

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 296/00 (AMR 51/146/00, 26 September 2000) - Death penalty / Legal concern

USA (Texas) Miguel Angel FLORES, Mexican national, aged 31

Miguel Flores was executed in Texas on 9 November 2000. He was sentenced to death for the 1989 abduction, rape and murder of 20-year-old Angela Tyson in the small town of Borger in north Texas.

In his final statement, Miguel Flores expressed his remorse and asked for forgiveness. Following the execution, the Mexican foreign ministry issued a statement saying it "profoundly regrets" that the death sentence was carried out "despite repeated pleas for clemency" from the Government of Mexico, other governments, and human rights organizations.

On 8 November, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles announced that it had voted 18-0 that the execution should go ahead. A day earlier, the US State Department had written to the Board, urging it to give "careful consideration to the pending clemency petition request for Mr Flores, including the apparent failure to provide Mr Flores with consular notification pursuant to article 36 of the Vienna Convention, and particularly to the representations of the Government of Mexico on Mr Flores' behalf."

The Mexican authorities had been among a number of governments appealing for clemency, including Argentina, Poland, and the 15-member European Union. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had called on the US Government to do all in its power to stop the execution.

The Mexican consul general in Houston appealed to Governor Bush to use his power of 30-day reprieve. On 9 November, a spokesman for the Governor gave his standard reply: "Because there is no doubt about the defendant's guilt and because he has had full and fair access to the courts, Governor Bush will not grant a 30-day delay".

Once again, the Texas authorities have shown their disregard for the USA's international obligations, and displayed their narrow view of justice.

Miguel Flores becomes the 35th prisoner executed in Texas this year, and the 75th in the USA as a whole. He is the 147th person put to death since Governor Bush took office in January 1995.

The USA has now executed 673 men and women since it resumed judicial killing in 1977. Of these, 234 have been carried out in Texas.

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