

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/64/00

3 May 2000

Further information on UA 29/00 (AMR 51/21/00, 8 February 2000) and follow-up (AMR 51/55/00, 11 April) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Arizona) James Edward DAVOLT, aged 17

---

On 21 April 2000, a jury in Mohave County, Arizona, found James Edward Davolt guilty of the first degree murder of Nicholas Zimmer, 84, and Eleanor Zimmer, 85. The couple were found dead in their home in Lake Havasu City, Mohave County, Arizona, on 26 November 1998.

A date for the sentencing phase of the trial has not yet been set, but the defence has requested a delay so it can investigate mitigating factors to argue against a death sentence.

The prosecution still intends to seek the death penalty against James Davolt, in violation of international law, which forbids the use of this punishment against defendants who were under 18 at the time of the crime.

No further action by the UA Network is requested at this time. When the date of the sentencing is set, further appeals may be requested. Amnesty International's action has led to repeated coverage of James Davolt's case in local printed media and radio. The defence lawyer has asked for his thanks to be passed on to all those who have sent appeals, without which this important issue would have not become known to a wider public in this part of Arizona.