

**MELANIE HEBERT, Texas
Niece of Spencer Goodman,
executed in Texas in 2000**

Melanie Hebert's uncle, Spencer Goodman, was executed in 2000 after being convicted of the murder of Cecile Ham.

Melanie works with the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and speaks regularly to church and university groups, including a human rights course at Southern Methodist University. In 2000, she participated in the "March on the Mansion" rally in Austin and spoke before a crowd of thousands, demanding a moratorium on executions in Texas.

"Spencer and I were only 7 years apart, so he felt more like a brother to me than an uncle. I was in high school when his trial was going on, and I experienced hostility from other students, which affected me profoundly. At first, I was reluctant to get involved in any activism against the death penalty. But after the execution, I was so angry that I felt the only thing I could do was get involved. When I speak to classes now, students come up to me afterwards saying that they never thought about the family of the executed person before."

Links to more information:

<http://www.txexecutions.org/reports/201.asp>

This is a page from the
Gallery of Victims' Stories
Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights
www.mvfhr.org



Melanie Hebert



Spencer Corey Goodma