

# DEATH PENALTY ACTION

Advisory for Friday, May 19, 2023 at 2pm CDT

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## **Family of Rodney Reed to Demand Justice After 25 Years of Wrongful Incarceration on Death Row**

Austin, TX - Texas death row prisoner Rodney Reed's mother, brother and other family members will rally with supporters in front of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 201 W. 14th St in Austin, Texas at 2pm CDT on [Friday, May 19, 2023](#). Calling for a new and fair trial during which all evidence developed in the case may be presented in court, the rally will culminate two days of action in support of Reed, and follows a "social media storm" on [Thursday, May 18, 2023](#), the 25th anniversary of the day that Reed was wrongly sentenced to death for the 1996 murder of Stacey Stites in Bastrop County, Texas. Reed was sentenced to death on May 18, 1998 following an unfair trial.

The two days of action for Rodney Reed come shortly after the April 19, 2023 US Supreme Court ruling in favor of Reed, allowing him to seek DNA testing which could disprove the state's theory in the case. Legal efforts seeking that DNA testing may now continue.

Additionally, Reed is still awaiting a decision by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals following a [two week evidentiary hearing](#) held in Bastrop County in 2021, examining whether newly developed evidence warrants a new trial. On November 15, 2019, just days prior to Reed's scheduled execution, the Texas Parole Board denied a recommendation of clemency and at the same time recommended that Governor Abbott grant a 120 day reprieve that Reed's attorneys had requested in order to pursue newly developed evidence of innocence. A short time later, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued a stay and sent the case back to the trial court. That hearing was held over two weeks in July, 2021 with closing arguments heard on October 18, 2021. Just weeks later, the judge in Reed's evidentiary hearing recommended against giving Reed a new and fair trial. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is not beholden to that recommendation. A decision as to whether to grant a new trial, or maintain Reed's conviction and sentence could come at any time.

Reed family members present will include Rodney Reed's mother, Sandra Reed, his brother, Rodrick Reed, Sister-in-law, Wana Akpan and others. The *Two Days of Action for Rodney Reed* is initiated by the Reed family and supported by numerous individuals and organizations, including We Demand Justice: Free Rodney Reed, Death Penalty Action, Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement, Texas Moratorium Network, Austin Abolitionists, and others.

Follow the "social media storm" on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, etc., using the Hashtag [#FreeRodneyReed](#)

Additional information is at [bit.ly/RRInnocent](https://bit.ly/RRInnocent) and at [The Innocence Project](#).

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