

**Statement by Diann Rust-Tierney, Executive Director
National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Regarding Troy Anthony Davis' Evidentiary Hearing in Savannah, Georgia
On June 23, 2010**

The case of Troy Anthony Davis is yet another reason why we need to end the death penalty.

We just cannot be certain that we are getting it right. We do know that the death penalty consumes an enormous amount of resources. We do know that it is prone to error and mistakes. That is why its practice is on the decline.

Public confidence in the death penalty is shaken – and with good reason. That is why, New York, New Jersey, and more recently, New Mexico, abandoned the practice. That is why proposals to repeal the death penalty have been introduced in virtually every jurisdiction where capital punishment is on the books.

The power is in the hands of the people. The people are deciding that we want a system of justice that is reliable and holds offenders accountable for the harm they have done; that recognizes and acknowledges the taking of a life and the resulting devastation and life-long impact of that loss on families of murder victims; and that seeks justice for all concerned.