

DEATH PENALTY ACTION

For Immediate Release

Contact: Blair FitzGibbon, 202-503-5141

World Day Against the Death Penalty Marred by Possible Texas Execution of Mentally Ill Jewish Man

Death Penalty Action to host [live, hybrid Virtual Vigil](#) to bring together death penalty opponents from across the world in opposition to executions.

Austin, TX - The 21st Annual [World Day Against the Death Penalty](#) takes place with a new report about the torture related to capital punishment and events worldwide on October 10, 2023. The day may be marred by the possible execution of a mentally ill Jewish man in Texas. Jedidiah Murphy is scheduled to be executed at 6pm CDT on Tuesday, 2023.

Litigation is still pending in the case regarding issues of unfairness and malfeasance by police and prosecutors, who falsely misled the jury regarding future dangerousness by suggesting that Murphy had been involved in other crimes. Murphy is also raising multiple concerns about the abuse and neglect he experienced as a youth, which are spelled out on his web page at www.SaveJedidiahMurphy.org. Clemency is exceptionally rare in Texas, where 577 executions have been carried out since 1982. A recommendation for Executive clemency in this case was denied on Friday by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. Clemency has been recommended only five times and granted in only three of nearly 600 cases in Texas.

"Death Penalty Action opposes executions in all cases," said Abraham Bonowitz, executive director of the US-based organization. "Jedediah Murphy's case highlights how easy it is for troubled and mentally ill youth to fall through the cracks of our foster care system. The common thread among most prisoners facing execution in the United States is the abuse, neglect and addiction they have suffered in their youth. We hope this can be another wake-up call to policy makers that we must improve the social safety nets that could have prevented this murder from happening in the first place."

If the execution is not halted, Death Penalty Action will host a [live, hybrid Virtual Vigil](#) to bring together death penalty opponents from across the world in opposition to executions. The vigil will include speakers and clergy who know Jedidiah personally, and will feature a live feed from protests outside the prison where the execution takes place, in Huntsville, Texas.

[Death Penalty Action's web page](#) features petitions opposing upcoming executions in the United States, letter writing tools for people to send messages to their Members of Congress in support of the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act, and much more.

Reporters covering World Day Against the Death Penalty are invited to contact Blair Fitzgibbon at 202-503-5141 to be connected to leading spokespersons with “voices of experience on the death penalty” as murder victim family members, death row family members, exonerated death row survivors, former executioners and other experts on the issue.

###