

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/145/95

16 November 1995

Further information on EXTRA 131/95 (AMR 51/139/95, 6 November 1995) - Death Penalty

USA (MISSOURI) Robert T SIDEBOTTOM

---

Amnesty International very much regrets that Robert T. Sidebottom was executed as scheduled in Missouri on 15 November 1995.

The execution took place despite the fact that Robert Sidebottom's lawyer had argued that he should be granted a six-month delay in execution as she could not effectively represent him because she was living in Florida and was new to the case. She had been appointed to represent Sidebottom less than a month before his scheduled execution date.

Amnesty International believes that Robert Sidebottom's execution was contrary to the *Implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (Resolution 1989/64)*, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 24 May 1989, and which states in Article 1(a): "*Affording special protection to persons facing the charges for which the death penalty is provided by allowing time and facilities for the preparation of their defence, including the adequate assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceedings, above and beyond the protection afforded in non-capital cases*".

Robert Sidebottom was sentenced to death for the murder of his grandmother in 1985. The murder victim's family had asked for the death penalty not to be sought and had called for "no more killing".

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on Sidebottom's behalf. Letters expressing regret at Sidebottom's execution may be sent to Governor Carnahan at the address given in the original Urgent Action.