

Note to Sections:

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 73/91

Death Penalty

5 November 1991

USA (Texas)

John Christopher SAWYERS

John Christopher Sawyers, white, aged 36, is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection in Texas on 6 November 1991. He was sentenced to death in 1983 for the murder of a neighbour, Ethyl Delaney.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As of 23 August 1991 there were 343 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas. The most recent person to be executed in the state was James Russell on 19 September 1991.

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/telephone calls:

1) Appeals to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles:

- urging the Board to recommend that the Governor grant clemency to John Christopher Sawyers by commuting his death sentence.

2) Appeals to the Governor:

- urging Governor Richards to grant clemency to John Christopher Sawyers by commuting his death sentence.

APPEALS TO:

1) Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles

Dear Sirs

8610 Shoal Creek Blvd
PO Box 13401, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711, USA

Telegrams: Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, Austin, Texas 78711, USA

Faxes: + 512 459 2790

Telephone: + 512 459 2700/2716/2800

Telexes: 910 874 1340

2) The Honourable Ann Richards **Dear Governor**
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 12428, USA

Telegrams: Governor Richards, Austin, Texas 78711, USA

Faxes: + 512 463 1849

Telephone: + 512 463 2000

Telexes: 910 874 1340

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY, TO ARRIVE BY MIDNIGHT (USA TIME) ON
5 NOVEMBER 1991**