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Death Penalty Protesters Join #ShutDownSCOTUS Action in DC

"It is NOT OK to Execute the Innocent!"

Washington, DC: In light of the recent ruling in Shinn V. Ramirez and broader concerns about how the US Supreme Court has been addressing capital punishment-related cases, Death Penalty Action is organizing a contingent at the [ShutDownScotus multi-issue unified demonstrations](#) at the US Supreme Court today. Activists will gather at Stanton Park starting at 6:45am on Monday, 2022 and will participate in subsequent non-violent direct action. Some participants may choose to risk arrest as individuals.

Death Penalty Action demonstrators wearing bright red t-shirts will hold signs reading "Innocence Matters" and "It Is NOT OK To Execute the Innocent."

"This Court has become a greased rail to the death chamber even for prisoners with legitimate claims of innocence," said Abraham Bonowitz, executive director of Death Penalty Action. "The Shinn v. Ramirez ruling establishes that federal courts are barred from even considering them. This virtually assures that more innocent people will be executed. We are here to say that is simply unacceptable."

Death Penalty Action has launched a [campaign to urge Congress to change the specific laws in question](#), which have just been interpreted in a way that makes it much more difficult for a defendant with evidence of innocence to be allowed a fair opportunity to present that newly developed evidence in federal court.

Section 2254(e) of the US Code deals with how the federal courts handle claims that the state courts have violated the constitutional right to counsel. The Supreme Court's decision in Shinn v. Ramirez "interprets" that section in a way that makes it useless as a practical matter. Congress must reverse the Supreme Court's judicially-invented rule which allows people who have been represented by ineffective lawyers in their trials and post-conviction appeals to remain wrongfully imprisoned or executed by denying them federal review of claims of innocence or constitutional violations that their incompetent state-court lawyers failed to raise.

Concerned residents of the United States may use the letter-writing tool found at DeathPenaltyAction.org and/or at bit.ly/FixThisNow to contact their Members of Congress to urge leadership in correcting this matter.

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