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****NEWS FLASH****

USA's addiction to execution continues

Three prisoners have been executed in the USA in the past few hours, and two more remain scheduled for execution this evening.

David Long was executed in Texas last night, after being flown from hospital to the death chamber. He was in intensive care after a suicide attempt on Monday. Medical personnel were on the plane with him to ensure that his poor health would not prevent the state from killing him.

"Once again the world can see the lengths to which US officials will go to execute prisoners," Amnesty International said. "Hours before Human Rights Day, the self-proclaimed champion of human rights is displaying its appalling addiction to a punishment which is part of, not the solution to, a culture of violence."

DH Fleenor and Bobby Lynn Ross were executed in the first few minutes of this morning, in Indiana and Oklahoma. James Beathard (Texas) and Andre Graham (Virginia) are due to be killed tonight. It would be the first time the USA has executed four prisoners in one day since it resumed judicial killing in 1977.

ENDS.../

**For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK,
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