

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 26/03 (AMR 51/068/2003, 07 May 2003) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Kentucky)

Daniel Gordin (m) aged 18

On 20 May, a Kentucky jury recommended that Daniel Gordin be sentenced to 40 years in prison for the killing of Ryan Harris, an 18-year-old school student who was shot to death in January 2002.

On 19 May, after about four and a half hours of deliberation, the jury had convicted Daniel Gordin of first-degree manslaughter and robbery. The verdict, of less than murder, meant that the death penalty could no longer be sought against him.

The Jessamine County prosecution had intended to seek a death sentence against Daniel Gordin if the jury convicted him of first-degree murder. Gordin was 16 years old at the time of the crime. International law unequivocally prohibits the imposition of the death penalty against defendants who were under 18 at the time of the crime.

The jury's sentencing decision represents the maximum penalty available – 20 years imprisonment on the manslaughter verdict and 20 years on the robbery verdict, to be served consecutively. Under this recommendation, Daniel Gordin could become eligible for parole after 20 years, minus the time he has already spent incarcerated.

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