



For Immediate Release
October 7, 2022

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**Family of Rodney Reed to Attend Prayer Rally
Prior to US Supreme Court Argument
(Events set at University of Maryland, American University Washington College of
Law, Howard University School of Law.)**

Washington, DC - Texas death row prisoner Rodney Reed's mother, brother and other family members will join Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and other DC-based faith leaders and supporters for a prayer rally organized by Death Penalty Action on the sidewalk in front of the U.S. Supreme Court prior to attending arguments in **Rodney Reed v. Bryan Goertz (DA of Bastrop County, TX), a case which could disproportionately impact African Americans facing execution in the United States.** The Prayer Rally is set for 8:30am on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 on the sidewalk in front of the United States Supreme Court.

The question in the case is not about evidence, but the technicality of timing in filing appeals. Reed, who is represented by the Innocence Project, is arguing to be allowed to move forward with an appeal seeking DNA testing of crime scene evidence, however the state asserts that Reed has missed the deadline to file such a motion. If the US Supreme Court rules against Reed, the State of Texas may move forward to execute him regardless of many issues raising doubts about Reed's guilt, and pointing to the confession of an alternative viable suspect in the case. An explanation of the legal issues in the case is [here](#).

If the Supreme Court decides against Reed, the decision will also disproportionately impact Black defendants on death row. According to a [new report](#) by the National Registry of Exonerations, **“fifty-five percent of all defendants exonerated for murder are Black people (628/1,167), who make up 13.6% of the population of the United States.”**

Reed family members present will be Rodney Reed's mother, Sandra Reed, his brother, Rodrick Reed, Sister-in-law, Wana Akpan, nephew, RJ Reed, and niece, Brittany Reed.

Events set at University of Maryland, American University Washington College of Law, and Howard University School of Law.

The Reed family will be joined by family friend Charles Keith, Impacted Communities Liaison for Death Penalty Action and brother of former Ohio death row prisoner Kevin Keith. **Kevin Keith is the subject of Kim Kardashian's just-released criminal justice podcast, "The System," which tells the story of Kevin Keith's wrongful conviction and near execution.** Kevin Keith was 13 days from execution when his sentence was commuted to life without parole. He has always asserted his innocence, which has been a driving motivation for his brother Charles Keith to investigate the case and find much of the evidence cited in Kardashian's podcast. In just five days since its release on Monday, October 3, 2022 (International Wrongful Conviction Day), the hugely popular podcast has risen to be #2 on the list of top podcasts in the United States.

Reed family members will be available to speak with the media following the argument on the sidewalk in front of the US Supreme Court.

Rodrick Reed and Charles Keith, along with Death Penalty Action Executive Director, Abraham Bonowitz, will be speaking in presentations at the University of Maryland at 2pm on Monday, October 10 (World Day Against the Death Penalty), at American University Washington College of Law at 3pm, and Howard University School of Law at 6pm on Tuesday, October 11. Advance interviews may be arranged by contacting Abraham Bonowitz at 561-371-5204.

Additional information is at bit.ly/RRInnocent and bit.ly/BringKevinHome.

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