



September 22, 2011

## **YOUTH DIALOGUE on the EXECUTION of TROY DAVIS**

Last night we witnessed a gross injustice with the execution of Troy Antony Davis in Jackson, Georgia. Many youth and student groups across the country have not only worked on Justice For Troy, but have formed close relationships with the Davis family and Troy himself.

With an outpour of emotions ranging from anger, outrage, and sadness we encourage all youth groups to create a safe space to discuss their feelings and find support with each other. Some of our youth activists have begun expressing their rage towards Georgia, the American criminal justice system and the inhumane practice of the death penalty, and we hope that the below resources and activity can support an honest dialogue regarding the execution of Troy Davis and next steps.

### **What is the Youth Dialogue on the Execution of Troy Davis?**

The **Youth Dialogue on the Execution of Troy Davis** is a resource that will guide youth and adult facilitators and youth discussion participants to facilitate healing and proactive conversations to discuss the critical events of the past few months regarding the Troy Davis case and execution.

It will help to create a safe space for student group members to come together and openly share their feelings with one another. Further it provides a standard framework that allows for honest and shared emotions to acknowledge each person's feelings and for activists to proactively think about next steps.

This is just a template of an activity and discussion questions that can be shared among groups. Feel free to revise as needed. If students need additional emotional support or mental health resources encourage them to seek school and local resources such as a guidance councilor or social worker. If they are experiencing a crisis please call the national suicide and crisis hotline at 1 -800-448-1833 or 911.

We have a few social workers on hand that can support field staff and Student Area Coordinators if needed please contact Cynthia Carrion at: [ccarrion@aiusa.org](mailto:ccarrion@aiusa.org) or 212.633.4171

### **WHAT TO TALK ABOUT?**

- 1) The role that emotions (feelings of rage, sadness) play in our human rights work
- 2) Consider talking about unwanted outcomes and how these may inspire further action
- 3) Acknowledging Troy Davis

## ONE WORD CHECK-IN

Ask that participants stand in a circle and take turns sharing a word that encompasses their feelings regarding the execution of Troy Davis.

*[There may be some participants that would rather withhold their comments which should be respected. Please allow space for those that wish to add words. Go around the circle as much as needed. This should be a space that welcomes members to process and heal.]*

When it is time to move on, please ask participants to sit and engage in the following:

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** *What role can emotions play in hindering our ability to act? In which ways can they enable and inspire?*

## IN TROY'S WORDS:

Below are quotes from Troy Davis. Utilize the following quotes to frame discussions regarding inequality in our justice system.

*"The struggle for justice doesn't end with me. This struggle is for all the Troy Davises who came before me and all the ones who will come after me. I'm in good spirits and I'm prayerful and at peace."*

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** *How can Troy's words help in the continued fight against the Death Penalty?*

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** *How can we utilize our experience to outreach those affected by the case that do not form part of our efforts?*

## OUTCOMES

While it may be disheartening and make us feel that we failed, it is important to highlight positive outcomes so as to inform our future work.

**What changed regarding the Death Penalty because of Troy Davis and because of those that worked on mobilization efforts?**

*[Encourage participants to being with "Because of Troy" as a way to affirm the individual and pay tribute to his life]*

**Because of Troy...** *[Example: millions of people mobilized around the world to express their opposition to the death penalty.]*

**Because of Troy...** *[Example: Conversations around the death penalty occurred that motivated new activists.]*

**Because of Troy...** *[Example: Mobilizations efforts caused a "delay" in his execution and forced media outlets to cover the story.]*

**Because of Troy...**

## **NEXT STEPS**

It is also important now to move the conversation forward and think of ways we can act. What are some next steps that can be taken?

**Because of Troy, we will...**[*Example: Participation in National Call for...*]

Friday, September 23, 2011 at 7 pm EST, please join us for a special call to discuss Troy Davis' case, what your work means for the death penalty abolition movement as a whole and what we can do next.

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/W1109EADP052>

**Because of Troy we will...**[*Example: Sign pledge to...*]

Please pledge to continue this fight because it is far from over.

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/W1109EADP05>

**Because of Troy we will...**[*Example: Write letters to the Davis family...*]

## **Resources:**

Remember that we are a movement and that anger and sadness are a part of our journey. We need to be able to take care of ourselves and each other to continue the fight for human rights.

**Connect** with your field organizer to learn about local and national efforts that you and your groups can get involved with. Call: 1.800.A. REGION

**Visit** the Death Penalty Website for more information:

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/death-penalty>

*I am Troy Davis. You are Troy Davis. We will not stop fighting for justice.*

- Laura Moye, Director, Death Penalty Abolition Campaign