

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 288/03 (AMR 51/127/2003, 9 October 2003) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Virginia) Lee Boyd Malvo, a.k.a. John Lee Malvo (m), black, Jamaican national, aged 18

On 23 December, after eight and a half hours of deliberation over two days, a Virginia jury voted that Lee Malvo should be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, rather than death.

On 18 December, the jury had found Lee Malvo guilty of killing Linda Franklin, who was shot dead on 14 October 2002 during a spate of sniper shootings that month in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC.

Lee Malvo was 17 at the time of the crime. The imposition of the death penalty on people who were under 18 at the time of the crime is a violation of international law. So, too, is life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Lee Malvo's older co-defendant, 42-year-old John Muhammad, received a death sentence from another Virginia jury on 24 November. He was convicted of the murder of Dean Myers, who was shot dead on 9 October 2002 in Virginia.

Lee Malvo and John Muhammad may yet face further trials in other jurisdictions.

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