

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/156/2002

3 October 2002

Further information on EXTRA 66/02 (AMR 51/141/2002, 22 August 2002) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Louisiana) Lawrence Jacobs (m), black, aged 22

Lawrence Jacobs's retrial in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, which had been due to begin on 16 September, has been rescheduled to start on 26 January 2003. He is accused of a crime committed when he was 16 years old.

Amnesty International's action in this case has generated some media attention. For example, an article on 26 September in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* newspaper highlighted the international effort to persuade the prosecutors to respect international law, which prohibits the use of the death penalty against defendants who were under 18 at the time of the crime.

As far as Amnesty International is aware, the prosecution still intends to seek a death sentence against Lawrence Jacobs at his trial. This case will now be the subject of a Worldwide Appeal in a forthcoming edition of the Amnesty International international newsletter.

For the time being, no further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.