

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/50/00

31 March 2000

Further information on EXTRA 139/99 (AMR 51/149/99, 6 October 1999) and follow-ups (AMR 51/165/99, 13 October, AMR 51/41/00, 9 March and AMR 51/49/00, 23 March) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Tennessee) Robert Glen Coe, aged 43, white

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On 30 March, the Tennessee Supreme Court rescheduled Robert Glen Coe's execution for 1am local time on 5 April 2000. This was after US District Judge Trauger ruled that the state court system had given him a fair hearing to assess his mental competency for execution. She had stayed his execution 16 hours before it was due to take place on 22 March (see previous updates).

Robert Coe was sentenced to death for the abduction, rape and murder of eight-year-old Cary Ann Medlin in 1979. This crime fuelled support for the death penalty in Tennessee and galvanized the "victims' rights" movement. Robert Coe has a history of mental illness.

Another man, Philip Ray Workman, remains scheduled for execution 24 hours after Robert Coe. There are very serious doubts about whether he is guilty of shooting a police officer, for which he was sentenced to die in 1982 (see UA 12/00, AMR 51/09/00, 19 January, and update AMR 51/33/00, 24 February).

Thirty states have executed prisoners since the USA resumed judicial killing in 1977. In an open letter to Governor Sundquist on 21 March, Amnesty International appealed to him not to allow Tennessee to become the 31<sup>st</sup> state. (See *Open letter to Governor Don Sundquist, concerning the imminent resumption of executions in Tennessee after 40 years* (AMR 51/48/00)).

**Please continue to send urgent appeals to Tennessee. You do not need to be specific to either of the cases, but simply appeal in your own words for Governor Sundquist not to allow executions to resume in Tennessee. Many thanks to all who are taking part in this action.**

**APPEALS TO:**

The Honourable Don Sundquist  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243-0001, USA  
**Tel:** +1 615 741 2001  
**Telegrams:** Governor Sundquist, Nashville, TN, USA  
**Fax:** +1 615 532 9711  
**E-mail:** dsundquist@mail.state.tn.us  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

You may also write brief letters (not more than 200 words) to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Tennessean*, 1100 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203, USA  
**Fax:** +1 615 259 8093  
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2

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**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY**