

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 52/03 (AMR 51/145/2003, 04 December 2003) - Legal concern

USA (Kentucky)

Kevin Stanford (m), black, aged 40

On 8 December, his final day in office, the Governor of Kentucky commuted the death sentence of Kevin Stanford to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. He did so because Kevin Stanford was under 18 years old at the time of the murder for which he was convicted over two decades ago.

The use of the death penalty against child offenders violates a fundamental principle of international law, and Governor Patton's principled move is to be greatly welcomed. However, Amnesty International is concerned that he has commuted the death sentence to a punishment that also violates international law for someone who was under 18 at the time of the crime (see original EXTRA).

At a press conference on 8 December, Governor Patton said that he was "still getting a lot of pressure" on the case.

Kevin Stanford's lawyer has asked for her thanks to be passed on to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested.