

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 187/08 (AMR 51/070/2008, 27 June 2008) and updates (AMR 51/075/2008, 10 July 2008; AMR 51/079/2008, 16 July 2008) – Death penalty

**USA (Oklahoma) Kevin Young (m), black, aged 42**

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Brad Henry, Oklahoma Governor, has accepted the recommendation of the state Pardon and Parole Board in the case of Kevin Young and has commuted his sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

On 15 July, Governor Henry had granted a 30-day stay of execution to Kevin Young in order to review the clemency recommendation made by the Pardon and Parole Board on 8 July. Kevin Young had been scheduled for execution on 22 July. The revised execution date was set as 21 August.

In a statement on 24 July, Governor Henry said: “This was a very difficult decision and one that I did not take lightly. I am always reluctant to intervene in a capital case, and I am very respectful of a jury’s verdict, the prosecutors who tried the case and the victim’s family who suffered because of the crime. However, after reviewing all of the evidence and hearing from both prosecutors and defence attorneys, I decided the Pardon and Parole Board made a proper recommendation to provide clemency and commute the death sentence. As a result, Kevin Young will be punished by serving the rest of his life behind bars without the possibility of parole.”

This is only the second time that Governor Henry has granted a clemency recommendation in a death penalty case.

**No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**