



Georgia Moratorium Campaign

WE RISK KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE

"If statistics are any indication, the system may well be allowing some innocent defendants to be executed."

-Sandra Day O'Connor, Supreme Court Justice-

The Statistics

Nationally

Number of people executed since 1976	1062
Death row inmates exonerated since 1973	123
Number of exonerations just since 1999	47

In Georgia

Number of people executed since 1976	40
Death row inmates exonerated since 1973	5

For every 8 people executed in Georgia during this period, one has been exonerated.

Source: Death Penalty Information Center (8/7/2007)

How Do Innocent People End Up on Death Row?

A lack of fairness in the application of the death penalty has put many innocent lives on the line. Police and prosecutorial misconduct played a major role in Georgia's death row exoneration cases. And like most of those on death row today, many of Georgia's wrongfully convicted could not afford a private attorney. The Georgia Supreme Court's Blue Ribbon Commission on Indigent Defense released a report in December, 2002 which confirmed allegations that Georgia's system for providing the poor with legal defense is woefully inadequate and threatens the Constitutional provision to equal justice before the law.

Have Any Innocent People Been Executed?

According to Professors Michael Radelet and Hugo Adam Bedau in their book *In Spite of Innocence*, at least 23 people were executed wrongfully between 1900 and 1992. Equal Justice USA cites evidence as to the innocence of 16 people who were executed since 1977 in their 2002 report "Reasonable Doubts: Is the US Executing Innocent People?"

Can DNA Solve the Problem?

DNA is a powerful technology that has helped clear the names of those who are innocent, but it cannot eliminate the chance of a wrongful conviction because biological evidence is not available in an overwhelming majority of cases. None of Georgia's death row exoneration cases involved DNA and only 10% nationally have pivoted around DNA evidence.

What Should We Do?

Given the high risks taken with a death penalty system already demonstrated to be applied unfairly and inaccurately, we should take a time-out on executions so that we can further examine, evaluate and address the problems.