

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/ 161/2001

7 November 2001

Further information on EXTRA 72/01 (AMR 51/158/2001, 30 October 2001) -Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Georgia) Jose Martinez High (m), black, aged 43 or 45

Jose Martinez High was executed in Georgia on 6 November 2001 for the murder of 11-year-old Bonnie Bulloch in July 1976. He had been on death row since 1978 - well over half his life. He had a history of serious mental illness and had also been assessed as having borderline mental retardation.

The execution was reportedly delayed by about an hour, because the execution team could not find a suitable vein in which to insert the catheters for the lethal injection needles. After about 20 minutes of trying to locate such a vein in his arms, they gave up and instead inserted one in his hand and a back-up between his shoulder and neck.

In his final statement, Jose Martinez High said that he had not shot Bonnie Bulloch. He reportedly said to the boy's mother, who was in the witness room: "I'm sorry about your kid... I wanted to meet you. I wrote you a letter but you never got it. My life is a poor substitute for your son."

According to a report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, as the lethal solution began to flow, Jose Martinez High "grimaced, appeared to cry, blinked rapidly and stared at a clock on the wall. At one point, he cried out but his words were unintelligible because the microphone in the room was off."

Jose Martinez High becomes the 57th prisoner to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 740th since the United States resumed judicial killing in 1977. He was the 25th person to be put to death in Georgia.

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