

For Immediate Release

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50th Anniversary of Furman v. Georgia Comes As Executions on the Rise

Anti-Death Penalty Vigil Continues at the U.S. Supreme Court for its 29th Year: Saying NO to electrocutions, gas chambers, firing squads and lethal injections

WHO: **Chuck Culhane** ([brief video](#)), whose life was spared 50 years ago by the **Furman v. Georgia decision**, as well as exonerated death row prisoners, murder victim family members, dozens of anti-death penalty activists from at least 20 states around the country, clergy, scholars and leaders of state and national anti-death penalty and aligned organizations. Convened by the Abolitionist Action Committee with support from DeathPenaltyAction.org.

WHAT: An [extensive speaker program](#), public vigil, and four day liquid-only fast to mark the anniversaries of the historic June 29, 1972 Furman and July 2, 1976 Gregg Supreme Court decisions on the death penalty.

WHEN: Daily vigils from June 29 to July 2 starting at 9am. A press conference featuring Chuck Culhane, whose life was spared 50 years ago by the Furman v. Georgia decision, will take place at 11am on June 29, 2022. Speakers with “voices of experience on the death penalty” will make presentations starting at 6:00 pm each day (June 29 to July 2), with on-line panels via Zoom throughout each day. See the full schedule at <https://bit.ly/Starvin4JusticeSchedule2022>.

WHERE: On the sidewalk/street in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC & Zoom. Register for the Zoom link at <https://bit.ly/Starvin4Justice22>

Please see full schedule and details at <https://bit.ly/Starvin4JusticeSchedule2022>.

See a brief video of former death row prisoner Chuck Culhane recalling the moment he learned he would not be killed. Culhane is available for in-person interviews on-site at the US Supreme Court.

Event background:

This year, June 29, 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Furman v. Georgia decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated all death penalty laws in the United States, finding capital punishment to be applied in an arbitrary and capricious manner. July 2nd marks the 46th anniversary of the 1976 Gregg decision, which upheld new state death penalty laws and allowed the resumption of executions.

This is the 29th consecutive year that the Abolitionist Action Committee will hold its annual Fast and Vigil between the dates of these two landmark decisions. Activists, many of whom are fasting the entire four days, are traveling to Washington D.C. from at least 20 states across the United States and beyond.

Please note that due to the pandemic, the vigil was almost entirely virtual in 2020, and in 2021 we added a limited physical presence on the sidewalk in front of the US Supreme Court. Speakers and others are available by zoom and telephone. To arrange interviews, Please contact Jason Wojciechowski - jason@impactcomms.org - 917.544.3820 or Abraham Bonowitz – bonowitz@gmail.com – 561-371-5204.

The Abolitionist Action Committee is an ad-hoc group of individuals committed to highly visible and effective public education for alternatives to the death penalty through nonviolent direct action. Coordination for this event is provided by DeathPenaltyAction.org.

Information online at www.abolition.org, or call 800-973-6548.