

URGENT ACTION

TEXAS EXECUTION FOR CRIME AT 18 YEARS OLD

Ray Jasper was executed in Texas on 19 March for a murder committed when he was 18 years old.

Ray Jasper was sentenced to death in 2000 for the murder of David Alejandro, who was stabbed to death on 29 November 1998 during a robbery of the recording studio he owned in San Antonio. Ray Jasper was 18 years and three months old at the time of the crime. Two other co-defendants, who were 19 years old at the time of the crime, were sentenced to life imprisonment and remain in prison today.

Ray Jasper, who was African American, was tried in front of a jury on which there were no African Americans; two who had been in the initial jury pool were dismissed by the prosecutor during jury selection. Final appeals seeking a stay of execution in order to pursue the claim – with newly located juror questionnaire evidence not yet reviewed on appeal – that the prosecutor's dismissal of one of these black potential jurors was motivated by race, were unsuccessful. On 19 March, the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit denied permission for Ray Jasper to file a successive petition on this race issue on the basis of the previously missing questionnaires, ruling that he had not met the requirements under US law to file such a petition. The Fifth Circuit refused to issue a stay of execution, and also on 19 March the US Supreme Court refused to intervene.

Ray Jasper was put to death by lethal injection soon after 6pm on 19 March.

There have been 11 executions in the USA this year, three of them in Texas. Since judicial killing resumed in the USA in 1977 under revised capital statutes, there have been 1,370 executions nationwide. Texas accounts for 511 of these executions.

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

This is the first update of UA 45/14. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/015/2014/en

Name: Ray Jasper

Gender m/f: m

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