

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/057/2005

17 March 2005

Further information on UA 32/05 (AMR 51/038/2005, 10 February 2005) and follow-up (AMR 51/041/2005, 18 February 2005) – Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Oklahoma)

Jimmie Ray Slaughter (m), white, aged 52

Jimmie Ray Slaughter was executed in Oklahoma on 17 March 2005. He was sentenced to death in 1994 for the murder of Melody Wuertz, with whom he had had an affair, and their 11-month-old daughter, Jessica Wuertz.

Key evidence against Jimmie Slaughter had been called into question. A single hair found at the crime scene was found after DNA analysis not to link him to the crime, and the reliability of ballistics evidence raised by the state was also disputed.

Jimmie Slaughter maintained his innocence to the end. In his final statement, he said: "It was a lie from the beginning. God knows it's true, my children who were with me know it's true, and you people will know it's true someday. May God have mercy on your souls".

Twelve prisoners have been put to death in the USA this year, bringing to 955 the total number of executions since judicial killing resumed in the USA in 1977. Oklahoma accounts for 76 of these executions.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.