



# 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	<b>1119</b>
Death row inmates exonerated since 1973	<b>129</b>
Number of exonerations just since 2000	<b>45</b>

#### In Georgia

Number of people executed since 1976	<b>42</b>
Death row inmates exonerated since 1973	<b>5</b>

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

*Source: Death Penalty Information Center (8/27/2008)*

### 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 and were subject to a broken indigent defense system. The current statewide defender system is a great improvement over the old system; however, it has yet to be adequately funded by the State so defendants may lack the constitutional provision of 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 the death row exoneration cases in Georgia involved DNA evidence and it was pivotal in only ten percent of death row exonerations nationally.

### What Should We Do?

We should support a moratorium on executions in order to evaluate and address well-documented problems with Georgia's capital punishment system. Because the death penalty is irreversible, it requires the highest level of scrutiny.