

**PUBLIC**

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**9 June 2004**

**Further information on UA 184/04 (ARM 51/091/2004, 27 May 2004) - Death penalty**

**USA (Ohio) William G. Zuern (m), white, aged 45**

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William Zuern was executed in Ohio on 8 June. He was sentenced to death in October 1984 for the murder of a jail guard, Phillip Pence, in the Community Correctional Institute in Hamilton County four months earlier. William Zuern had been on death row for almost two decades.

Governor Bob Taft denied clemency. In a statement on 7 June, he said: "Mr. Zuern declined to participate in the clemency process, and his attorneys did not attend the clemency hearing. Following a thorough review of Mr. Zuern's criminal record and convictions, the report and recommendation of the Ohio Parole Board, recommendations from the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and other relevant materials, I can find no compelling reason to grant clemency. For these reasons, I concur with the unanimous decision (9-0) of the Parole Board and deny clemency for William Zuern."

Twenty-nine people have been executed in the USA this year, bringing to 914 the number put to death since executions resumed in 1977. Ohio accounts for 12 of these executions.

**No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**