

The United States and The Death Penalty
By Kameron Daly

Too many people have died by execution legally. A lot of executions have a lot to do with the unjust and racially biased system that puts a lot of people on death row. The death penalty should not be used as punishment because there are other ways to punish people, and its use as a deterrent is proven not to work. The death penalty alone is very brutal, but it's even crazier that innocent people are being put on death row. Further, the methods they use putting them to death are absurd and cruel; these methods are: electrocution, lethal injection, lethal gas, firing squad, and hanging. The death penalty is wrong and should be abolished.

According to Death Penalty Info Center (DPIC), there have been 2,369 people convicted and placed on death row in the United States. 1,335 people executed by lethal injection, 162 people executed by the electric chair, 11 executed in the gas chamber, 3 hangings, and 3 executed by the firing squad. People like Walter McMillan and Anthony Ray Hinton were wrongfully convicted and put on death row, and waited to die by one of these methods. Both the movie and book "Just Mercy" were created to raise awareness about innocent people put on death row and the heroes that try to help them like Brian Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson is a lawyer who reviews death row cases and many of his clients have been exonerated. According to the Texas Coalition to Abolish The Death Penalty (TCADP), since 1982, 567 people have been executed in Texas alone. That is *a lot* of people, especially when the Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences determined that at least 4% of people on death row are likely innocent. The United States is therefore killing innocent people! If more people understood the problem of wrongful execution fewer people would die and more lawyers could put money into the cases. Even better would be to get rid of this savage practice all together.

Rodney Reed is innocent man placed on death row and people thought he should be freed, so a petition was made and approximately 1.5 million people signed. I was one of the people that signed, and it felt good. Since then, his execution date has been removed and hasn't been reinstated. So, when you get that next petition someone wants you to sign, sign it; one by one our signatures made a difference up to 1.5 million people who cared to step up to protect Rodney Reed.

Sites Coured:<https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/pdf/FactSheet.fl580394413.pdf>
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