

ARTICLE 3

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

- Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948



Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights

Newsletter 4 • Spring/Summer 2007

Instead of the Death Penalty: Focus on Unsolved Murders

"We want to know what happened, and we want to be able to direct our anger at the person who is responsible."

Howard Morton is explaining how an unsolved murder case prevents a victim's family from getting the information they so desperately crave, and deprives them of the chance to see the responsible person held accountable for the crime.

Howard and Virginia Morton's 18-year-old son Guy was murdered in 1975, but his murder remains unsolved more than thirty years later. As Executive Director of the Colorado non-profit organization Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons (FOHVAMP), Howard has been working for the past four years to draw attention to the problem of unsolved or "cold" homicide cases in that state. With the research help of University of Colorado professor Michael Radelet and his students, the group has determined that Colorado has a backlog of at least 1,200 unsolved homicides since 1970.

FOHVAMP believes that Colorado should be

devoting more of its resources to trying to solve these murders. In February, Howard Morton and twelve other family members of murder victims testified before the state's House Judiciary Committee in support of a bill that would repeal the state's death penalty and use the millions now spent on the capital punishment process to establish a state-level unit devoted to solving cold cases.

Some opponents of the bill who testified that day argued that the choice was a false one: why ask the state to choose between having the death penalty and solving cold cases when the two are not necessarily linked? In one sense, Howard Morton agrees. "It's not a choice I should be asked to make," he explains. "Until we have the right person under arrest, that's my first priority, and the point is that right now we don't have the resources even to do that."

In fact, Howard Morton himself is opposed to the death penalty. "I understand the anger that makes people want to catch the killer themselves,"

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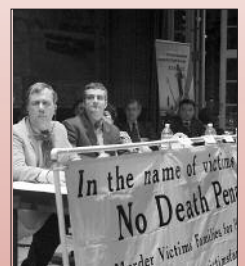
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Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights is an international, non-governmental organization of family members of victims of criminal murder, terrorist killings, state executions, extrajudicial assassinations, and "disappearances" working to oppose the death penalty from a human rights perspective.

Membership is open to all victims' family members who oppose the death penalty in all cases. "Friend of MVFHR" membership is open to all those interested in joining our efforts.

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Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights is a member of the World Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the U.S. Human Rights Network, Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network and the National Organization for Victim Assistance

Article 3

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Instead of the Death Penalty: Focus on Unsolved Murders continued from page 1

he says, "but the basis of our civilization and our legal system is that we don't let our anger rule us." But not all the victims' family members who testified in support of this recent death penalty repeal bill are abolitionists.

Some support the death penalty in principle; some support it under certain circumstances. Given the state's limited financial resources, however, they wanted it to be known that as victims, the solving of cold cases was more important to them than having the death penalty available.

Michael Radelet wrote in an op-ed in the *Rocky Mountain News*, "To be sure, some families of homicide victims support the death penalty, as do many citizens when we hear about the brutal murders that took away their loved ones. But most of the families whose cases remain unsolved are willing to forgo the death penalty in exchange for a renewed commitment to find the killers. After all, the question of how to punish the killer is irrelevant if the killer has not been captured."

In a comment to MVFHR, Michael Radelet added, "The beauty of this bill is that it puts a spotlight on the inherent contradictions of the death penalty. If we want to reduce criminal violence, executing a few killers who will otherwise live in prison cells while so many other killers go free is a bit like crushing ants while being surrounded by wolves. If we take 30 seconds to listen to families of homicide victims as a group, it's obvious to all but those whose ears are clogged with hate that finding the killer is far more important than taking a few scapegoats and sending them to the hereafter."



Howard Morton speaking during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, accompanied by his wife Virginia (at his right) and other victims' family members.

Opposing the Death Penalty Around the U.S.

Making Our Voices Heard in Maryland

After the state Supreme Court placed a moratorium on executions last fall and a repeal bill was introduced into the House and Senate early in the new year, many voices have joined the death penalty debate in Maryland. In February, Governor Martin O'Malley published a piece in the *Washington Post* titled "Why I Oppose the Death Penalty."

During this busy season for death penalty opponents in Maryland, MVFHR members Vicki Schieber and Bonnita Spikes have been working with Maryland Citizens Against State Executions and Equal Justice USA to ensure that the voices of anti-death penalty victims' family members are heard in every venue. They have met with pro-death penalty lawmakers, spoken to numerous church groups, met with the editorial boards of the state's major newspapers, published op-ed pieces, testified at public hearings, and reached out to victims' family members around the state, inviting them to sign on to a letter asking the Maryland General Assembly to vote in favor of abolition. Below are a couple of examples of this message in action.

From the victims' letter to the General Assembly:

We desperately miss the parents, children, siblings, and spouses we have lost. We live with the

pain and heartbreak of their absence every day and would do anything to have them back. We have been touched by the criminal justice system in ways we never imagined and would never wish on anyone. Our experience compels us to speak out for change.

... Though we share different perspectives on the death penalty, every one of us agrees that Maryland's capital punishment system doesn't work for victims' families, and that our state is better off without it.

... Capital punishment drags victims' loved ones through an agonizing and lengthy process, holding out the promise of one punishment in the beginning and often resulting in a life sentence in the end anyway. ...As Maryland taxpayers, we have spent millions of dollars and diverted endless hours of court and law enforcement time since capital punishment was reinstated in Maryland. ... Those resources could be spent in better ways if death-eligible killers were sentenced to life without parole. Maryland could put more police on our streets and provide them with the very best equipment available. Law enforcement programs that work might have prevented the tragedies we suffered at only a fraction of the cost. A legal system that wasn't so bogged down by six men on death row could prosecute and sentence countless other non-death crimes and take dangerous people off the streets before they commit murder.

Dollars saved could mean more counseling and aid to children orphaned by these horrible murders, or other services we so desperately need as we attempt to get on with our lives.



Bonnita Spikes protesting with other members of Maryland Citizens Against State Executions.

From Bonnita Spikes' op-ed in the Baltimore Sun:

It was a moment of understanding that came in the midst of a heated argument among strangers in a courthouse hallway. The couple I was speaking with had likely been to the Maryland Court of Appeals more times than I. Her parents were murdered in their Baltimore home in 1983, and the man convicted of killing them still sits on death row.

That day, the court was hearing an appeal in another death case: Maryland's death penalty was being challenged based on disparities found in a state-commissioned University of Maryland study. The case being heard had implications for all on death row. The couple had waited more than two decades for an execution, and they were angry. The man had no patience for more appeals or for the death

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penalty opponents who had shown up that day.

I was surprised by my own candor. "My husband was murdered," I injected into the conversation that I had thus far only observed, "and I still oppose the death penalty."

His demeanor softened when I told him about my husband's death. He put his hand on my shoulder and said, "You're the only one in this building I will allow to talk to me about this. You can have an opinion. You've been there."

At that moment, I saw room for possibility. I realized I had the power to change people's minds, and I decided to intensify my work for the abolition of capital punishment.

And from a piece in the Gazette titled "Why two mothers back death penalty repeal," by Vicki Schieber and Carolyn Leming:

Our stories are very different, but they are both stories of justice gone wrong. They are stories that convince us the capital punishment system in Maryland and across the country is broken beyond repair.

One of us, Carolyn, almost lost an innocent son - condemned to death for a crime he did not commit. It took 10 long years for the truth to come out and set him free.

The other, Vicki, lost a beautiful daughter - killed in a brutal rape and murder that ripped her away in the prime of her life. The possibility of a death sentence in the case threatened to keep the family in limbo for decades, reliving the crime again and again with every appeal. ...

Testifying in Montana

Murder victims' family members Marietta Jaeger Lane and James "Ziggy" Ziegler were among those testifying in support of the death penalty abolition bill that passed in Montana's Senate earlier this year. The group of anti-death penalty speakers included former Texas District Attorney Sam Millsap, former New Jersey warden Gary Hilton, and David Kaczynski, director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and brother of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski.

From Ziggy Ziegler's testimony before Montana's Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am a retired Yellowstone County Commissioner, and I am presently Chairman of the Montana Catholic Conference. I am the victim of a violent crime. My 78-year-old father was senselessly murdered in a foiled robbery attempt as he sat in his automobile reading his newspaper. He was mortally wounded and left to die as the perpetrators fled to a waiting car. My 76-year-old mother finished her grocery shopping, returned to the parking lot to find an ambulance removing my father's body from the car. ... There are no words adequate to describe the emotions and trauma when one receives the nerve shattering telephone call. There is at first disbelief, then sheer physical emotion of loss, then hatred, then reality.

... In 1978, I was asked to participate in a prison retreat program held at Montana State Prison, a four-day seminar with the inmates. My initial reaction was an adamant "no." Why do I want to go to a prison with all those criminals? I went, went again, and went again

and soon became consumed with compassion when I realized that each opportunity I had to share my testimony with those in confinement affected some who were guilty of a similar crime. Many have never witnessed a victim let alone heard the discourse of what happens to a victim's family or the true consequences of their actions. Some have apologized to me, perhaps for the first time realizing what they have done to others.

From Marietta Jaeger Lane's testimony:

While my family and I were camped at the Missouri River Headwaters Park here in Montana



34 years ago, my 7-year-old daughter, Susie, was kidnapped from our tent during the night. Fifteen months later, the FBI identified and arrested a local man responsible for my child's disappearance and subsequent death. Though the death penalty was applicable in this case, at my request the County Prosecutor offered the alternative sentence, in capital cases, of mandatory life imprisonment without parole. *Only then* did the young man admit to the rape, strangulation death, and dismemberment of my child as well as the deaths of a young woman and two young boys in the same area, but at different times. There was evidence that this man had caused more children's deaths around the state, but the County Prosecutors in *those* instances were insisting on

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the death penalty. The young man would *only* confess to the deaths that occurred in Gallatin County, *where he was being offered life imprisonment*. Clearly, Montana's death penalty had no deterrent value in all those deaths, except to deter confession of guilt.

... Concerning the claim of "justice for the victim's family," to claim that the execution of any offender will be "just retribution" is to insult the immeasurable and irreplaceable worth of the victim. For the state to kill in retaliation for my daughter's death is to violate and profane the goodness, sweetness, and beauty of her life.

Families of the Executed Testify in Washington

James Basden, whose brother Ernest Basden was executed in North Carolina in 2002, testified in support of a bill that would create a death penalty study commission and impose a moratorium on executions in Washington state (where James lives). James told the lawmakers, "Only after my brother was executed did it become a matter of public record that he was represented by a very unqualified attorney. He was poor and had the bad luck of getting assigned one of the worst public defenders you can imagine."

Bill Babbitt traveled to Washington from California to testify, at the same legislative hearing, in support of a bill that would prohibit executions of people with severe mental disorders. Bill told the lawmakers that his brother Manny, who was executed in California in 1999, had been diag-

nosed with paranoid schizophrenia and then, after serving two tours of duty in Vietnam, had also been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. (He was awarded a Purple Heart while in San Quentin.) "People who study war and know the effects of PTSD wrote to the governor asking for clemency for Manny," Bill said.

Putting Victims First in New Mexico

The death penalty repeal bill that passed in New Mexico's House of Representatives earlier this year has the interesting provision that part of the money saved by replacing the death penalty with life without parole should be directed toward services for victims. *Article 3* asked Kathleen MacRae, coordinator of the New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty, how this came about and what the response has been.

"Murder victims' family members have been an integral part of and a driving force behind the campaign to repeal the death penalty here from the very beginning," Kathleen told us. "More and more, the cost of the death penalty has become an issue in New Mexico, and all of a sudden a lightbulb went off and it came together for us: we could combine the issue of cost with our message to put victims first."

Of the three million dollars a year that would be saved by eliminating the death penalty, the bill proposes that about half be redirected toward victims' services (through the already existing Crime Victims Reparation Commission)

and half to law enforcement and violence prevention. Kathleen emphasizes that the message about putting victims first comes through not just in the language of the bill but in death penalty opponents' letters to the editor, opinion pieces, talks with lawmakers, and testimony at hearings.

"The general public obviously supports the concept and the message," Kathleen observes. "When we did a poll in 2004, 65% of the people polled said they supported the death penalty. When we offered the alternative of replacing the death penalty with life without parole, the number of death penalty supporters dropped to 53%. Then we asked about replacing the death penalty with life without parole *and restitution to victims' families*, and 66% of respondents in New Mexico and nationally said that's the alternative they prefer."

The concept of redirecting resources toward victims' families is also appealing to legislators who are undecided about the death penalty. Structuring a death penalty repeal bill in this particular way allows a lawmaker or governor to be pro-victim, and to emphasize support for victims, while supporting an anti-death penalty measure.

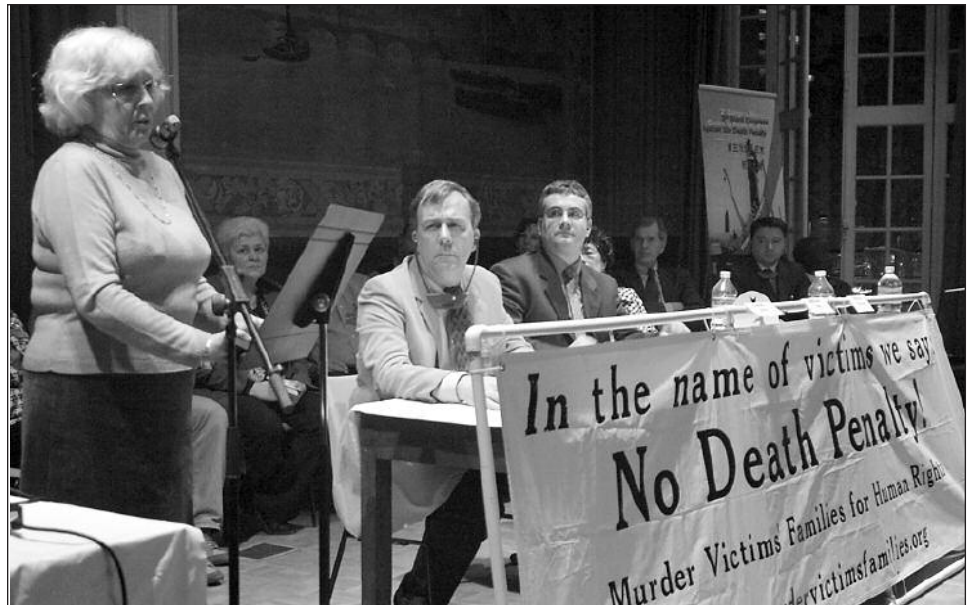
"We are asking, where does the death penalty fit into the state's priorities?" explains Kathleen. "What would you rather spend money on? And the victims involved in our group have put a human face on the priorities our legislators are making."

MVFHR at the Third World Congress to Abolish the Death Penalty

In February, MVFHR members Jeanne Bishop, Renny Cushing, Bill Pelke, Bud Welch, and Tamara Chikunova attended the Third World Congress Against the Death Penalty, where they gave public talks, met with other victims' family members, death penalty abolitionists, and human rights activists from around the globe, gave interviews to members of the Asian, African, and European press, and marched through the streets of Paris with thousands of others calling for a worldwide end to the death penalty.

The conference drew an array of participants from Asia and the Pacific, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. To name just a few interesting examples, the list included human rights lawyers from China, the coordinator of the Death Penalty Project in Kazakhstan, the executive director of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative in Uganda, a representative from Amnesty International Chile, the vice-chair of the human rights commission of Pakistan. Many Members of Parliament and other government officials were in attendance.

At the end of the three-day gathering, the participants released a "Final Declaration of the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty," which included these statements:



Annick Briocheriu, mother of a murder victim, speaks at the "Evening of Witnesses."

"We, citizens and representatives of civil society and public authorities, meeting in even greater number than at the first two World Congresses against the Death Penalty in Strasbourg in 2001 and Montreal in 2004, adopt this Declaration at the conclusion of discussions involving some 30 debates as well as testimonies, analyses and exchanges of experiences and strategies.

... We recognise that the process of abolition must be accompanied by a better consideration of the needs of victims and by an in-depth reflection on penal policy and prison systems, in the framework of an equitable and restorative justice.

We demand with one voice the end throughout the world of justice that kills. No authority has the right to strike out a person's life. We recall that the death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment,

that it is contrary to human rights, that it has no utility in the fight against crime, and that it always represents a failure of justice."

Below is a summary of MVFHR's work at the World Congress.

Victims' Presentations

Bud Welch participated in a panel titled, "Judging Terrorists: The Death Penalty, a Counter-productive Response," along with Francoise Rudetzki, president of the French organization SOS Attentats, which assists victims of terrorism and their families. Mme. Rudetzki and Renny Cushing then moderated a special event called "Evening of Witnesses," which was open to the public and included wrongfully convicted former death row inmates from Japan, Lebanon,

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Francoise Rudetzki

Uganda, and the U.S.; MVFHR member Tamara Chikunova, whose son was executed in Uzbekistan and who founded the group Mothers Against the Death Penalty and Torture; U.S. MVFHR members Bud Welch, whose daughter Julie Marie was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, and Jeanne Bishop, whose sister Nancy and brother-in-law Richard were murdered in Illinois; and two French murder victims' family members: Annick Briocherou, whose daughter Veronique was killed, along with seven others, in a bomb blast in a Paris train station in 1995, and Alain Boulay, whose daughter Delphine was abducted and murdered in 1988.

Alain now serves as president of Aide aux Parents d'Enfants Victimes (APEV), an organization that assists families of murdered or missing children. In his remarks on the panel, he said that prior to his daughter's murder, he had been against the death penalty, and people said to him, "You'd change your opinion if it were your child." Alain told the World Congress audience,

"Now, I can answer them. I have not changed my opinion. I remember that during the defense argument, I thought if the death penalty hadn't been abolished, [the man responsible for Delphine's murder] would certainly have been condemned to death. And I was relieved. If he had been executed, I never could have considered that a victory or an expression of justice. In my deepest being, I have thanked France for having taken the decision to abolish the death penalty ten years beforehand."

Having the opportunity to talk with French victims' family members, both on the public panel and in informal conversations, reminded us once again that no matter what our country or language, family members of murder victims who oppose the death penalty are bound by a common experience and a shared belief. We welcome these French members to MVFHR as we work to build an international network of victims' family members.

Working with Asian anti-death penalty activists

MVFHR members met with representatives from the newly formed Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) to discuss how our organizations can work together. ADPAN, which works in conjunction with Amnesty International's Asia Pacific office,

includes members from Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Singapore, and several of these anti-death penalty leaders are interested in exploring ways to identify and reach out to victims' family members and family members of people who have been executed in their countries, building on the work begun by MVFHR board member Toshi Kazama (see *Article 3*, Spring/Summer 2006).

MVFHR joined ADPAN and, as a first step in collaborating with our allies in Asia, we signed on to a letter that AI and ADPAN sent to Japan's

Minister of Justice calling for an end to executions in that country. That letter includes this statement: "Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty does not in any way distract from the sympathy the organization and others feel towards the victims of violent crime and their loved ones. As an organization dedicated to working for the victims of human rights violations, Amnesty International is fully aware of the suffering caused by violent crimes. We believe that everyone in society should work to lessen violent crime and that all those impacted upon by such appalling acts as murder, rape and other crimes should be supported and helped as they rebuild their lives after suffering such trauma."

At their request, Renny Cushing also met during the



© Photos Pol Bousquet

Alain Boulay

Congress with members of the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty and discussed with them ways to craft a message and a strategy that is both anti-death penalty and pro-victim.

Worldwide attention to families of the executed

Because of the recent release of MVFHR's report, *Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind*, Renny Cushing was asked to deliver a presentation on families of the executed as part of a panel on current issues and campaigns. MVFHR members had several discussions with members of the European Parliament about the idea of holding an international hearing on the subject of the effect of executions on families of the executed, and we are continuing to explore this possibility.

After the Congress, we worked with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty's Steering Committee (of which MVFHR is a member) on a letter to Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, asking that her office conduct a study of family members of executed persons worldwide. The letter read, in part:

"We, the undersigned individuals and human rights organizations associated with the World Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, state as follows:

"We respectfully request that



Third World Congress participants listen to the "Evening of Witnesses," moderated by Renny Cushing and Francoise Rudetzki.

the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR) conduct a study of family members of executed persons, and include the study's findings in the OHCHR's reports to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the United Nations Human Rights Committee. We recommend that the study be undertaken in countries that have not yet abolished the death penalty and in countries that have abolished it but still have surviving family members of people who were executed. We also recommend that, after taking inventory of the resources and support services available to such families, the OHCHR urge passage of laws that recognize family members of the executed as victims of abuse of power who are entitled to support and reparation.

"At the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in Paris, France in early February 2007, delegates considered the harm that the death penalty causes by creating more victims. The delegates learned that Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights has taken an initial look at the issue by interviewing a small group of family members of the executed in the U.S. and publishing its findings in the report *Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind*. We, the undersigned, believe the impact of the death penalty on families of the executed is an issue of sufficient concern to the international human rights community that it merits a more comprehensive study worldwide."

"No Silence, No Shame" Project Update

On December 10 (International Human Rights Day), MVFHR released a groundbreaking new report called *Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind*. The report draws upon the stories of three dozen family members of people executed in the United States and demonstrates that their experiences and traumatic symptoms resemble those of others who have suffered a violent loss.

We are grateful to all the colleague organizations that helped publicize and disseminate the report. The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the ACLU Capital Punishment Project sent copies to their state affiliates, and Amnesty International USA sent copies to its state regional coordinators and to all the participants in its annual Weekend of Faith in Action. Many state groups posted online summaries of the report, and during the holiday season the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty ran a special 10-part series in its Abolish the Death Penalty blog (www.deathpenaltyusa.blogspot.com). David Elliot, who came up with the idea for the series and worked with us to adapt the stories from the report, told us that several other blogs took notice of the series and helped to draw attention to it.

The report's release also led to several media stories about families of the executed. An Associated

Press story was picked up by many newspapers, including *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The International Herald Tribune*, and a story from the International Press Service's United Nations bureau ran in both English and Spanish. As well, an Air America radio show did a segment on the subject; you can find a link to that audio clip at MVFHR's website.

As part of the ongoing work of the "No Silence, No Shame" project, we continue to distribute the report to mental health professionals, attorneys, victims' advocates, child welfare professionals, and others who might benefit from reading it. We have already heard of several interesting uses of the material: it was cited as part of a clemency appeal for a capital defendant, for example, and used as part of a discussion among people who work with children of prisoners.

In the coming months, we are preparing to deliver presentations on the subject of families of the executed at the American Society of Victimology conference, the Third International Women's Peace conference, and gatherings of child welfare professionals and trauma specialists. We are also working with our international allies to broaden the scope of the "No Silence, No Shame" project (see p. 8).

From "Executions Create Generations of Victims," by Mithre Sandrasaga of the International Press Service:

"State executions leave such children confused and traumatised – and entire families, too. Some are so affected that they are driven to the brink of insanity, a groundbreaking report entitled *Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families left Behind* graphically illustrates. ... MVFHR's report concludes that the needs of the families of the executed have not just been ignored, they have never been truly comprehended."

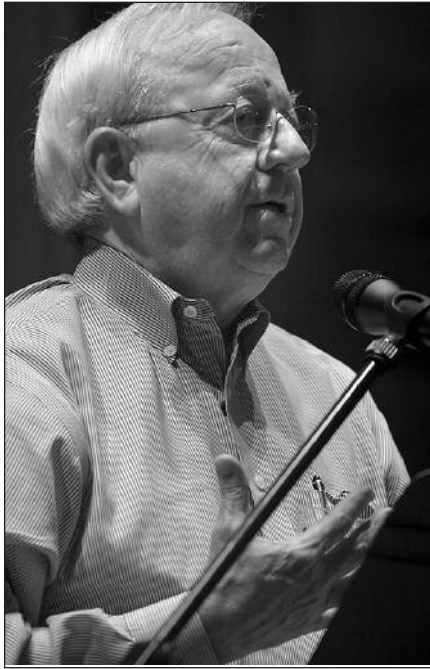
From "Families of the Condemned Often Suffer Silently," by Kristen Gelineau of the Associated Press:

"In the contentious death penalty debate, they are a group that usually goes overlooked. Family members of the condemned haven't committed the crimes that landed their loved ones on death row. But they often feel punished anyway, by a society that sometimes shuns and vilifies them, by a grief that few understand. Their unique experiences are detailed in the report *Creating More Victims: How Executions Hurt the Families Left Behind*, by Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights."

News and Notes

- You can see by the variety of testimony quoted in this newsletter that victims' family members have many effective ways of articulating their opposition to the death penalty. MVFHR is working on **compiling a library of members' testimony**, speeches, opinion pieces, and other means of expressing their views. We already have several samples available and are always interested in receiving more, so do send us what you have.
- If you are preparing a written or spoken statement against the death penalty, **MVFHR staff is available to help you craft a message** that expresses your views and suits the particular occasion or audience.
- Also, if you are a family member of a murder victim or a family member of someone who has been executed and are not yet in our **online Gallery of Victims' Stories**, do let us know if you would like to be included. Check out the current gallery at www.mvfhr.org – these pages can be sent to lawmakers, scholars, attorneys, and anyone else who is interested in the issue.
- We now have the **text of our introductory MVFHR brochure available in French, Spanish, and Italian**. Let us know if you can make use of the information in any of those languages.
- We are working on replicating and expanding the successful **training on Victims and the Death Penalty** that we provided to the board and staff of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty last year, and toward that end we are developing a packet of materials that help death penalty abolitionists learn about the victim experience, the victims' rights movement, ideas for preventing discrimination against victims based on their opposition to the death penalty, and reframing the death penalty as a human rights issue. Let us know if your group is interested a training or consultation in these areas.
- **Several new books** include discussion of victim opposition to the death penalty: *Dead Wrong: Violence, Vengeance, and the Victims of Capital Punishment*, by Richard Stack, *Back from the Dead: One Woman's Search for the Men Who Walked Off America's Death Row*, by Joan Cheever, *In the Shadow of Death: Restorative Justice and Death Row Families*, by Elizabeth Beck, Sarah Britto, and Arlene Andrews, *Chasing Justice: My Story of Freeing Myself After Two Decades on Death Row for a Crime I Didn't Commit*, by Kerry Max Cook, *Just Call Me Mike: A Journey to Actor and Activist*, by Mike Farrell, and *Writing for Their Lives: Death Row, USA*, by Marie Mulvey-Roberts.
- **MVFHR's newsletter, Article 3**, is sent to murder victims' family members and family members of the executed, as well as to friends who have given any financial aid to the organization since MVFHR's founding in December 2004. If you have come across this newsletter some other way – at a talk or conference, for example – and would like to keep receiving it, sending a donation (in any amount) will put you on the list. We are also happy to send a copy of the newsletter via email if you request it. To receive the newsletter by email, and/or to receive email updates about victim opposition to the death penalty, make sure we have your email address: fill out the form on p. 11 or write to us with the information.

We need your support!



Bud Welch speaking at the Third World Congress Against the Death Penalty.

The pages of this newsletter are chock full of reports of MVFHR's effective anti-death penalty work, but we could do even more with greater financial resources. During these busy times, when every day seems to bring news of another state considering legislation to abolish or at least limit the death penalty, we need your donation now so that we can continue to ensure that voices of victims' family members get heard. Whether we're meeting with newspaper editors, lawmakers, church groups, or student audiences, our message never loses its power. Please send us your contribution today so we can deliver our message to hundreds more!

We felt such hope and exhilaration when we were among the thousands marching through the streets of Paris earlier this year, calling in multiple languages for a worldwide end to the death penalty. We came home from the Third World Congress Against the Death Penalty rededicated to ending executions at home *and* in other countries.

But we urgently need your support. As always, we draw our strength from you, our supporters who boost our morale and provide the precious funds we need to achieve our goals. Please complete the form below or the

enclosed return slip and send us your check today.

In gratitude and solidarity,

Bud Welch
President and Chair

Renny Cushing
Executive Director

YES, I want to support the work of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights. Enclosed is a check with my tax-deductible contribution of

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other amount \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To donate with a credit card, please visit our website, www.murdervictimsfamilies.org

Vicki Schieber, Treasurer
MVFHR – DC Office
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In February, thousands marched through the streets of Paris calling for a worldwide end to the death penalty. The march was the culmination of the Third World Congress Against the Death Penalty. See story inside, p. 6.



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