

# URGENT ACTION

## EXECUTION IN TEXAS AFTER CLEMENCY DENIED

**Timothy Adams was executed in Texas on the evening of 22 February. He was sentenced to death for the murder of his young son in 2002.**

On 18 February, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles voted against clemency for Timothy Adams. Among those who had appealed for clemency were more than 90 religious leaders from across Texas. In their letter to the Board and Governor Rick Perry on 16 February, they wrote: "As faith leaders, we believe that our justice system should be directed toward the improvement of life, not its destruction. We advocate for a system that is rehabilitative and humane, while still taking every measure possible to support and facilitate the healing of victims... We join the victim's family in asking that you spare Mr Adams from death. You have an extraordinary opportunity to show mercy to a family that has already suffered greatly and to uphold the sacredness of human life. We pray that you grant life to Timothy Adams."

Family members had also appealed for clemency, as had three jurors from the original trial (see original UA).

The Board of Pardons of Paroles voted 7-0 against a reprieve and also unanimously against recommending that the governor commute the death sentence to life imprisonment. Governor Perry, who still had the authority to issue a stay of execution, declined to intervene.

The execution went ahead about half an hour after the US Supreme Court refused to issue a stay. Timothy Adams made no final statement before being put to death by lethal injection.

This was the second execution in Texas this year, and the eighth nationwide. There have now been 1,242 executions in the USA since judicial killing resumed there in 1977. Texas accounts for 466 of these executions. Of these 466 people put to death, 116 were convicted in Harris County, where Tim Adams was sentenced to death. If Harris County was a state, it would account for more executions than any other state in the USA apart from the rest of Texas.

**NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.**

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