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10 May 1999

Further information on EXTRA 57/99 (AMR 38/08/99, 6 May 1999) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern

**JAMAICA Deon McTaggart
Andrew Perkins**

Deon McTaggart and Andrew Perkins, who were scheduled to hang on 13 May 1999, have both been granted 10 day stays of execution by the Jamaican High Court.

The court granted the stays on 12 May after lawyers representing the two men filed motions to the court challenging the constitutionality of the executions.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue to send telegrams/faxes/

express/airmail letters and e-mails in English or your own language:

- urging the government to commute the death sentence of Andrew Perkins in accordance with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee, and reminding the government that not to do so would violate Article 6 of the ICCPR;
- urging the government to commute the death sentence of Deon McTaggart on humanitarian grounds, reminding the government that the Human Rights Committee ruled that his rights had been violated;
- reminding the government that it is still obliged to provide an effective remedy to people whose rights under the ICCPR have been violated, and to take account of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations in individual cases;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime and their relatives, but voicing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment;
- stating the death penalty has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishment and brutalizes all involved in its application;
- stating that imposing the death penalty does not necessarily alleviate the suffering of the victims of violent crime;
- stating that execution is irrevocable and, despite the most stringent judicial safeguards, can be inflicted on the innocent.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister The Rt Hon P. J. Patterson, PC, QC, MP, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica House, 1 Devon Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Kingston, Jamaica

E-mails: jis@jamaica-info.com

Faxes: + 1 876 929 0005

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Attorney General The Hon A. J. Nicholson, Attorney General's Department
79-83 Barry St., PO Box 456, Kingston, Jamaica

Telegrams:Attorney General, Kingston, Jamaica

Faxes:+ 1 876 922 5109

Salutation:Dear Attorney General

Governor General H E The Most Honorable Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVD,
CD, Office of the Governor General, King's House, Hope Road, Kingston 6
Jamaica

Telegrams:Governor General, Kingston, Jamaica

Faxes:+ 1 876 927 4561

Salutation:Your Excellency

COPIES TO: Minister of Foreign Affairs The Hon Seymour Mullings, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs, 21 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5, Jamaica

Faxes:+ 1 876 929 6733

and to diplomatic representatives of Jamaica accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International
Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 June 1999.