

PUBLIC

AI Index: AMR 51/182/2005

10 November 2005

Further Information on UA 221/05 (AMR 51/133/2005, 24 August 2005) and follow-ups (AMR 51/144/2005, 09 September 2005; AMR51/173/2005, 1 November 2005) - Death Penalty

USA (Ohio)

John Spirko (m)

Governor Bob Taft granted a 60-day reprieve to John Spirko on 7 November. This is the second time in two months that Governor Taft has delayed Spirko's execution.

According to press reports, Governor Taft granted the reprieve at the request of Attorney General, Jim Petro, to allow time for DNA testing of evidence from the crime scene. Spirko's attorneys sued in federal court last week to require the testing.

John Spirko was sentenced to death in 1984 for the kidnap and murder of Betty Jane Mottinger in August 1982. He denies carrying out the murder and no physical or forensic evidence links him to the crime.

Thank you to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested. Amnesty International will monitor the case closely, and take further campaigning action if necessary.