

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 104/95

Death Penalty

12 September 1995

**USA (Illinois) Charles Albanese
George Delvecchio**

Charles Albanese and George Delvecchio are scheduled to be executed in Illinois on 20 September 1995.

Charles Albanese, white, was sentenced to death for the alleged poisoning of his father, mother-in-law and his wife's grandmother. He has reportedly always maintained his innocence of the crimes.

Albanese was represented at trial by an attorney who had never tried a capital case before, and who, according to a former attorney who represented Albanese in his appeals, failed to properly investigate or present exculpatory evidence at trial, namely that the state laboratory which carried out tests which helped to convict him was unreliable.

George Delvecchio, white, was sentenced to death for a murder committed in December 1977. Attorneys representing Delvecchio had previously appealed his death sentence on the grounds that his trial judge, Judge Garippo, may have been biased against him. Judge Garippo was part of the prosecution team in Delvecchio's 1965 conviction for murder.

In Illinois the governor has sole authority to grant clemency, commutations or reprieves. The State Prison Review Board makes recommendations to the Governor who decides whether or not to follow its recommendation.

As of 30 April 1995 there were 161 prisoners under sentence of death in Illinois. The most recent execution in Illinois was Gervies Davis, on 17 May 1995. The method of execution is lethal injection.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English if possible, or make telephone calls:

To the Illinois Prison Review Board:

- urging the State Prison Review Board to recommend to Governor Edgar to grant clemency to Charles Albanese and George Delvecchio by commuting their sentences of death

To Governor Edgar:

- urging him to commute the death sentences of Charles Albanese and George Delvecchio

To both, concerning the case of Charles Albanese:

- expressing concern that Charles Albanese was represented at trial by an attorney who had never tried a capital case before which is contrary to international standards which provide that anyone facing capital murder charges has the right to adequate legal representation at all stages of the proceedings.

APPEALS TO:

James K Williams, Chairman

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State Prison Review Board
319 E Madison, Suite A
Springfield, IL 62701
USA

Dear Mr Williams

Telephone: + 1 217 782 7273
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The Honorable Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois
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Springfield, IL 62706
USA

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Salutation: Dear Governor

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and to diplomatic representatives of the USA accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.