

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AMR 51/03/91  
Distr: UA/SC

22 January 1991

Further information on UA 183/90 (AMR 51/18/90, 10 May, and follow-ups AMR 51/23/90, 21 June; AMR 51/31/90, 1 August; AMR 51/35/90, 5 September; AMR 51/39/90, 17 September 1990; and AMR 51/01/91, 14 January 1991) - Death Penalty

USA: (Louisiana) Frederick KIRKPATRICK

---

Amnesty International has received further information on the above case. Frederick Kirkpatrick is scheduled to be executed on 6 February 1991, not 8 February 1991, as mentioned in the most recent follow-up to this Urgent Action, AMR 51/01/91, dated 14 January 1991.

The new law which came into effect on 1 January 1991, changing the method of execution in Louisiana from electrocution to lethal injection, does not apply retroactively. This means that those prisoners who were sentenced to death before 1 January 1991 must be executed by electrocution. In the latest appeal which was denied without a hearing, Mr Kirkpatrick's lawyers argued that the execution by electrocution of Mr Kirkpatrick would be particularly cruel punishment given that the new law was introduced to provide a more "humane" method of execution. In most states where an alternative method of execution is introduced prisoners are able to chose between the previous and the new method.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all circumstances whatever method of execution is used, believing it to be a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- urging that clemency be granted to Frederick Kirkpatrick by commuting his death sentence;
- reiterating your opposition to the death penalty whatever method of execution is used.

**APPEALS TO:**

The Hon. Charles Roemer  
Governor of Louisiana  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
USA

Telegrams: Governor Roemer, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804  
Telephone: (504) 342 7015  
FAX: (504) 342 0909  
Telex: 5109933256

Louisiana Board of Pardons and Paroles  
504 Mayflower Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
USA

Telegrams: Louisiana Pardons Board, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
FAX: (504) 342 6593

**COPIES TO:** Diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY, TO ARRIVE BY 5 FEBRUARY 1991.**