

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/44/96

EXTRA 81/96

Death penalty

29 May 1996

USA (Maryland)

Flint Gregory HUNT

Flint Gregory Hunt, black, is scheduled to be executed in Maryland sometime between 10 and 14 June 1996.

He was sentenced to death in July 1986 for the murder of police officer, Vincent J Adolfo, in November 1985.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel and degrading punishment as proclaimed in Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As of 31 January 1996, there were 15 prisoners under sentence of death in Maryland. John Thanos became the first person to be executed in the state in nearly 33 years on 17 May 1994, after choosing to abandon his legal appeals and allowing the state to carry out his execution. The method of execution is lethal injection, with the choice of gas chamber for those sentenced to death before 11 March 1994.

The state Governor has sole power to commute death sentences in Maryland.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please telephone or send telegrams/faxes/express/ airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Flint Gregory Hunt is scheduled to be executed;
- acknowledging the seriousness of the crime for which he was convicted, and expressing sympathy for the families and friends of the victims of violent crime;
- expressing total opposition to the death penalty in all cases;
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to deter violent crime more effectively than any other punishment, and stating that the death penalty is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging Governor Glendening to commute Flint Gregory Hunt's death sentence.

APPEALS TO:

Governor Parris Glendening
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401
USA

Telephone: +1 410 974 3901

Faxes: +1 410 974 3275

Telegrams: Governor Glendening, Annapolis, Maryland, USA

Salutation: Dear Governor

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2

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to diplomatic representatives of USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.