

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 73/01 (AMR 51/159/2001, 31 October 2001) - Death penalty

USA (Texas) Emerson Edward Rudd (m), black, aged 31

Emerson Rudd was executed in Texas on 15 November 2001. He was sentenced to death in 1989 for the murder of Steve Morgan during a robbery in 1988.

In his final statement, Emerson Rudd apologized to the victim's family, who were in the witness room: "I'm sorry for shooting your son down at that particular robbery. Politicians say that this brings closure, but my death doesn't bring your son back. It doesn't bring closure. I wish I could do more, but I can't. I hope this brings you peace." He then said: "I'm ready to go. Call my mom and tell her that this particular process is over."

Earlier in the day, prison officials had used pepper spray in order to extract Emerson Rudd from his cell and take him from death row to the execution chamber in Huntsville, approximately 60 kilometres away.

The 30-day reprieve sought from the Texas governor by Emerson Rudd's lawyer was not forthcoming. The lawyer was seeking the additional time to allow resolution in the courts of the issue of payments to lawyers for their work preparing clemency petitions to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles (see original EXTRA). The lawyer was financially unable to file a clemency petition on behalf of Emerson Rudd.

Emerson Rudd is the 16th person to put to death in the Texas lethal injection chamber this year and the 255th since the USA resumed executions in 1977. He was the 61st prisoner to be executed nationwide this year and the 744th since 1977.

No further action by the UA Network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.