

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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

EXTRA 35/94

Death Penalty

8 July 1994

USA (ARKANSAS)

Hoyt CLINES  
James HOLMES  
Darryl RICHLEY

---

Hoyt Clines, James Holmes and Darryl Richley are scheduled to be executed in Arkansas on 3 August 1994.

The three men, all white, were sentenced to death for the murder of Don Lehman, white, in 1981. A fourth accomplice in the crime, whose death sentence was overturned on a technical error, is currently awaiting resentencing.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As of 20 April 1994 there were 41 prisoners under sentence of death in Arkansas. The method of execution is lethal injection, although prisoners sentenced to death before 4 March 1983 may choose between lethal injection or electrocution. The Governor of Arkansas has full clemency authority. However, all clemency applications are referred to the Board of Pardons and Paroles for investigation and recommendation.

Jonas Whitmore and Edward Pickens, both black, were the last prisoners to be executed (for unrelated crimes) in Arkansas - they were executed within an hour of each other on 11 May 1994. Multiple executions used to be fairly common in the US - Arkansas executed two people on the same day on four separate dates in 1960; six prisoners were executed on the same day in the District of Columbia in August 1942. If the executions of Hoyt Clines, James Holmes and Darryl Richley go ahead as scheduled, it will be the first time that three prisoners have been executed on the same day in the state since June 1939; the last time three prisoners were executed on the same day in the US was in California in August 1962. According to newspaper reports, an official from the Arkansas Department of Corrections has stated that multiple executions save money and reduce stress for state workers.

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, inhuman or degrading treatment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English if possible, or call by telephone:**

- urging Governor Tucker to grant clemency to Hoyt Clines, James Holmes and Darryl Richley, by commuting their death sentences.

#### APPEALS TO:

Jim Guy Tucker  
Governor of Arkansas  
State Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
USA

**Telephone: +1 501 682 2345**

**Faxes: +1 501 682 1382**

**Telegrams: Governor Tucker, Little Rock, AR 72201, USA**

**Salutation: Dear Governor Tucker**

**COPIES TO:**

The Letters Editor  
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette  
Capitol Avenue & Scott Street  
Box 221, Little Rock, AR 72203  
**Faxes: +1 501 372 3908**

The Letters Editor  
Arkansas Times  
201 East Markham  
3200 POB 34010  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
**Faxes: +1 501 375 3623**

and to diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**