

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 320/04 (AMR 51/164/2004, 24 November 2004) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Pennsylvania)

George Banks (m), black, aged 62

George Banks had his execution stayed on 1 December, the day before he was scheduled to be put to death. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court sent his case back to a trial-level court for a hearing on the question of whether he is mentally competent for execution.

George Banks was sentenced to death in 1983 for the murder of 12 people in 1982, and received a life prison sentence for a 13th murder. His lawyers are challenging his execution as unconstitutional, on the grounds that he is legally insane. George Banks's mental condition, a prominent factor in the case since the time of the crime, is reported to have deteriorated during his 20 years on death row.

No further action is requested at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.