CLEMMIE GREENLEE, Tennessee
Mother of Rodriguez Greenlee,
murdered in Tennessee in 2003

Clemmie Greenlee’s son Rodriguez was killed in 2003. Two men who were affiliated with a local gang were arrested for the murder, but because witnesses were afraid to come forward and testify, there was not enough evidence to proceed with the trial, and the case was dropped.

Clemmie works as an organizer for the Nashville Homeless Power Project and, as outreach coordinator for the Peacemaker Campaign of the organization Galaxy Star Drug Awareness, she works to prevent further violence by connecting with youth, and particularly gang members, in her community and creating events that promote non-violent solutions to conflict. Through her work with the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, she speaks out about her opposition to the death penalty, and about how to reduce gun violence, addressing student groups and other audiences.

"Why would I, the Mama of a murdered son, want to see another Mama’s son murdered? I can’t live with that. That’s why I’m against the death penalty. I couldn’t sleep at night thinking that I had anything to do with calling for someone’s execution."

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