

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 42/03 (AMR 51/123/2003, 18 September 2003) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (North Carolina) Edward Ernest Hartman (m), white, aged 39

Eddie Hartman was executed in North Carolina in the early hours of 3 October. He was sentenced to death in October 1994 for the robbery and murder of Herman Smith in June 1993.

The courts rejected last-minute appeals to stop the execution on the grounds that the prosecution had used Eddie Hartman's homosexuality against him at the trial in order to help them obtain a death sentence. At about 8pm on 2 October, a few hours after the US Supreme Court had refused to intervene, Governor Easley denied clemency. According to reports, his statement did not address the issue of discrimination against Eddie Hartman.

Eddie Hartman becomes the 57th person to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 877th to be executed since the country resumed judicial killing in 1977. North Carolina accounts for 27 of these executions.

No further action is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.