

ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ, New York Father of Gregory Rodriguez, killed in New York in 2001

Orlando Rodriguez's 32-year-old son Gregory was killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person tried in the United States in connection with the September 11th terrorist attacks, faced a possible death sentence but was ultimately sentenced in 2006 to life in prison without parole.

Both Orlando and his wife Phyllis felt that Moussaoui's death at the hand of our government would only demean their son's death. In his testimony during the victim impact portion of Moussaoui's trial, Orlando focused on Greg's unique ability to view people as human beings rather than embodiments of labels. Orlando teaches university classes on criminology and terrorism and has spoken about his experiences and his views at events organized by New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty.

"We can understand why victims' families would look to the death penalty as a justifiable punishment for convicted terrorists, but we feel that it is wrong to take a life. Nothing will erase the pain and loss that we must learn to live with, and causing others pain can only make it worse. If any good can come out of the disaster of Sept. 11, perhaps it will include examination of how we can maintain our humanity in the face of terrorists' threats."

Links to more information:

<http://www.peacefultomorrows.org/article.php?id=664>

<http://www.peacefultomorrows.org/article.php?id=413>



Orlando and Gregory Rodriguez

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