

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 16/01 (AMR 51/032/2001, 1 March 2001) and follow-ups (AMR 51/039/2001, 7 March 2001; AMR 51/012/2002, 18 January 2002) - Death Penalty

USA (Georgia) Ronald Keith Spivey (m), white, aged 62,

On 24 January 2002, Ronald Spivey was put to death by lethal injection in Georgia after more than two decades on death row. He had been sentenced to death in 1977 for the murder of Billy Watson, an off-duty police officer.

In his final statement before being executed, Ronald Spivey apologised to witnesses: "If I had a million lives, I couldn't say I'm sorry enough... I'm not the same person I was 25 years ago." He added that the death penalty has "dragged the victim's family and my family through living hell."

Spivey was executed a few hours after the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) notified the Department of Corrections (DOC) that its doctors would no longer pronounce inmates dead following executions. In a letter to the DOC, Daniel Rahn, MCG president, wrote that even though doctors do not administer any of the three drugs that lead to an inmate's death, the school believes that "it compromises the physicians' role as a treatment provider in the institution to also be a participant in the execution process."

Ronald Spivey becomes the 4th prisoner to be put to death in the USA this year, and the 753rd since the United States resumed judicial killing in 1977. He was the 28th person to be put to death in Georgia.

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