

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 194/06 (AMR 51/115/2006, 14 July 2006) Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Virginia) Brandon Wayne Hedrick (m), white, aged 27

Brandon Wayne Hedrick was executed on 20 July for the murder of a 23-year-old black woman, Lisa Yvonne Crider, in 1997. He had been on death row since 1998.

Brandon Hedrick chose to be electrocuted in the electric chair rather than be given a lethal injection. His was the first execution by electrocution in the United States since 2004.

Brandon Hedrick had a long history of learning difficulties. At the time of his trial, his IQ was assessed at 76, which is in the borderline mental retardation range. His appeal lawyers had argued that with the margin of error, Brandon Hedrick may have had mental retardation. This claim was rejected by the courts. Earlier this year, one of the judges on the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit dissented against dismissal of the issue, arguing that the court was "allow[ing] the execution of a man whose death sentence might be unconstitutional without a full and fair consideration of that claim".

No further action is required from the UA Network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.