Foes of death penalty protest execution

3 Texas cities pe of failure or a shorte sites of vigils oles for a but of the go of the go

United Press International Brooks w Several groups and indi-reprieve. ment held vigils across Texas an under Monday night for Charlie id, can in Brooks, the country's first inne and one mate to be put to death by lethal

A quiet group of about 100 eople stood outside the Texas apitol in Austin, many with addles and shivering in the cold and, as a representative of International ge the med announced Brooks' execution

ortly after 12:16 a.m. 'Amnesty International is posed without reservation to le death penalty everywhere," aid representative Michael kadden, 28, a University of fexas graduate student. "The ndles show the hope that this e execution) won't happen. with A.I., but we're Texans . When Texas kills, it kills in

Brooks was executed or given a

A spectator, Lawrence Reichard, 24, said the execution made him feel disgusted.

"It makes me kinda sick of my country," he said. "The death penalty is unconstitutional because it is cruel, but certainly not unusual. Who gave the state the right to play God?"

The group, which also in-cluded members of the American Civil Liberties Union, sang a few choruses of "Amazing Grace" following the announce-

ment and then dispersed.
About 35 people attended a 10 p.m. vigil in Dallas at Holy Cross Catholic Church. There were no speeches.

In Houston, about 40 people opposed to the execution held an hour-long service they called a "celebration of God" at St. James Episcopal Church.

Skadden earlier had urged Each person was given a can-ecrowd to stay until Charlie dle, which was lit by a candle

Prior executions

United Press International Others to die since the high court lifted its ban on the death penalty in 1976: — Gary Mark Gilmore, 36,

killed by a firing squad Jan. 17, 1977, at Point of the Mountain, Utah, was convicted of murdering a Provo, Utah, motel clerk. He refused to appeal the conviction and

twice attempted suicide. — Jesse Walter Bishop, 46, was executed Oct. 22, 1979, in the gas chamber in Carson City, Nev., for killing a Balti-

more man in Las Vegas.

— John Spenkelink, 30, died May 25, 1979, in the elec-

tric chair at Starke, Fla., for murdering a male traveling

companion in 1973. — Steven T. Judy, 24, was electrocuted March 9, 1981, at Indiana State Prison for the rape and murder of a young mother and the drowning of her three children.

— Frank Coppola, 38, a former Portsmouth, Va., policeman, was electrocuted Aug. 10, 1982, at Virginia State Penitentiary in Rich-mond for the 1978 murder of a Newport woman. The Supoverturned a lower court's stay of execution.

inside the church and then carried outside for the service.

igain faced with the beginning of barbarity by the state," said the Rev. James L. Tucker, rector of the church. "We are here to show mercy for those who cannot afford the Racehorse Haynes or who have the money to afford such lawyers.'

John Vodicka of New Orleans, director of the Louisiana branch of the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons, a prolife group in opposi-tion to capital punishment, told the group prior to the execution that he was certain God would not be pleased.

Henry Schwarzschild, director of the capital punishment project for the ACLU, said the

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COMMONS

state has taught the community a dangerous lesson by the execu-

"The state of Texas has now resumed the practice of official homicide," Schwarzschild said. The execution of Brooks for

crime for which his equally guilty co-defendant serves a 40year sentence of imprisonment, again demonstrates that this society cannot adminster capital punishment rationally, fairly or without arbitrariness and discrimination.

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Brooks' family mad about limited visits

United Press International HUNTSVILLE — Family members were bitter about the way the Texas Department of Corrections restricted their visiting privileges with Charlie Brooks, the man put to death early Tuesday and the first man executed in the United States by

lethal injection. Brooks' ex-wife, Joyce Brooks, and her two sons, Der-rick, 21, and Adrian, 20, were not allowed to visit Brooks Monday. The sons said they were not told until it was too late that they could have visited their father on his last day.

'We didn't know we could see him. Someone called us and told us we could see him at 11 (p.m.)," Adrian explained. "We got up here, and they (TDC officials) said they didn't know what the hell was going on.

Brooks was pronounced dead at 12:16 a.m. Tuesday following his execution for the 1976 slaying of used car mecha-David Gregory of Fort Worth. Brooks' family was not allowed to watch.

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His sons admitted they were

"A news reporter saw it,"
Derrick complained. "I didn't
get to see it, and I'm his flesh and
blood."

allowed to watch their father

Adrian Brooks said TDC officials misled the family about

visiting privileges, then gave relatives impossible restrictions. "They didn't even tell us until (p.m.) that we could see him,"

Adrian said. Officials then told the family they had to be at the prison before 5 p.m., he added. "It's a

three hour drive." "Vanessa (Sapp, the woman who last week exchanged unofficial wedding vows with Brooks) and that guy Sharrieff (Larry, an Islamic preacher from Fort Worth) were the only

person who died so peace-While Sharrieff watched,

execution," Adrian said. Sharrieff said Brooks died "very peacefully. I've never seen

Brooks' family waited in a prison lobby near the entrance. They sat for at least an hour in wooden chairs and were visible at times through glass doors to protestors and witnesses who

gathered outside. Both sons wept openly. Even after the execution, oyce Brooks insisted her ex-

husband was innocent. "He didn't do that crime," she said. "I feel sorry for the dead man's family. Don't get me wrong. I have sympathy for them, but Charlie didn't kill that

5 killed when TV tower falls

United Press International
MISSOURI CITY — A huge
2 million metal television tower

lapsed Tuesday killing five ople and injuring three others lowere working on the device. Fort Bend Sheriff's Sgt. Joe frey said the tower, located in field on the edge of Missouri ity southwest of Houston, col-psed about 10:45 a.m. Offis said the accident occurred workmen were putting the al antenna on the tower, nich was 2,049 feet tall.

The final portion of the towa \$2 million antenna, was ng placed on top when a cable arently snapped. The falling lenna broke a guy wire which poorted the tower, a spokesnan for the tower's owner

The names of the dead were available.

Jeffrey said the three injured rkers were taken by ambuce to local hospitals.

"We understand that the tower did collapse while men were working on it," Jeffrey said. a The metal tower is owned by

FM radio stations and television which began using it two weeks

A spokesperson for the owner, Senior Road Tower Group, said only the television station was utilizing the structure at this time. The entire project was valued at \$7 million.

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