

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 55/01 (AMR 51/047/2001, 13 March 2001) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Nevada) Thomas NEVIUS, black, aged 45

After several hours of testimony for and against the execution of Thomas Nevius at his clemency hearing in Nevada on 11 April, Governor Kenny Guinn decided to seek further assessment of Nevius's mental abilities. The other eight members of the Pardons Board supported the governor's motion. The assessment is likely to take several months, and no execution date will be sought in the meantime.

Pending in the Nevada legislature is a bill proposing a moratorium on executions, and one proposing a prohibition on the use of the death penalty against prisoners with mental retardation.

For more information on this case, see *Nevada's planned killing of Thomas Nevius* (AMR 51/001/2001, March 2001, available on www.amnesty.org).

No further action by the UA Network is requested at present. Thomas Nevius's lawyers have asked for their thanks to be passed on to all who sent appeals.