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www.deathpenalty.org

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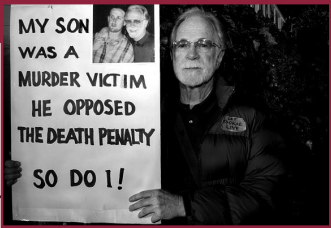
*Justice is never advanced by
the taking of human life,
morality is never upheld
by legalized murder."*

- Coretta Scott King



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“Death Penalty Focus is one of the premier organizations seeking to abolish the death penalty. By educating and mobilizing the public, Death Penalty Focus ensures that the use of this arbitrary and barbaric practice receives the intense critical scrutiny that it deserves.”

-Human Rights Watch

Death Penalty Focus, founded in 1988, is a non-profit organization dedicated to abolishing capital punishment through broad-based public education, media and political organizing campaigns. Recent projects by Death Penalty Focus include:

- the creation of a state-wide coalition of social justice, religious and human rights organizations advocating for a moratorium on executions;
- the collection of hundreds of thousands of petition signatures, hundreds of organizational endorsements and numerous resolutions from local governments in support of a moratorium on executions;
- the commissioning of independent research documenting the serious flaws in the death penalty system;
- the co-hosting of a major conference on wrongful convictions involving dozens of exonerated individuals, generating crucial public attention to the issue of innocence and the death penalty;
- the submission of *Amicus* briefs in important legal cases;
- the sponsorship of critical pieces of legislation;
- frequent communication with the news media about significant legal decisions or events.



www.deathpenalty.org

5 Death Penalty Facts

Innocent people may be executed. Since 1976 more than one hundred wrongfully convicted individuals have been released from death row.

Race continues to be a major factor in determining who lives and who dies. The death penalty is sought more often when the victim is white than when the victim is a person of color.

Studies show that capital punishment does not deter crime. In fact, states without the death penalty have much lower crime rates than states with the death penalty.

The U.S. is violating human rights standards. A vast majority of nations have abandoned capital punishment in law or in practice.

The death penalty is much more expensive than life without parole because the Constitution requires a long and complex judicial process for capital cases. The millions of dollars currently spent on death penalty cases could be better spent on programs that actually improve public safety, such as after-school programs, drug and alcohol treatment, child abuse prevention programs, mental health services, and services for crime victims and their families.

“If you raise up truth, it is magnetic. It has a way of drawing people in. DPF has been courageously drawing people to the truth about the death penalty for over a decade.”

- Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.

What We Do

Public Education

Execution Response

Grassroots Organizing

Media Activism

Youth Outreach

Public Demonstrations

Independent Research

Political Organizing

Speakers Bureau

Coalition Building

Conferences and Events

Legal Defense Support

