

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/82/00

25 May 2000

Further information on EXTRA 46/00 (AMR 51/66/00, 4 May 2000)

Death pen

USA (Oklahoma) James Glenn Robedeaux, Native American, aged 51

On 23 May 2000, the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board voted unanimously to reject clemency for James Robedeaux. He remains scheduled to be executed on 1 June 2000. He was sentenced to death in 1986 for the 1985 murder of Nancy McKinney.

Oklahoma has already put six prisoners to death this year, second only to Texas, and has scheduled another four, including James Robedeaux, for execution before the end of July. The last year in which Oklahoma executed 10 or more prisoners was 1933.

Supporters of the death penalty in the USA are on the defensive, particularly since the Governor of Illinois imposed a moratorium on executions in his state because of the number of wrongful convictions in capital cases.

International standards, reinforced by the world trend away from the death penalty, seek to restrict the scope of this ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment in those countries which still retain it, with a view to abolition. The leadership in Oklahoma is plainly working against this goal.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes/telegrams/express/airmail letters in English or your own language, in your own words using the following as a guide:

- expressing sympathy for the relatives and friends of Nancy McKinney;
- protesting at the planned execution of James Robedeaux, and Oklahoma's use of the death penalty in general;
- noting increasing concern across the USA about the fairness and reliability of the country's capital justice system;
- noting that a majority of countries have abandoned the death penalty, and that by continuing to use it the USA is increasingly isolating itself and damaging its image abroad;
- appealing to the Governor to lead his state away from a punishment that is a symptom of a culture of violence, and not a solution to it;
- urging him to do all in his power to stop this execution and to support a moratorium on executions in Oklahoma.

APPEALS TO:

The Honourable Frank Keating
Governor of Oklahoma
State Capitol
Room 212, Oklahoma City
OK 73105, USA

Fax: + 1 405 521 3353

Telegrams: Governor Keating, Oklahoma, USA

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

You may also write brief letters of concern (not more than 250 words) to:

"Your Views", *The Oklahoman*, PO Box 25125, Oklahoma City, OK 73125, USA

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Faxes:+ 1 415 475 3183

Letters to The Editor, *Tulsa World*, 315 South Boulder Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74103,
USA

Faxes: + 1 918 581 8353

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.