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Houston area paper

Inmate gains stay 12 hours before set execution

By The Associated Press

A federal judge granted convicted killer Carlton DeLuna a stay of execution Tuesday, just 12 hours before he was to die by injection for the 1983 robbery-slaying of a Corpus Christi convenience store clerk.

U.S. District Judge Hayden W. Head Jr. said DeLuna's attorney, Richard Anderson of Dallas, had filed several constitutional issues that the state of Texas had not had time to address.

The state Attorney General's office did not oppose the stay, said Marianne Bohn, a deputy clerk for Head.

Upon hearing of the stay, DeLuna only said "thank you," according to Charles Brown,

Amnesty organization criticizes Texas

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International criticized Georgia on Wednesday for executing a murder accomplice and cited Texas for putting to death a man who committed murder as a juvenile.

In its annual worldwide survey, the London-based human rights organization also protested several executions by lethal injection which it said "appeared to cause prolonged suffering."

Amnesty International seeks the abolition of capital punishment, which it maintains is cruel, inhuman punishment and a denial of the right to life.

In its annual report, Amnesty said 18 convicted murderers were executed in the United States by lethal injection or electrocution in 1985. A total of 16 executions occurred in six states — Texas. See AMNESTY, page 12A.

Texas Department of Corrections spokesman.

DeLuna, 24, appeared calm Tuesday while waiting for word

of his last-minute appeals, Brown said.

He talked with other death row inmates and visited with a friend,

two sisters, a half-sister, a half-brother and a sister-in-law.

DeLuna's attorney filed the appeal early Tuesday because he said federal offices were closed Monday for the Columbus Day holiday.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused Monday to grant a stay for DeLuna. On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court denied an application for a stay of execution.

The Wednesday execution date was DeLuna's first.

His appeals are based on grounds he was inadequately represented during the trial and a subsequent appeal and that killers of whites receive the death penalty more often than those who kill blacks, Anderson said.

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Do LUNA

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Continued from page one
Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Louisiana

he was 17 years old. Amnesty International protested that his execution in September 1985