



August 22nd, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Terry Benedict and his documentary project about the case of Troy Davis. The Artists for Amnesty program has been a long time supporter of this project, and plans to continue to facilitate further outreach and promotion, both in the development and distribution of the film.

The Artists for Amnesty program has a long history of building educational and public awareness campaigns around media and film projects, including *Hotel Rwanda*, *Blood Diamond*, and *Standard Operating Procedure*. Moreover, the case of Troy Davis is of central importance to Amnesty International's Death Penalty campaign. This film will be used as both an educational tool, but also hopefully to help us save a man's life. You may already be aware of the case of Troy Anthony Davis. Davis was accused of a 1989 murder of a white police officer in Savannah. No physical evidence or murder weapon links him to the crime. After his initial trial, seven of the nine witnesses have recanted or changed their story. Additionally, another man has been implicated as the actual murderer in sworn affidavits by nine people. No court has been willing to order an evidentiary hearing or retrial despite this compelling case for innocence. Last year he came within 23 hours of being executed before the State Board of Pardons and Paroles intervened.

Amnesty International adopted his case and has been campaigning very strongly to prevent his execution and to demand that the evidence be heard so that the state of Georgia does not commit an irreversible human rights violation – executing a man who may well be innocent. Last year, the Pope, Bob Barr and former FBI Director, William Sessions, endorsed our campaign for clemency in addition to the more usual voices for human rights. And this year, the NAACP of Georgia passed a resolution at their national convention endorsing the campaign for Davis and have been working closely with us.

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Amnesty International is a worldwide grassroots movement that promotes and defends human rights.

Davis has filed a certiorari petition with the US Supreme Court this month. The court will likely decide whether to take the case in early October. If they turn him down, Georgia can issue an execution warrant and set an execution date in October. Then, Davis's fate is again to be determined by the Parole Board.

This case, and the film that will be made about it, is not just emblematic of the criminality of the death penalty, but more so of the problems with our justice system. Troy wants this movie to be made more than anyone, so that it might help prevent the same thing from happening to someone else.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at LNoyce@aiusa.org, or (310) 815-0450.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lucia Noyce
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