

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 67/93 (AMR 51/66/93, 12 July 1993) - Death Penalty

USA: (Texas): Danny Ray HARRIS

Amnesty International has learned with deep regret, that Danny Harris was executed in Texas, USA, on 30 July 1993.

Danny Harris black, was convicted of the murder of Timothy Merka, white, in December 1978, along with three others, including his younger brother, Curtis Harris. Curtis Harris, who was only 17-years-old at the time of the crime, was executed on 1 July 1993.

Danny Harris, black, was first sentenced to death in February 1980. His first death sentence was overturned on appeal, but he was resentenced to death at a second trial in July 1984. He was 18-years-old at the time of the crime.

Texas has executed eight people so far this year, more than any other US state. So far this year a total of 22 executions have been carried out in the USA.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on Danny Harris' behalf. Please continue action as recommended below.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English if possible:

- regretting the execution of Danny Harris;
- expressing concern at the increasing number of executions being carried out in Texas;
- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which Danny Harris was sentenced to death;
- citing arguments against the death penalty, for example it is imposed disproportionately on people from poor backgrounds and black and other ethnic minority groups, and that detailed research in the USA and other countries has provided no evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments;
- citing the fact that no decline in homicides has been identifiable in those US states which now execute prisoners on a regular basis. Indeed, in its annual national crime report, released in August 1992, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that violent crime in Texas, which has carried

out more executions than any other US state, had increased during 1991 over the previous year by almost three times as much as that of the nation as a whole during the same period.

APPEALS TO

1) Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
Executive Clemency Unit
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Pardons and Paroles Division
PO Box 13401
Austin, TX 78711
USA

Telegrams: Texas Board Pardons/Paroles, Austin, TX 78711, USA
Faxes: + 1 512 467 0945
Telephone: + 1 512 406 5852

Salutation: Dear Board Members

2) The Honorable Ann Richards
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
PO Box 12428, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
USA

Telegrams: Governor Richards, Austin, Texas 78711, USA
Faxes: + 1 512 463 1849
Telexes: + 1 910 874 1849
Telephone: + 1 512 463 2000

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Letters Editor
Austin-American Statesman
Box 670
Austin, TX 78767
USA

Faxes: + 1 512 445 3679

and to diplomatic representatives of USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.