

(USA)Missouri

William T BOLIEK, Jr (white)

Donald E REESE (white)

Ralph FELTROP (white)

Andrew W SIX (white)

Ralph Feltrop, Donald E Reese, Andrew W Six and William Boliek, Jr. are scheduled to be executed in Missouri on 6, 13, 20 and 27 August 1997 respectively. All four men have been sentenced to death for murder.

William T Boliek, Jr was sentenced to death in September 1984 for the murder of Jody Harless. His current attorney is appealing to the District Court on the grounds that the jury at the sentencing phase of Boliek's trial did not hear sufficient mitigating evidence concerning a psychiatric disorder he suffered from which may have persuaded the jury to impose life imprisonment rather than death. At his trial the judge refused to provide a psychiatrist to examine him. According to his attorney, Boliek was adopted by his uncle and his wife as a baby. At the age of three he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and spent a year in a sanitarium only seeing his adoptive parents at weekends. Other relevant factors were his family's history of alcoholism, his abuse of illegal drugs from the age of fifteen and a childhood history of hyperactivity and numerous head injuries. Boliek has been in and out of jail and mental institutions. He has also been diagnosed with, among other illnesses, a manic depressive disorder that makes him prone to sudden rages and violence (for which he has never been consistently or adequately treated), and schizophrenia (which causes him to hallucinate).

Ralph Feltrop was sentenced to death in August 1988 for the murder of Barbara Ann Roam.

Donald E Reese was sentenced to death in May 1988 for the murder of John Ross Watson. According to Reese's current attorney, he had signed a confession without legal representation despite having asked for a lawyer.

Andrew W Six was sentenced to death in July 1988 for the murder of 12-year-old Kathy Allen. Six had already been tried and sentenced to 200 years' imprisonment on a federal charge of kidnapping in the same case. The State, however, was determined to seek the death penalty in this case and to proceed with a second trial in the State court on a murder charge (despite the huge costs involved leading to the risk of bankruptcy of the County). Six's attorney stated that the jury was unaware of the following mitigating circumstances surrounding his case: Six had been under treatment by mental professionals since early childhood after being diagnosed as hyperactive, yet his mother failed to administer the medication prescribed. His background was described by social workers as being extremely deprived and impoverished. He also suffered neglect and physical abuse. Despite the jury being ignorant of the above, they were unable to agree on the imposition of the death penalty. Unusually, the judge himself took the decision to impose it.

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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As of 31 July 1996 there were 94 prisoners under sentence of death in Missouri. The most recent execution in Missouri was that of Eric Schneider on 29 January 1997. The method used to carry out execution is lethal injection.

In Missouri the Governor has final clemency authority; the Board of Pardons and Parole submits recommendations to the Governor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please telephone/send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters in English if possible:

- expressing concern that Ralph Feltrop, Donald E Reese, Andrew W Six, and William Boliek, Jr. are scheduled to be executed in Missouri on 6, 13, 20 and 27 August 1997 respectively, while acknowledging the seriousness of the crimes for which they were convicted and expressing sympathy for the victims and their families;
- expressing concern that the juries were not made aware of some of the mitigating circumstances pertaining to Boliek and Six;
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter violent crime more effectively than any other punishment, and 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 Governor Carnahan to commute all four death sentences;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases.

APPEALS TO

Governor Mel Carnahan
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Telegrams: Governor Carnahan

Jefferson City, USA

Fax: (573) 751 1495

Salutation: Dear Governor

Missouri Board of Pardons and Parole
Department of Corrections

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Jefferson City, MO 65109, USA

Telegrams: Missouri Pardon Board,

Jefferson City, USA

Fax: (573) 751 4099

Salutation: Dear Chairman and Board Members

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

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and to diplomatic representatives of Missouri (USA) accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.