

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 298/92 (AMR 51/107/92, 24 September 1992) and follow-ups AMR 51/115/92, 29 October 1992, and AMR 51/117/92, 4 November 1992 - Death Penalty

USA: (Virginia) Charles STAMPER

Charles Stamper is scheduled to be executed by the state of Virginia, USA on 19 January 1993.

Stamper was previously scheduled to be executed on 28 October 1992 but was granted a stay of execution by the governor of Virginia to allow him time to consider information about Stamper's poor medical condition before deciding whether to grant clemency. Governor Wilder announced his decision to deny clemency on 9 January 1993.

Stamper, who is black, is partially and irreversibly paralysed as a result of being involved in a fight with another death row prisoner in 1988. He will have to be taken to the death chamber in a wheelchair. He was sentenced to death in November 1978 for the murders of Steven Staples, Agnes Hicks and Franklin Cooley, all white, during a robbery in March 1978.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Charles Stamper is scheduled to be executed on 19 January 1993;

- noting that Governor Wilder announced on 9 January 1993 that he would not grant clemency to Charles Stamper;

- urging Governor Wilder to reconsider his decision not to grant clemency to Charles Stamper and to commute his death sentence.

APPEALS TO

The Honorable L Douglas Wilder
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23219, USA

Telegrams: Governor Wilder, Richmond, VA 23219
Telephone: +1 804 786 2211
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Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the USA in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY TO ARRIVE IN USA BY 19 JANUARY 1993.