

April 2007

Further information on UA 80/07 (AMR 51/064/2007, 05 April 2007) – Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Texas) James Lee Clark (m), white, aged 38

James Clark was executed in Texas in the early evening of 11 April 2007. He was sentenced to death in May 1994 for the rape and murder of 17-year-old Shari Catherine Crews in June 1993. His clemency petition had sought the commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment on the grounds that he had mental retardation. The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected clemency, and Governor Rick Perry failed to intervene.

Asked if he had a final statement before being killed, James Clark responded: "I don't know. I don't know what to say." After a few moments, he reportedly noticed witnesses observing him through a nearby window and said, "Oh I didn't know anybody was there. Howdy." The lethal drugs then began to take effect, and he was pronounced dead at 6.17pm, seven minutes after the lethal injection began.

There have been 1,070 executions in the USA since it resumed judicial killing in 1977, of which 391 (37 per cent) have been carried out in Texas. Twelve of the 13 executions in the USA so far in 2007 have been carried out in Texas. One hundred and fifty-two people have been put to death in Texas since Rick Perry became governor in 2001. The five-year governorship of his predecessor, George W. Bush, also saw 152 executions. There are 385 men and women on death row in Texas.

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