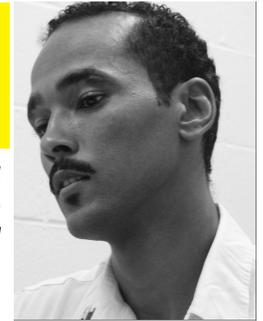


STOP THE EXECUTION OF REGGIE CLEMONS!



Reggie Clemons was sentenced to death as an accomplice in the 1991 murder in St. Louis of two young women, Julie and Robin Kerry, who plunged from the Chain of Rocks Bridge into the Mississippi River. Two other black youths were also convicted, including Marlin Gray (executed in 2005). The prosecution conceded that he neither killed the victims nor planned the crime. His case illustrates many of the flaws in the U.S. death penalty system.

■ POLICE COERCION ALLEGED

Clemons alleges that he confessed under the pressure of police brutality to raping one of the victims. Witnesses attest to Clemons' face being swollen after his interrogation and **his arrainging judge sent him to the emergency room**. He subsequently retracted his confession. Two other suspects independently alleged mistreatment by the police. Thomas Cummins, a cousin of the victims who testified against Clemons at trial, had at one point also confessed under police pressure. Cummins filed a police brutality lawsuit, resulting in a settlement from the city.

■ PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT

Four federal judges have agreed that the prosecutor's conduct was "**abusive and boorish**." In his closing statement, he compared Clemons to two convicted serial killers, even though Clemons **had no criminal record**. This behavior was part of a pattern that earned the prosecutor repeated criticism by state and federal courts.

■ INADEQUATE LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Clemons' lawyer was later suspended from practicing law following numerous complaints. His co-counsel had a full-time job in another state when she represented Clemons. Another lawyer hired by Clemons' mother to assist in the case said that as the trial loomed, it was clear the two **trial lawyers had not done the necessary preparation**.

■ QUESTIONS OF RACE

Race, particularly race of victim, biases the U.S. death penalty. Here, the murder victims were white, the three convicted defendants were black, and the two crucial witnesses were white. **Blacks were disproportionately dismissed during jury selection**, resulting in an unrepresentative jury given St. Louis' sizeable black population.

■ A 'STACKED' JURY

In 2002, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that Clemons' death sentence should not stand because **six prospective jurors had been improperly excluded** at jury selection. A higher court overturned this ruling on technical grounds – saying that Clemons' lawyer had not properly preserved the claim for federal judicial review.

Shortly after his 2009 execution date was stayed, the Missouri Supreme Court assigned a judge (a "Special Master") to investigate the reliability of his conviction and proportionality of his sentence. **Amnesty International urges the state of Missouri to recognize the serious concerns in Reggie Clemons' case and to commute his death sentence.**

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE EXECUTION OF REGGIE CLEMONS!

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