

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/64/97

22 October 1997

Further information on EXTRA 126/97 (AMR 51/58/97, 29 September 1997) -
Death Penalty / Legal concern

USA (Missouri) A J Bannister

Amnesty International regretfully announces the execution by lethal injection of Alan Jeffrey Bannister which took place as scheduled shortly after midnight on 22 October 1997, despite an international campaign to stay the execution.

Hollywood stars such as Sean Penn, Harry Belafonte, Gregory Peck and Ed Asner, as well as the police officer who originally arrested him, had all made appeals on his behalf. Asner had travelled to Missouri's capital the day before Bannister's execution to plead on his behalf.

Web sites were posted on the Internet concerning his case and supporters flooded state officials with letters, faxes, and e-mails from around the world. The State Attorney General's office stated that many letters were still pouring in on Tuesday, the day of Bannister's execution, and that the attention that his case had received was unprecedented in Missouri.

Bannister condemned the state for committing "as premeditated a murder as possible, far more heinous and deliberate than my crime." He also thanked all those who had supported him.

Thank you to all who sent appeals on behalf of A J Bannister. No further action is required on his behalf.