





*indigo girls*

State Board of Pardons and Paroles  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE  
Suite 458, Balcony Level, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334-4909  
Fax: (404) 651-5282

July 12, 2007

Dear Board Members,

I am writing out of deep concern for a Georgia death row prisoner who has exhausted his appeals and whose case will appear before you for review on Monday, July 16. Troy Davis was not convicted on the basis of any physical evidence and the number of recantations and new testimony from key witnesses has created serious questions of doubt about his guilt in the murder of police officer Mark Allen McPhail. An honest look at statements made by witnesses reveal that Davis may not have been the perpetrator. I trust you would agree that a death sentence should never be carried out under any shadow of doubt, especially if additional, troubling information not revealed to the jury has since been brought to light.

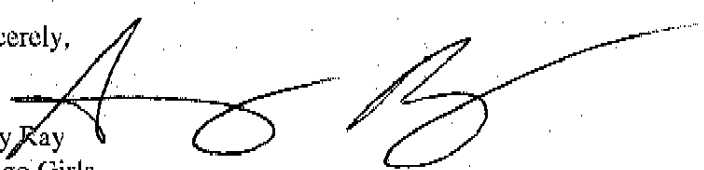
In order to serve justice and honor the life Officer McPhail, it would be a grave travesty if Davis went to the execution chamber under such reasonable doubts. Almost all of the witnesses whose testimony was used against Davis at his trial have since recanted or contradicted their trial testimony. One key witness who has not changed his story, Sylvester Coles, could indeed be the perpetrator according to information presented in affidavits from witnesses that reveal statements he made, actions he took and his possession of a weapon that was likely to have been used the night of the crime. Many of the witnesses have come forward stating that they signed statements, written for them by police officers, implicating Davis under conditions of intense pressure and fear. These statements, which have come out after the high-pressure time of the Davis trial, reveal a very different picture about what happened the night of the crime than what was presented to the jury that convicted and sentenced Davis.

Given that over 120 people have been wrongfully convicted in capital cases since 1976, including six from Georgia, it feels especially urgent that you review the information in this case so that our state does not make an irreversible and horrific error. The reliability of witness testimony has been a strong contributing factor leading to many wrongful convictions.

Davis has not had a hearing in federal court on the reliability of the witness testimony used against him at trial and thus, has not been able to obtain meaningful review in the appeals process. Your power to grant clemency in death penalty cases is a critical safeguard against our state making the worst possible error a state can make.

Thank you for your attention. I strongly encourage you to grant clemency to Troy Davis.

Sincerely,

  
Amy Ray  
Indigo Girls  
567 Ralph McGill Blvd. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30312