


REPRIVE
UPDATE MAR 06

***Hit play the exonerated comes to London's
Riverside theatre***

REPRIVE to host gala fundraising evening

Imagine everything you did between the years of 1976 and 1992. Now remove all of it.

Those 16 years were taken away from Sunny Jacobs, convicted and sentenced to death for a crime she did not commit. As **REPRIVE** supporters will know, her story is not unique.

Writers Jessica Blank and Eric Jensen have brought the real stories of 6 Death Row survivors into the public arena with their hit play, *The Exonerated*. The play was a sensation in New York, playing at the downtown radical off-Broadway theatre The Culture Project for nearly two years.

***'One of the most
extraordinary events
I have ever seen.'***

US Attorney General, Janet Reno

The Exonerated made its UK debut at the Edinburgh Festival last

Summer, collecting a shelf-full of awards, including the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award, which was accepted at a moving ceremony by Sunny Jacobs herself.

The Exonerated will play for four months at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith.

REPRIVE will be hosting a week of after show talks and also a Gala fundraising evening where Clive Stafford Smith will be speaking. We hope to see all of you there on the Gala night of 4 May 2006. Please call the Riverside Studio's box office and ask for tickets for the Reprive Gala night tickets on 020 7353 4640 for further information.

The play brings to light the real stories, told in their own words, of six very ordinary people caught up in a nightmare in the criminal justice system.

GUANTÁNAMO GATHERING

In November 2005 **REPRIEVE** and Amnesty International co-hosted the biggest ever gathering of former Guantánamo Bay detainees at a conference to highlight a globalised network of torture and ill-treatment. Survivors of torture spoke at the conference and for some it was the first time they had seen each other since their release. For two of them, it was the first time they had met, even though they had been held in neighbouring cages in Guantánamo Bay.

Eight UK nationals spoke of how they ended up in Guantánamo Bay and the horrors they endured. Contrary to President Bush's assertion that the USA does not torture people we heard former Guantánamo Bay detainee Moazzam Begg declare "torture does happen, it continues to happen, and it destroys lives." Moazzam and the other former

detainees spoke of being shackled in painful positions, their fear and exhaustion, the lack of medical care, the beatings and broken bones. They talked of absence of the rule of law and being told on arrival, "You have no rights to make a phone call, to see a lawyer, to do anything except what we tell you."

We heard the tearful and heartbreaking stories of the families of the British residents who are still imprisoned there. Wives, mothers, brothers and fathers spoke of their loved ones. Children read out letters they had written to their fathers. Their testimony highlighted the human consequences of the British government's failure to take responsibility for these people, because technically they are not British "citizens."



Bottom right: Claudio Cordone, Irene Khan, Clive Stafford Smith and Moazzam Begg at the Conference

SPONSORS

Carol Service at St. Brides

REPRIEVE ended 2005 with a wonderful carol service at St. Bride's Church, hosted by Luther Pendragon, the PR company that has provided pro bono support to **REPRIEVE**, and made **REPRIEVE** its chosen charity for the service. The event raised nearly £3,000 for **REPRIEVE**'s work and was attended by **REPRIEVE** supporters, journalists and their families from all over the country.

Shakespeare's Globe take on REPRIEVE



REPRIEVE has been chosen as the 2006 charity partner of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the South Bank in London. This year's Globe season explores the nature of the Roman Empire, and includes the plays *Coriolanus*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *Titus Andronicus* and *Comedy of Errors*. **REPRIEVE** is working with the Globe to develop some events for the season, which will include an evening in aid of **REPRIEVE** at the theatre on 5 June 2006, so save the date!

STANDING UP AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY WITH A STANDING ORDER

In 2006, **REPRIEVE** is asking its supporters to make their contributions to **REPRIEVE**'s work by Banker's Order or Standing Order. Receiving regular donations enables **REPRIEVE** to know its income in advance and more effectively plan its work, and also reduces the paperwork involved in processing donations. Please support **REPRIEVE**'s frontline work on behalf of people facing the death penalty by asking your bank to set up a regular donation. All you have to do is fill in the form below and send it to: Annabel Harris, **REPRIEVE**, PO Box 52742, London, EC4P 4WS.

ACT NOW!

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- We would like to send you our newsletter and updates on our projects, campaigning and fundraising. If you don't want to receive this information by mail, please tick this box.
- We may occasionally send our members information about organisations who have similar aims. If you do not want to receive this information, please tick this box.
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If you would like e-mail updates on our projects, campaigning and fundraising, please give us your e-mail address. You can cancel these updates at any time.

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Our patrons:

Alan Bennett, Sir John Mortimer, Marina Warner and Charles Wheeler

thank you for your support

Stanley Tookie Williams is executed in California on 13 December 2005 after 24 years on death row

REPRIEVE condemned the execution of Stanley Tookie Williams in San Quentin State Prison, California. Sentenced to death in 1981 for four Los Angeles murders, Williams always maintained his innocence, claiming he was framed by witnesses who lied in exchange for leniency in their own cases; a faulty ballistics test; and by the prosecutor who removed all the African-Americans from the jury and told jurors that seeing Williams in court was like observing a Bengal tiger in a zoo. Williams, who was 51 years old at the time of his execution, spent nearly half his life on Death Row. He was the 12th person to be executed in California since the state resumed executions in 1992.

His case sparked great national and international attention, and became a focus of contention between those advocating punishment and those who believe in redemption. For some, Stanley Tookie Williams was a man who had turned his life around in prison through his anti-gang writings from Death Row. He wrote a series of books for children called "Tookie Speaks Out Against Gang Violence," and maintained

that he was a changed man and of value to society, a view which was corroborated by individual testimonies from youths saying he had transformed their lives.

Although all his appeals were rejected, federal judges described the evidence against him as less than airtight, and a three-judge federal panel said he might be a worthy candidate for clemency. However, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger denied clemency saying: "Without an apology and atonement for these senseless and brutal killings, there can be no redemption. In this case, the one thing that would be the clearest indication of complete remorse and full redemption is the one thing Williams will not do."

REPRIEVE's Legal Director Clive Stafford Smith said: "Stanley Tookie Williams is certainly not the same person he was when he was sentenced to death in 1981. I feel profoundly uneasy with the notion that someone who has always insisted on his innocence has to concede his guilt in order to be considered for clemency by Governor Schwarzenegger."

ADVOCACY

Appointment of two new Reprive Fellows

REPRIEVE is excited to start the year with the announcement that two more young opponents of the death penalty have been selected to work full time in the Southern United States on the frontline of human rights abuse, fighting for the lives of prisoners facing the death penalty.

The 2006 **REPRIEVE** Fellows are Alma Lagarda and Terrica Redfield, both from the United States.

Terrica Redfield is a 2002 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law. While a law student, Terrica interned with the Virginia Capital Representation Resource Center where she was confronted by the injustice inherent in the U.S. system of capital punishment. As an African American and native Mississippian, she was particularly struck by the ways racism affected such life and death decisions, especially in the southern United States. Ter-

rica will use her one-year **REPRIEVE** fellowship to provide direct representation to people facing the death penalty at trial, on appeal, and in the post-conviction review process in the state of Alabama, providing assistance to trial counsel in Alabama, and working to ensure that capital juries in Alabama are more inclusive of minorities.



Terrica Redfield

Alma Lagarda graduated from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley

in 2005, where she was a member of Boalt Hall's Death Penalty Clinic and served as Co-Editor in Chief of the Berkeley La Raza Law Journal. In the summer of 2003, Alma interned at Texas Defender Service through the University of San Francisco's Keta Taylor Colby Death Penalty Project, where her work included developing mitigating evidence on behalf of prisoners with mental disabilities. Alma returns to Texas Defender Service as a two-year **REPRIEVE** Fellow. Her project aims to stem executions in Texas by screening new arrivals on Texas' death row in order to identify cases with winnable issues. The project will serve the 20 to 30 men and women who arrive on Texas' death row each year.

Meanwhile in London, the **REPRIEVE** staff are looking for sponsorship for the Fellowship



Alma Lagarda

Programme for next year. Each fellow costs £20,000 per year to support. If you, your company, foundation, church or school are interested in sponsoring a **REPRIEVE** Fellow, in whole or in part, please e-mail Annabel Harris at annabel@reprieve.org.uk, or call her on 020 7353 4640.

CASEWORK

US Supreme Court uses technicality to put Kenny Richey back on death row

REPRIEVE was dismayed at the news in November that the United States Supreme Court had put British national Kenny Richey back on death row. Kenny Richey was sentenced to death in 1987 for allegedly starting a fire in which a young girl died, and has now been on death row for 18 years. However, in January of this year, the US Court of Appeal for the sixth Circuit overturned his conviction citing several reasons including "incompetent" work done by his original lawyer.

Despite his conviction being overturned in January, Kenny has remained on death row ever since, as the prosecution continued to appeal the case. The latest decision, however, means that a retrial is even further away, and he still faces the real possibility of execution.

Fourth anniversary of the opening of prison at Guantánamo Bay

11 January 2006 marked the fourth anniversary of the arrival of prisoners at Guantánamo Bay. 500 men remain imprisoned there. Fewer than two percent (only nine) have been charged with a 'crime', and those charges will be resolved by a military commission – what Lord Steyn referred to as a 'kangaroo court'. Not a single man has received a trial.

Well over 100 prisoners are currently on a hunger strike, protesting their continued imprisonment without trial. More than 32 of those men are being forced, a tube involuntarily snaked through the nose, down the throat all the way down to the stomach, and left there sometimes for days on end.

The United States military has declared that these men can be held for the rest of their lives, without trial, without any means to challenge their imprisonment. The U.S. Congress has just passed the Detainee Treatment Act, declaring that the men cannot access the courts, even if they are tortured. The same law permits the U.S. to use evidence gleaned from torture when deciding whether to continue to hold the men.

NEW ORLEANS

Emily Bolton, REPRIEVE Programmes Associate, visited New Orleans over the New Year and reports back on the state of 636 Baronne Street

I returned to New Orleans in late December to find the Justice Centre still standing, in all its green and puce glory. The organizations in the building (Louisiana Capital Assistance Centre, Capital Appeals Project, A Fighting Chance, Innocence Project New Orleans and Reprieve USA) have all returned from temporary offices elsewhere, and have been able to pick up where they left off, thanks to the support of the hundreds of people who made donations to the Justice Centre Appeal in the wake of the storm. The building sustained some roof and window damage, but the precious case files are secure.

Just as I arrived, a crew of volunteers from law schools around the country were descending on the building to help out with the recovery effort. Those working for the Louisiana Capital Assistance Centre (LCAC) were collecting and processing data on the situation at Orleans Parish Prison, the local jail that holds remand prisoners and those with short sentences. These prisoners were not evacuated prior to the storm and many stood in water up to their necks for days before being rescued and evacuated to other facilities. Hundreds of these pre-trial and misdemeanour prisoners who should have been released in the weeks immediately following the storm were still incarcerated in jails all over the state, as for months there were no Orleans courts in session that could order their release. The staff at the Justice Centre have been central to the efforts to get these people out of prison.

The students assigned to Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO) were working on the backlog of applications that had arrived from prisoners in the last 5 months since the storm, looking for those worthy of further investigation and assuring pris-

oners that IPNO had survived and would continue to work on its cases. Many IPNO clients have been devastated by the news that the evidence in their cases has been damaged by flooding in the Orleans courthouse basement or destroyed in the “clean up,” including evidence where DNA testing could have been used to achieve exonerations.

Amongst all the American volunteers you could hear the odd Australian and English accent. The apparently indomitable



New Orleans Courthouse

REPRIEVE volunteers are back in their placements, at LCAC and A Fighting Chance. **REPRIEVE** Volunteer Clemmie Harrison is launching a new project at LCAC to bring humanitarian assistance to men and women on death row. It has been said that if you can't get your client a blanket to keep him warm in his cold cell, how is he supposed to trust you with his life and death case? Clemmie is taking this maxim to heart, and is developing a programme to ensure basic humanitarian needs are met. This includes facilitating family visits by having **REPRIEVE** volunteers drive family members to the prison, or advocating for medical attention for clients whose health problems are not being adequately addressed by the prison authorities.

The world now knows what New Orleans was. The poverty, racism and injustice that defined the city for those who chose to look beneath the mardi gras masque have been exposed for all to see. The question is what is going to happen next? In the midst of mud and devastation, it is possible to see a clean slate for criminal justice reform, and it is clear that at the Justice Centre, **REPRIEVE** volunteers and supporters will be playing a critical role in that process.

DEATH PENALTY NEWS DIGEST

Executions in the USA

18 November 2005	Elias Hanna Syriani (67)	North Carolina
28 November 2005	Eric Rendall Nance (45)	Arkansas
29 November 2005	John R. Hicks (49)	Oklahoma
02 December 2005	Kenneth Lee Boyd (57)	North Carolina
02 December 2005	Shawn Humphries (33)	South Carolina
06 December 2005	Wesley E. Baker (47)	Maryland
13 December 2005	Stanly Tookie Williams (51)	California
14 December 2005	John Nixon (77)	Mississippi
17 January 2006	Clarence Ray Allen (76)	California
20 January 2006	Perrie Simpson (43)	North Carolina
25 January 2006	Marion Dudley (33)	Texas
27 January 2006	Marvin Bieghler (58)	Indiana
31 January 2006	Jaime Elizade (34)	Texas

Stays have been granted for Julius Murphy in Texas, John Spirko in Oklahoma, Clarence Edward Hill and Arthur Rutherford in Florida, Michael Taylor in Missouri, and Gregory Thompson in Tennessee.

In Virginia, the exoneration of two inmates through DNA testing has prompted the Governor to call a review of thousands of cases from 1973 to 1988 where DNA evidence can be tested with more modern DNA methods.

In Texas, it has been held that a man facing execution who is mentally retarded cannot raise an appeal in federal courts because his lawyer missed the filing deadline. Marvin Lee Wilson has an IQ of just 61.

In California, Clarence Ray Allen was executed despite disabilities confining him to a wheel chair. Allen was suffering from chronic diabetes, virtual blindness and heart disease and was aged 76. He was the first person to be executed in 2006.

In Tennessee, courts are deciding whether a man with schizophrenia and a diagnosed bipolar is sane enough to be executed. Ironically, the cocktail of drugs being given to death row prisoner Greg Thompson are helping him so much that they are masking the mental illness that caused him to commit the crime in the first place.

In Thailand, two men convicted of the murder of Katherine Horton have been sentenced to death despite protestations from the British girl's family that they had not wanted the death penalty in this case. Meanwhile in Florida the family of a murdered

girl that spent 22 years trying to save the life of death row inmate James Floyd have succeeded in getting his sentence reduced to life imprisonment after Floyd pled guilty at a new trial.

On 16 December 2005 Kenneth Boyd was executed by lethal injection in North Carolina, the 1,000th execution in the U.S. since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. His attorney Thomas Maher said, "The execution of Kenneth Boyd has not made this a better or safer world. If this 1,000th execution is a milestone, it's a milestone we should all be ashamed of."

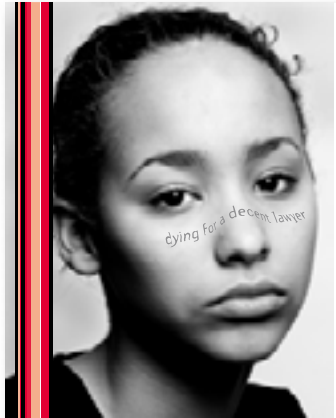
A number of states, including Kentucky and California, are challenging the legality of lethal injection under the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. The drug Pavulon or pancuronium bromide – a component of the lethal injection - is being scrutinised. The drug paralyses muscles, masking from observers the pain experienced during execution. In Florida a stay of execution was granted to Clarence Hill on 24 January, minutes before his scheduled execution, to hear his challenge to the lethal injection process. The U.S. Supreme Court has granted certiorari to hear the matter.

New Jersey has decided to suspend executions for one year while a task force studies the fairness and costs of imposing the death penalty. The moratorium will remain in place until 15 January 2007. It is the third state to suspend executions since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, and the first state to pass a death penalty moratorium into law through legislation.



CARDS

We have printed a set of fundraising cards. If you have an event going on and you would like to give some of these out – please do get in touch and we would be delighted to send supplies.



They call you a murderer. You are innocent, but no-one believes you. You are going to be executed, but you are not sure when. Reprieve may be your only hope. We trace the witnesses, find the evidence, stand up in court, publish the facts and fight for justice – around the globe.

123 people have been released from death row on the basis of evidence of their innocence, in the USA alone. Yet still the death penalty is used in 74 countries around the world.

REPRIEVE works on individual cases to save lives. We trace the witnesses, find the evidence, stand up in court, publish the facts and fight for justice – around the globe.

REPRIEVE saves lives. Will you help?

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Telephone: _____ Postcode: _____
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Please pay **REPRIEVE** £30 per month / £20 per month / £ _____ per month / a one off payment of £ _____ (over 2000 = 2000.00) starting on: ___ / ___ / 20___ and debit my account no: _____

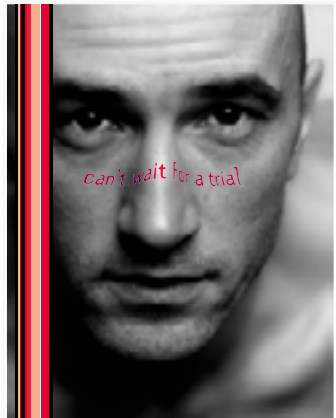
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REPRIEVE IS THE 2006 CHARITY PARTNER FOR SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



You live in a steel cage in Guantánamo Bay. Your family don't know where you are. No-one will tell you what the charges are against you, or even whether you will ever get a trial. **REPRIEVE** may be your only hope. We trace the witnesses, find the evidence, stand up in court, publish the facts and fight for justice – around the globe.

In Guantánamo Bay, 757 people have been held without access to courts and in violation of international law. 187 have been released without charge, most after years of imprisonment.

REPRIEVE pursues fair trials for individual prisoners in Guantánamo Bay and exposes the facts about secret prisons around the globe.

REPRIEVE fights for justice. Will you help?

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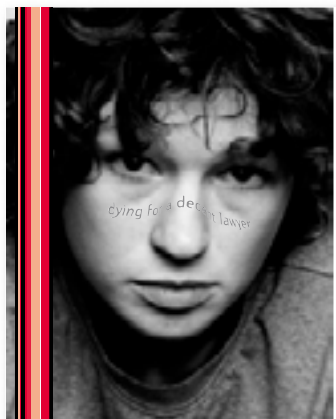
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You are on death row. Your lawyer slept through your trial. He never told the jury that you are mentally ill. You don't understand what is going on or when you might die. **REPRIEVE** may be your only hope. We trace the witnesses, find the evidence, stand up in court, publish the facts and fight for justice – around the globe.

Most people on death row had incompetent lawyers... they couldn't afford anyone better. Whether innocent or guilty, everyone deserves decent representation – it's only fair.

REPRIEVE works on individual cases to save lives. We trace the witnesses, find the evidence, stand up in court, publish the facts and fight for justice – around the globe.

REPRIEVE saves lives. Will you help?

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