

MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release
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Contact: Brandi Slaughter
brandi@deathpenaltyaction.org
380-799-4630

Anti-Death Penalty Vigil Continues at the U.S. Supreme Court for its 28th Year: Saying NO to electrocutions, firing squads and lethal injections

- WHEN:** Daily vigils from June 29 to July 2. Gathering times are 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, and 4:00 to 6:00 pm each day, with an execution vigil at 6:00 pm on June 30 to mark Texas's execution that evening.
- WHAT:** An extensive speaker's program, public vigil, and four day liquid-only fast to mark the anniversaries of the historic 1972 Furman and 1976 Gregg Supreme Court decisions on the death penalty.
- WHO:** Exonerated death row prisoners, murder victim family members, dozens of anti-death penalty activists from around the country, clergy, scholars and leaders of state and national anti-death penalty organizations.
- WHERE:** On the sidewalk in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC

Please see full schedule and details at <http://www.abolition.org/fastandvigil/schedule.html>.

Event background:

This year, June 29, 2021 marks the 49th 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 45th anniversary of the 1976 Gregg decision, which upheld new state death penalty laws and allowed the resumption of executions.

This is the 28th 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 across the United States and beyond.

Please note that due to the pandemic, last year's vigil was almost entirely virtual, and this year it will continue to be virtual, with the added component of a limited physical presence on the sidewalk in front of the US Supreme Court. Speakers and others are available by zoom and telephone. **Please contact Brandi Slaughter at 380-799-4630 to arrange interviews.**

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.

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

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