

URGENT ACTION

TEXAS CARRIES OUT TENTH EXECUTION THIS YEAR

Steven Woods was executed in Texas on 13 September. He was sentenced to death for a double murder committed in 2001. His co-defendant pleaded guilty to killing both victims and received a life sentence.

In his final statement before being put to death by lethal injection, Steven Woods said: "You're not about to witness an execution, you're about to witness a murder. ... I've never killed anybody, never...This whole thing is wrong."

A few hours earlier, the US Supreme court, without comment, had rejected a final appeal for a stay of execution.

Steven Woods was sentenced to death in August 2002 for the murder of Ronald Whitehead and Bethena Brosz in early May 2001. Three months after the trial, a second defendant, Marcus Rhodes, reached a plea agreement with the prosecution in which he pleaded guilty to having personally shot both the victims, was sentenced to life imprisonment and transferred to California where he was facing charges for a murder committed before the Texas killings. He was sentenced to 25 years to life imprisonment for that murder. He is currently serving his life sentence in prison in Texas.

There have been 33 executions in the USA this year, 10 of them in Texas. There have been 1,237 executions in the USA since judicial killing resumed there in 1977 after almost a decade without them. Texas accounts for 474 of this national total. Three more men are scheduled to be executed in Texas in the next week.

No further appeals are requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 269/11. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR51/076/2011/en>

Name: Steven Woods
Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 269/11 Index: AMR 51/078/2011 Issue Date: 14 September 2011

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