

# Stop all executions!

## MORATORIUM NOW!

*"The system is broken."* — Illinois Governor George Ryan

Illinois is the first state to impose a moratorium on executions since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. After the 13th innocent man was released from Illinois' Death Row, Governor George Ryan—a Republican and longtime supporter of the death penalty—was forced to admit that "the system is broken." In Ryan's own words, the death-penalty system is "fraught with error and has come so close to the ultimate nightmare... Until I can be sure with moral certainty that no innocent man or woman is facing a lethal injection, no one will meet that fate."

**Moratorium initiatives have already sprung up in several other states—and Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) has proposed federal legislation to stop all executions nationwide for 7 years. The momentum continues to grow. Now is the time to act!**

### Innocence and the death penalty

Anthony Porter—one of the 13 innocent men released from Death Row in Illinois—came within 48 hours of lethal injection. Porter, who was accused of a double murder, was freed after a Northwestern University professor and his students uncovered evidence that cleared him.

Across the U.S., 85 Death Row inmates have been exonerated since 1973. Years of their lives were wasted in prison. How many innocent men and women have already been executed? How many more are waiting to die?

### A racist system

The faces on Death Row are overwhelmingly Black. Even though Blacks comprise 12 percent of the population, they make



**In 1998, Anthony Porter came within 48 hours of being executed**

up more than 40 percent of those on Death Row.

Blacks are the targets of a racist criminal justice system plagued with police brutality and corruption. In Illinois, former Lieutenant Jon Burge was found to have tortured more than 60 African American men in Chicago police stations.

Beaten, suffocated, electroshocked and threatened with their lives at the hands of Burge, the "Death Row Ten" were forced into giving confessions that sent them to Death Row.

How many others have been victimized by racist police and a racist court system?

### Those without the capital get the punishment

No wealthy person has ever been executed in the U.S. Most people who get the death penalty are poor. Without the money to hire fancy lawyers, the odds are stacked against them. Faced with public defenders who have no funds to hire expert witnesses or perform expensive DNA tests, they barely stand a chance.

As Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, said about the Texas system, "The Texas courts do not even require that defense counsels remain awake during trial. The lawyer representing a defendant named George McFarland, who is now on death row, repeatedly fell asleep and snored during his trial in Houston." Even though his lawyer snored through his trial, McFarland's death sentence was upheld by Texas' highest criminal court.

Isn't the real crime executing the poor?

## Support a national moratorium!

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-IL) has proposed legislation for a 7-year moratorium on all executions nationwide.

The time to act is now. The death penalty kills innocent people. It's racist. It punishes the poor. Help us send a message to Clinton and Congress to pass a national moratorium now! Here's what you can do:

- Circulate petitions demanding a national moratorium in your school, workplace, or church.
- Write President Clinton demanding a national moratorium: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500 or e-mail [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov).
- Connect with your local Campaign to End the Death Penalty chapter to find out about other activities and events.

**CAMPAIGN TO  
END THE DEATH  
PENALTY**



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