

# The Death Penalty: Equity - Fairness - Innocence

---

**American Civil Liberties Union  
of Georgia - May, 2007**

# The Death Penalty in Georgia

- For every six people executed in Georgia, one has been exonerated
  - 39 Georgians executed since 1976
  - 6 Georgians exonerated since 1973
- Georgia has the sixth highest number of death row exonerations in the country
- Because the death penalty is irreversible, it requires the highest level of scrutiny

# Why Are Innocent People on Death Row?

- Inconsistent application of the death penalty
- Misconduct of police and prosecutors
- Inability to afford an legal counsel
- Inadequate funding for indigent defense
- No guaranteed right to counsel during appeals

# Equity – Fairness - Innocence

- Is the death penalty system in Georgia fairly administered ?
  - Based on the Constitutional value of equal access to justice under the laws? No
  - Have innocent people been executed? Yes
- Given the high risks taken with a flawed death penalty system:
  - Call for a time-out on executions (moratorium)
  - Examine and address application problems

## Why is a Moratorium Necessary?

- No innocent person should be executed
- Current system has problems and errors
- Poor persons have inadequate legal defense
- Racial skew and bias exists
- Application is inconsistent and arbitrary
- Trials are expensive and wasteful, often reversed

# Ways To Get Involved

- Join the Moratorium Campaign
- Educate Others
- Attend Vigils
- Donate Money
- Write to a Death Row Inmate
- Write to the Parole Board
- Organize Outside of Atlanta
- Volunteer at Anti-Death Penalty Offices
- Join Georgians For Alternatives to the Death Penalty
- Contact your Elected Officials (via Postcard, State Capitol Visit)
- Ask your Church/City/Community Group to Endorse a Resolution

## How To Join Our Efforts

For more information, please contact:

**Georgia Moratorium Campaign**  
PO BOX 55196 Atlanta, GA 30308  
404-250-3540  
[info@georgiamoratorium.org](mailto:info@georgiamoratorium.org)  
[www.georgiamoratorium.org](http://www.georgiamoratorium.org)

# Addressing Death Penalty Flaws

- The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia is challenging the disparate application of the death penalty through:
  - Public Education
  - Community Organizing
  - Coalition Building
    - Georgians For Alternatives to the Death Penalty
  - Initiating & Supporting Public Policy Changes
    - The Moratorium Campaign