

18 July 2002

Further information on EXTRA 50/02 (AMR 51/106/2002, 2 July 2002) - Death penalty / Legal concern

**USA (Mississippi) Tracy Alan Hansen (m), white, aged 39**

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On the evening of 17 July 2002, Tracy Hansen became the first person to be executed in Mississippi since 1989. He was sentenced to death in 1987 for the murder of a police officer, David Bruce Ladner, earlier that year.

Governor Musgrove denied clemency on 16 July. In his statement he said: "I have made the decision to deny the clemency petition of Tracy Alan Hansen. Mr Hansen shot Bruce Ladner, a Mississippi Highway Patrolman working to protect the public safety, in cold blood and left him to die. Mr Hansen received a fair trial. Numerous courts and judges reviewed his case and affirmed the guilty verdict. The sentence of death is just - and it is justified. The time has now come for this sentence to be carried out. I ask for the prayers of all Mississippians to be with the Ladner family and the family of Tracy Alan Hansen. May God have mercy on his soul."

In his final statement before being killed by lethal injection, Tracy Hansen reportedly said: "I'm sorry in my heart. Trooper Ladner was a good man. I didn't mean to kill him...I don't have the right to ask the family not to be angry." Several members of David Ladner's family witnessed the execution, as did the prosecutor who had obtained the death sentence. The prosecutor, one of two people selected by the governor to act as witnesses, spoke for the Ladner family after the execution. He stated that "justice was done", and also that the family would oppose parole for Anita Louise Krecic, who was involved in the crime and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Tracy Hansen becomes the 36<sup>th</sup> prisoner to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 785<sup>th</sup> since executions resumed there in 1977. Five of these executions have been carried out in Mississippi.

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