

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 217/05 (AMR 51/132/2005, 23 August 2005) Death Penalty/Legal concern

USA (TEXAS)

Frances Elaine Newton (f), black

Frances Newton was executed in Texas on 14 September 2005. She was convicted in October 1988 of the murder of her husband and her two children in 1987.

Texas Governor Rick Perry refused Frances Newton's petition for a 30-day stay of execution at 5.50pm on the day of the execution. Frances Newton was administered a lethal injection at 6.09pm and was pronounced dead eight minutes later. The Supreme Court refused to intervene in the case, despite doubts over the reliability of Frances Newton's conviction. She was convicted on circumstantial evidence and always maintained that she was innocent.

Frances Newton is the 11th woman to be executed in the USA since judicial killing resumed in the USA in 1977. Thirty-eight prisoners have been put to death this year in the USA, bringing to 982 the total number of executions since 1977. Texas accounts for 349 of these executions.

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