

URGENT ACTION

TEXAS EXECUTION GOES AHEAD

John Battaglia, aged 62, was executed in Texas on 1 February. He was sentenced to death in 2002 for the murder of his six- and nine-year-old daughters in 2001.

Appeals that **John Battaglia** was “incompetent” for execution because of a delusional order were unsuccessful, as were last minute challenges to the lethal injection drugs to be used by the state.

The execution originally scheduled for 6pm on 1 February, was delayed for about three hours while final court decisions were awaited. After the US Supreme Court declined to grant a stay, the execution went ahead. John Battaglia was pronounced dead at 9.40pm, about 22 minutes after the lethal injection began.

There have been three executions in the USA this year, all of them in Texas. Texas accounts for 548 of the 1,468 executions in the USA since the Supreme Court approved new capital laws in 1976. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unconditionally.

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

This is the first update of UA 14/18. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7786/2018/en/

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