

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 59/95

Death Penalty

23 May 1995

USA (Texas)

**Fletcher MANN
Ronald ALLRIDGE
James MEANES**

Fletcher Mann, white, Ronald Allridge, black, and James Meanes, black, are scheduled to be executed in Texas on 1 June, 8 June and 20 June 1995 respectively.

Ronald Allridge was sentenced to death on 18 November 1985 for the murder of Carla McMillen Otta. Amnesty International currently has no further information about James Meanes and Fletcher Mann.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is deeply concerned at the number of executions being carried out in the USA in general, and in Texas in particular. Of the 281 executions carried out in the USA since the death penalty was resumed in the mid 1970s, 93 have been carried out in Texas. The method of execution is lethal injection.

In Texas the governor may commute a sentence of death only if he receives a favourable recommendation from the Board of Pardons and Paroles. The Board consistently refuses to hold full clemency hearings in death penalty cases, and apart from a number of commutations granted in the 1980s as the result of two key court rulings, the Board has never recommended clemency in any death penalty case in recent years.

As of January 1995 there were 392 prisoners under sentence of death in Texas. The most recent person to be executed in Texas was Noble Mays, on 5 April 1995.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please telephone, or send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters, in English if possible:

Appeals to the Board of Pardons and Paroles

- urging the Board to recommend that Governor George W. Bush grant clemency to Fletcher Mann, Ronald Allridge and James Meanes;

Appeals to Governor George W. Bush

- urging Governor George W. Bush to grant clemency to Fletcher Mann, Ronald Allridge and James Meanes;

Appeals to both

- expressing deep concern that Fletcher Mann, Ronald Allridge and James Meanes are scheduled to be executed in Texas; at the same time expressing concern and sympathy for the families of violent crime;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases.

APPEALS TO

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
Faxes: + 1 512 467 0945
Telephone: +1 512 406 5852
Telegrams: Pardons and Paroles Board, Austin, Texas
Salutation: Dear Board Members

The Honourable George W. Bush
Governor of Texas
Office of the Governor
PO Box 12428, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711, USA
Faxes: +1 512 463 1849
Telegrams: Governor Bush, Austin, Texas, USA
Telephone: +1 (512) 463 2000
Salutation: Dear Governor

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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.