

PUBLIC

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10 August 1999

Further information on EXTRA 101/99 (AMR 14/01/99, 4 August 1999) - Death Penalty

BAHAMAS John Higgs
 David Mitchell

John Higgs and David Mitchell who were scheduled to be hanged on 10 August 1999 have been granted stays of execution so that the Bahamas Supreme Court can consider motions filed by the men which challenge the constitutionality of executing them.

The Bahamas Supreme Court is scheduled to begin hearing the motions on Wednesday 11 August.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue sending telegrams

/telexes/faxes/in English or in your own language:

- urging the government not to execute John Higgs and David Mitchell;
- reminding the government that despite the ruling of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Trevor Fisher's constitutional motion the Bahamian government has an obligation as a member of the Organisation of American States not to execute John Higgs and David Mitchell while their petitions are pending before the IACHR;
- urging the government to uphold the integrity of the Inter-American System for the protection of human rights by staying the executions pending the decisions of the IACHR on the men's petitions;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their relatives but stating that in many cases when a person convicted of murder has been executed by the state, the family of the victim have said that the execution did nothing to alleviate their feelings of anger and loss;
- pointing out that the death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, which violates the right to life and has a brutalizing effect on all involved in its application;
- urging the government to implement the 1999 recommendation of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

The Honourable Hubert Ingraham
Sir Cecil V. Wallace Centre
PO Box CB 10980
Nassau, Bahamas

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Nassau, Bahamas

Telephone: + 1 242 322 2805

Faxes: + 1 242 327 5806

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Attorney General

The Honourable Tennyson Williams
Attorney General
PO Box N-3007
Nassau, Bahamas

Telegrams: Attorney General, Nassau, Bahamas

Telephone: + 1 242 322 1141

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Faxes: + 1 242 322 2255
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

COPIES TO:

The Governor General

His Excellency Sir Orville Turnquest
Governor General
PO Box N-8301
Nassau, Bahamas

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and to diplomatic representatives of Bahamas accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY