

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 02/01 (AMR 51/06/01, 10 January 2001) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (North Carolina) Bobby Lee Harris, white, aged 34

Bobby Harris has been granted a stay of execution, which was upheld by the North Carolina Supreme Court 14 hours before he was due to be put to death.

A trial court judge granted the stay of execution late on 17 January, two days before Harris was scheduled to die. The state Attorney General's Office appealed, but the Supreme Court upheld the stay without comment on 18 January.

The trial court judge scheduled a hearing for 20 February on legal claims brought by the appeal lawyers. The lawyers had argued, among other things, that the case should have been tried in federal court, on the grounds that the crime took place in a federal marine area. If Harris had been tried in federal court, he could not have been sentenced to death because the crime was not subject to the federal death penalty in 1991. The state argues that it shares jurisdiction of the area where the crime occurred.

Harris was sentenced to death in 1992 for the 1991 murder of shrimp fisherman John Redd.

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