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AI Index: AMR 51/100/99

21 June 1999

Further information on EXTRA 67/97 (AMR 51/23/97, 13 May 1997) and follow-ups (AMR 51/31/97, 10 June 1997; AMR 51/85/98, 26 October 1998; AMR 51/106/98, 11 December 1998 and AMR 51/76/99, 11 May 1999) - Death Penalty

USA (TEXAS) Joseph Stanley FAULDER, Canadian national

Amnesty International very much regrets that Joseph Stanley Faulder, a Canadian national, was executed in Texas as scheduled on 17 June 1999.

The execution went ahead despite appeals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Pope to halt it. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also issued a "precautionary measure" requiring that the execution be halted to allow the organization to examine issues of international law that had been brought to its attention. The seven-member commission has the power to request that members of the Organization of American States (of which the USA is one) adopt specific "precautionary measures" to avoid serious and irreparable harm to human rights in urgent cases.

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, also reiterated her concerns around the case, as did the Canadian government.

Despite compelling grounds to do so the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles voted 18-0 against recommending the governor grant clemency to Faulder. Governor Bush refused to intervene in the case, stating: "There is no new evidence that questions the jury's verdict that he is guilty of this crime." This statement plainly ignores many of the troubling facts in this case, particularly that Faulder's defence might have been aided by Canadian officials had they been made aware that one of their citizens was facing such a serious charge. In addition the jury used the dubious evidence of [psychiatrist] Dr Grigson, who since the trial has been discredited, in deciding to sentence Faulder to death.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on behalf of Joseph Faulder. No further action is required by the Urgent Action Network.