

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: AMR 51/170/2005**

**27 October 2005**

**Further Information on UA 269/05 (AMR 51/165/2005, 12 October 2005) - Death Penalty**

**USA (Missouri)**

**Marlin Gray (m), black**

---

Marlin Gray was executed as scheduled in Missouri on 26 October. He had been sentenced to death in December 1992 for his role in the 1991 rape and murder of sisters Julie and Robin Kerry. The state conceded at trial that he had not been present at the time the murders took place, but maintained that Gray had been the ringleader: three other men were also tried and convicted for their involvement in the crime.

Gray maintained that a confession he made to police during interrogation that he raped the women (but not to killing them) was extracted as a result of ill-treatment. He also maintained that he was given access to a lawyer only after he had confessed.

In his final statement, Gray reportedly said, "I go forward now on wings built by the love and support of my family and friends. I go with a peace of mind that comes from never having taken a human life. I forgive those who have hardened their hearts to the truth and I pray they ask forgiveness for they know not what they do. This is not a death, it is a lynching."

Local newspapers described how, in the days leading up to the execution, Governor Blunt received letters, e-mails, faxes and phone calls opposing the execution from campaigns run by Amnesty International and Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty. They also said that a bus full of Gray's supporters had driven to Blunt's office two days before the execution.

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.**