

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 19/03 (AMR 51/049/2003, 27 March 2003) and updates (AMR 51/055/2003, 4 April 2003, AMR 51/091/2003, 24 June 2003, and AMR 51/155/2003, 15 December 2003) – Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Ohio) Lewis Williams (m), black, aged 44

Lewis Williams was executed in Ohio on 14 January 2004. He was sentenced to death for the murder of an elderly white woman, Leoma Chmielewski, in 1983.

Lewis Williams resisted being prepared for execution. As he continued to struggle, he was restrained by about nine guards as his arms were prepared for the lethal injection needles. He was carried into the execution chamber, and shouted "I'm not guilty. I'm not guilty. God, please help me", as seven guards strapped him down to be killed.

It was the first time in Ohio that the execution preparation was seen by the execution witnesses. They included Lewis Williams' mother, who was very distressed.

Six people have been executed in the USA this year, bringing to 891 the number of people put to death there since judicial killing resumed in 1977. Nine of these executions have been carried out in Ohio.

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