

**MARIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION**

MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

We, the members of the Board of Directors of the Marin Interfaith Council, support legislation in the California legislature for a moratorium on the death penalty in California. Marin County is ground zero: All California executions since 1938 have occurred at San Quentin State Penitentiary. We call for civil, public dialogue to reassess the use of capital punishment.

All of our faith traditions teach respect for the dignity of every human life. We believe the death penalty diminishes us all. Furthermore, capital punishment is prone to errors, and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and the county in which the crime was committed. Questions exist about the death penalty's effectiveness, accuracy, and fairness, because a disproportionate number of condemned prisoners are poor and people of color

We celebrate the establishment of the *California Commission on Fair Administration of Justice*, whose task is to study California's criminal justice system's past failures, which have resulted in the wrongful convictions of innocent persons; and to suggest potential safeguards and improvements in the way the criminal justice system works.

In December of 2002, the Resolution for a **Moratorium on Executions in the State of California** was passed unanimously by the Marin County Board of Supervisors with 5,000 petition signatures from Marin residents. **Therefore, the Marin Interfaith Council**, in concert with the Board of Supervisors, **supports legislation in the California legislature for a moratorium on the death penalty in California.**

April 20, 2006
Marin Interfaith Council
Board of Directors