

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/50/94
Distr: UA/SC

5 July 1994

Further information on EXTRA 32/94 (AMR 51/47/94, 27 June 1994 and correction issued 29 June)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Imminent move to extend the Federal Death Penalty

Amnesty International has learned that a disagreement between the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, currently in the process of reconciling their crime bills, has delayed final passage of the Federal Crime Bill. The disagreement centres around a crucial provision in the House version of the bill that would allow state defendants to challenge their death sentences on grounds of racial discrimination. No such provision was included in the Senate's version. Discussions on a final version are now expected to continue until at least mid-August.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent appeals. Please continue action as indicated in the original EXTRA and the correction issued on 29 June.