

URGENT ACTION

URGE GOVERNOR TO RETHINK CLEMENCY DENIAL

On 24 July, the Governor of Ohio announced that he was denying clemency to Billy Slagle, who remains scheduled to be executed on 7 August.

The office of Governor John Kasich announced on 24 July that he had “denied a request for executive clemency” from **Billy Slagle**. The announcement gave no further elaboration on the decision, which followed a 6-4 recommendation by the parole board on 16 July recommending that he deny clemency. The Governor was not bound by the board’s close vote, neither is he prevented from reconsidering his decision to deny mercy.

Billy Slagle was sentenced to death in Cuyahoga County in April 1988 for the murder of his 40-year-old neighbour Mari Anne Pope who died from multiple stab wounds inflicted after she awoke to an intruder in her home in the early hours of 13 August 1987. Billy Slagle, apprehended at the scene, was 18 years old at the time of the crime. He has been incarcerated for all but eight months of his adult life, and has spent the past quarter of a century on death row. He is seeking commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The current prosecutor of Cuyahoga County is among those supporting clemency, as is one of the Ohio Supreme Court judges who dissented from that Court’s affirmation of the death sentence in 1992. A federal judge issued a strong dissent in the case in 2006 on the grounds of the prosecutorial misconduct that she said had “infected” the trial.

For full details, please see the original Urgent Action, at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/052/2013/en>

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Acknowledging the seriousness of the crime and its consequences;
- Noting Billy Slagle’s young age at the time of the crime, and that two Ohio Supreme Court Justices considered that there was enough mitigating evidence to warrant a sentence of less than death;
- Expressing concern at the trial prosecutor’s misconduct and note that the current Cuyahoga County Prosecuting Attorney supports commutation of Billy Slagle’s death sentence given his view that if the case was tried today a death sentence would likely not be pursued;
- Expressing deep regret at the Governor’s decision to deny clemency and calling on him to reconsider.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 AUGUST 2013 TO:

Governor of Ohio

John Kasich

Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215-6117, USA

Fax: +1 614 466 9354

Via website: <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/Contact/ContacttheGovernor.aspx>

(if you are outside the USA, under "select state", you should select "other")

Salutation: Dear Governor

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 189/13. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/052/2013/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

