



**For Immediate Release:**  
***[Date submitted to the media]***

**Press Release**  
**Contact: *[Your name]***  
***[Your contact number]***

**Religious and Spiritual Groups in *[Your Town]* Participate in National Initiative to Focus Attention on the Death Penalty**

*Amnesty International's National Weekend of Faith in Action Draws Thousands of the Faithful*

***[Your town, state here]*** -- ***[Church / Synagogue /mosque /faith group/ AI group (give name/s)]*** will participate in Amnesty International USA's Eighth Annual National Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty. During the weekend of October 21-23, hundreds of faith communities, interfaith groups, and human rights activists throughout the nation will spend the weekend educating and mobilizing their members through activities that raise awareness about the death penalty.

During the National Weekend of Faith in Action on the Death Penalty, Amnesty International USA encourages people of all faiths to come together and reflect on the death penalty, engage in dialogue, and consider ways to take action to end it.

Major faith traditions around the world -- including Catholicism, nearly all Protestant denominations, Reform and Conservative Judaism, and Buddhism -- have taken explicit positions against the death penalty. Even faith traditions that do not specifically oppose the practice, such as Orthodox Judaism and Islam, have expressed concerns about the random and biased way in which the death penalty is applied and administered in this country.

"Religious leaders and people of faith have played an essential role in advancing pivotal social justice issues in the U.S.," said ***[Name, Amnesty's State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator/AI group leader]/activist/event organizer***. "The National Weekend of Faith in Action provides an opportunity for people of faith to continue that tradition and to raise issues about a system in which the government makes life and death decisions—decisions that have sent at least 121 innocent people to death row."

**WHO:** *[City/town- Faith Community Name/AI Group]*  
**WHAT:** *[Short description of your event]*  
**WHEN:** *[Date and time]*  
**WHERE:** *[Location]*

All are welcome. These events are free and open to the public.

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