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Media advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Amnesty International To Issue New Report On Oklahoma Death Penalty; Says Execution Rate is Highest Per Capita in the US

(Washington, DC) -- The rate at which the State of Oklahoma is executing prisoners is the highest per capita in the US, said Amnesty International, as it prepared to release a report on the use of capital punishment in Oklahoma. The report will be presented at a press conference at the state's Capitol Building in Oklahoma City on Thursday, April 26th at 10 am.

Put the main facts in the first paragraph

"While Texas has drawn worldwide attention for the sheer numbers of executions, its smaller neighbor has passed death sentences, and is currently carrying them out, at a greater rate," said Rob Freer, author of the 100-page Amnesty International report, *Old habits die hard: The death penalty in Oklahoma*.

Include a relevant quote (optional), but keep advisory short and simple

The press conference will also attended by State Representative Opio Toure (D), author of proposed execution moratorium legislation in Oklahoma, former State Representative David Craighead, spokesperson for the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, and local Amnesty International activist Kevin Acers.

"While much of the rest of the world is moving towards higher standards of justice, Oklahoma is stuck in the past," said local activist Acers. "It is time for Oklahoma to join the modern world and rid itself of this brutal and arbitrary punishment."

DETAILS:

Who: State Representative Opio Toure, former State Representative David Craighead, spokesperson for the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, Rob Freer, AI researcher on the Death Penalty in the US and author of the report, Kevin Acers, Group Coordinator for Amnesty International USA in Oklahoma.

Clearly list full event details, even if mentioned in first paragraph

When: 10 am central time, Thursday, April 26th 2001

Where: State Capitol Building
Room 412A
Oklahoma City

Indicate end of advisory or release with -- 30 -- or ###

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To speak to an AI representative or receive a copy of the report *Old habits die hard: the death penalty in Oklahoma*, please contact Eliane Drakopoulos at the number above or visit our website at www.amnestyusa.org.