

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 66/99 (AMR 51/89/99, 4 June 1999) - Death Penalty

USA (Missouri) Bruce KILGORE, aged 38

Bruce Kilgore was executed by lethal injection in the first few minutes of 16 June 1999 at the Potosi Correctional Center, Mineral Point, in eastern Missouri.

The US Supreme Court rejected a final appeal on 15 June, and Governor Carnahan denied clemency.

Bruce Kilgore and his co-defendant, Willie Lockett, were convicted in separate trials of the first-degree murder of Marilyn Wilkins in August 1986. Before he came to trial, Kilgore reportedly rejected the state's offer of life imprisonment in return for a guilty plea. Kilgore was tried first and sentenced to death. Lockett was subsequently sentenced to life in prison. Bruce Kilgore consistently maintained that he did not kill Marilyn Wilkins, and there is evidence suggesting that it was Lockett who actually stabbed her (see original EXTRA).

This was the seventh execution in Missouri this year, the state's highest annual total since 1938. Missouri has now executed 39 prisoners since it resumed executions in 1983.

Bruce Kilgore became the 49th person put to death in the USA in 1999 and the 549th nationwide since judicial killing resumed in 1977. More than 400 of these executions have been carried out since 1990.

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