

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/94/98

18 November 1998

Further information on UA 269/98 (AMR 51/79/98, 14 October 1998) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern

USA (MARYLAND) Tyrone GILLIAM, black, aged 32

Tyrone Gilliam was executed by lethal injection in Maryland Penitentiary, Baltimore, just before 10.30pm, local time, on 16 November 1998. He had been convicted in 1989 of the killing of 21-year-old Christine Doerfler.

Earlier on 16 November, Governor Parris Glendening had denied Tyrone Gilliam's appeal for clemency, saying that the facts of the case showed that "Mr Gilliam shot and murdered Miss Doerfler in cold blood."

An act of violence does not justify a human rights violation carried out in retaliation. Execution - the cold-blooded taking of life by the state - is a violation of human rights; rights that belong to every human being, even those convicted of serious crimes.

On 11 November, Tyrone Gilliam spoke to a forum at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, organized by the local Amnesty International group and the Baltimore Campaign to End the Death Penalty. By phone from the penitentiary, he urged the meeting of some 150 students to "spread the message of how wicked the death penalty is" and said "We can't, as black men and women, get justice out of this system."

Tyrone Gilliam was the 55th person to be executed in the USA this year and the 487th since executions resumed in 1977. Maryland resumed executions in 1994 and has executed three prisoners since then.

No further action by the UA Network is requested, though participants may send letters of regret to the Governor, as listed in the original UA. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.