

URGENT ACTION

MEXICAN NATIONAL EXECUTED IN TEXAS

Ramiro Hernandez Llanas was put to death by lethal injection on 9 April in Texas. His execution went ahead despite evidence that his intellectual disability, as assessed in six different IQ tests over the past decade, rendered his death sentence unconstitutional.

On 7 April the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles voted against recommending that Governor Rick Perry commute **Ramiro Hernandez Llanas'** death sentence or grant a reprieve. At that point, Governor Perry could still have stopped the execution, but he declined to do so. See also: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/usa-texas-governor-must-stop-execution-mexican-man-mental-disability-2014-04-08>.

Ramiro Hernandez Llanas was put to death shortly after 6pm on 9 April. The Texas authorities have refused to identify the source of the pentobarbital used to kill him and a prisoner executed on 3 April. States continue to have problems acquiring drugs for their lethal injection executions.

The Mexican government condemned the execution, in a statement issued on 10 April.

Ramiro Hernandez Llanas had been sentenced to death in February 2000 for the murder of his employer, Glen Lich, who was bludgeoned to death at his ranch in Kerr County on 14 October 1997.

In tests conducted over the past decade, Ramiro Hernandez Llanas had been assessed as having an IQ in the 50s or 60s. In addition, his clemency petition detailed evidence of his adaptive functioning deficits across a range of skill areas including linguistic, academic, conceptual, social, work and domestic. As such he would appear to have fallen within the ban on the execution of people with "mental retardation" passed by the US Supreme Court in 2002. In successfully defending Ramiro Hernandez's death sentence in 2008, the prosecution relied on a psychiatrist who had not himself tested the prisoner's mental ability – he had never even met him – but who suggested that his impaired functioning was "in keeping with his cultural group". A state's reliance on prejudiced stereotyping violates its obligation to ensure equality before the law and non-discrimination.

There have been 16 executions in the USA this year, six of them in Texas. There have now been 1,375 executions in the USA since judicial killing resumed there in 1977 under revised capital statutes. Texas accounts for 514 of these executions, 275 of which have occurred during Governor Perry's term in office.

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

This is the first update of UA 71/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/019/2014/en

Name: Ramiro Hernandez Llanas
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 71/14 Index: AMR 51/023/2014 Issue Date: 10 April 2014

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

