair Hollis, aged 20

On 4 March 2000 in Lexington County, South Carolina, Brett Blair Hollis was spared the death penalty and sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

On 28 February, the jury found Brett Hollis guilty of killing his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, Cory Lee Shcolnik, aged 18, and her mother, Mary Sturdevant, aged 51, on 16 November 1997. Brett Hollis was 17 at the time of the crime.

On 4 March, at the conclusion of the sentencing phase, the jury sentenced the defendant to life imprisonment without parole after less than an hour of deliberation. The prosecutor, Donald Myers, was reported to have opined that the jurors had spared Brett Hollis from execution because of his young age at the time of the crime. This is reportedly only the third time in the last 20 years that a Lexington County jury has handed down a life sentence in the more than 30 cases in which prosecutor Myers has sought the death penalty.

Life imprisonment without the possibility of release for people who commit crimes when under 18 years old violates article 37 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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