

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

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Group Fighting Federal Death Penalty & Former Congresswoman Who Witnessed The Bombing Decry Reinstatement of Death Sentence for Boston Bomber.

Washington, DC - Following the US Supreme Court's reinstatement of the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Death Penalty Action executive director Abraham Bonowitz issued the following statement.

"We remember the victims, but not with more killing. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's death sentence was vacated because his trial judge had failed to exclude jurors who had already concluded that he was guilty. Today's ruling only reaffirms what we already knew after watching thirteen federal executions in the final months of the Trump Administration proceed unimpeded.

"Due process is dead in this country. One of Donald Trump's lasting legacies will be a US Supreme Court that is nothing more than a greased rail to the death chamber. We are grateful that the Biden Administration has put a halt to federal executions and we will redouble our work to put Rep. Ayanna Pressley & Senator Dick Durbin's Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act on the desk of the President for his signature."

Former US Congresswoman & current Ohio Representative Jean Schmidt, a leading "pro-life" Republican, renewed her call for abolition of the death penalty. Schmidt witnessed the bombing and for many years was an advocate of the death penalty. She has reversed that position and is a sponsor of legislation pending in Ohio to abolish that state's death penalty.

"I stood at the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15, 2013 after completing the race to wait for my sister. I witnessed the bombing. I also witnessed the injured being carried into the medical tent. The visions haunt me today. I was initially thrilled that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev received the death penalty. Today I have changed. I believe he deserves life in prison without parole, and I am disturbed that the US Supreme Court has reinstated his death sentence."

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