

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AMR 51/49/96

17 June 1996

Further information (1) on EXTRA 79/96 (AMR 51/42/96, 24 May 1996) - Death Penalty

USA (INDIANA) Tommie J SMITH (aka Ziyon Yisrayah)

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Tommie Smith, scheduled to be executed in Indiana on 14 June, has received a stay of execution from the US Supreme Court. The stay is based on the case of Wayne Felker, currently before the Court. Felker is challenging the constitutionality of the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act recently signed into law by President Clinton. The Act seeks to severely limit the opportunities for death row inmates to appeal to the federal courts.

The US Supreme Court heard oral arguments on 3 June 1996 and is likely to issue its ruling on the case in the next three weeks. The case appears to have blocked all executions in the USA: since the Court agreed to hear the case, only one prisoner, Robert South in South Carolina, has been executed. South had dropped his appeals and allowed the state to execute him.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on Tommie Smith's behalf. No further action is required by the Urgent Action Network.