

## **READING and VIEWING RECOMMENDATION LIST in English, German and French**

**Up-dated: 08-2011**

This listing includes what we consider to be important books and films on the topic of the death penalty. It is in no way complete. These books and others can be ordered from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Die Liste enthält Bücher und Filme über die Todesstrafe, die uns wichtig erscheinen. Sie ist aber keineswegs vollständig. Die aufgeführten Vorschläge und weitere Titel zum Thema können über [www.amazon.de](http://www.amazon.de) oder [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) bestellt werden.

Cette liste inclut ce que nous considérons comme étant des lectures et des films importants en référence au sujet de la peine de mort. Elle est loin d'être exhaustive! Ces œuvres sont disponibles sur [www.amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr) ou auprès de votre libraire.

### **BOOKS WRITTEN BY LIFESPARK MEMBERS//BÜCHER VON LIFESPARKMITGLIEDERN//LIVRES ECRITS PAR DES MEMBRES DE LIFESPARK**



**TWISTED TRUTH**, by Wendy SCHMID-EASTWOOD, Athena Press, 2004, ISBN 1844011488

An indictment of capital punishment, written by the correspondent of a death row inmate, who documents the prisoner's life, his struggle for justice and his execution in 2000.



**MESSAGES OF LIFE FROM DEATH ROW**, by Pierre PRADERVAND, Booksurge Publishing, 2009, ISBN 1-4392-35-60-0

This book features correspondence from Texas death row inmate Roger McGowen to sociologist and writer Pierre Pradervand. McGowen's letters describe his life on death row and point to flaws in the American criminal justice system, especially the arbitrary nature of the death penalty. The publisher, Booksurge, said the book offers a "unique juxtaposition of carefully selected texts next to the heartfelt and memorable letters written by McGowen giving readers a historical, ethical and pragmatic overview of American criminal justice as well as an inside view of death row in Texas."



**LA PEINE DE MORT DANS L'ARSENAL PUNITIF AMERICAIN**, de Ludivine FERREIRA, Editions Artesia, 2010, ISBN-13 978-2-940434-05-3

C'est ouvrage tente de répondre à la question suivante : « Est-ce que la peine capitale doit faire partie de l'arsenal punitif d'un Etat ? ». Des pistes de réflexion et une comparaison entre les systèmes judiciaires américain et suisse rendent cette lecture pleine d'enseignement et fort intéressante.



**TROIS ENFANTS DE CE TEMPS**, de Dr Françoise BERTHOUD, Editions Xenia, 2010, ISBN 978-2-88892-112-7

Docteure en médecine et pédiatre, Dr. Berthoud décrit le parcours de 3 enfants dits de « cerveau droit » dans un monde de « cerveau gauche », dont Michael Perry, condamné à mort et exécuté par l'Etat du Texas. Ces enfants, comme beaucoup dans notre monde, ont reçu des drogues au lieu de temps pour les écouter et les comprendre.



**MESSAGES DE VIE DU COULOIR DE LA MORT**, de Roger MCGOWEN et Pierre PRADERVAND, Éditions Jouvence, 2003, ISBN 978-2883533455

Ce livre est un cantique à la grandeur d'un individu qui a su et qui sait encore grandir, partager, aimer, pardonner dans un enfer carcéral dont chaque dimension est faite pour écraser l'homme.



**CONDAMNÉ À MORT AU TEXAS**, de Jacques SECRETAN, l'Harmattan, 2000, ISBN 978-2747500944

Ce livre expose un combat mal connu aux Etats-Unis mêmes : celui de 3'600 hommes, femmes et adolescents reclus dans un Couloir de la mort. C'est aussi le combat de leurs familles et des militants qui luttent « au dehors ».



**UNE MERE INNOCENTE CONDAMNEE A MORT AUX ETATS-UNIS**, de Jacques SECRETAN, Editions Favre SA, Lausanne, 2011, ISBN 978-2-8289-1218-5

Ce livre raconte l'histoire de Debra Milke, depuis vingt ans dans le couloir de la mort de l'Arizona, condamnée à mort pour le meurtre de son fils de quatre ans qu'elle nie avoir commandité. Ce livre est là pour attester qu'entre ce que garantit la Constitution des Etats-Unis et la réalité, il y a parfois de cruels dérapages. Deux autres cas de condamnations à la peine capitale sont évoqués dans ce livre, celui de Robert Garza, arrêté en 2003 au Texas, et celui de Jaime Elizalde, exécuté dans ce même Etat en janvier 2006.

## ENGLISH BOOKS and FILMS

### 1) Death Row Inmates



**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: AN INDICTMENT BY A DEATH ROW SURVIVOR**, by Billy Wayne Sinclair and Jodie Sinclair, Kindle Edition, 2011, ISBN-13 978-161145347

Billy Wayne Sinclair was only 21 when he heard the Louisiana judge pronounce these words: "I hereby sentence you to death in the electric chair." It was the culmination of a botched holdup committed the year before in which Billy had accidentally shot and killed a man. Billy spent the next 40 years in Angola Prison, one of the country's worst, six of those years on death row. When in 1972 the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as arbitrary and capricious, Billy was re-sentenced to life without parole. Finally released in 2006, he now examines the death penalty in great detail, from ancient history - an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth - to the present. Informed by his own experience and his decades-long studies, this book offers important information about, and insights into, a subject that is as heated and controversial today as it ever was.



**THE WRONG MAN: A TRUE STORY OF INNOCENCE ON DEATH ROW**, by Michael MELLO, University of Minnesota Press, 2001, ISBN 0-8166-3783-0

The Wrong Man is the dramatic story of the author's twenty-year fight to save his client from execution for a murder he didn't commit.



**WELCOME TO HELL: LETTERS AND WRITINGS FROM DEATH ROW**, compiled by Jan ARRIENS, Northeastern University Press, 1997/2004, ISBN 155553290x

A case history and a collection of letters written on death row. Jan Arriens, the founder of Life Lines, a similar organization to lifespark in England, collected these writings.



**HURRICANE, THE LIFE OF RUBIN CARTER**, by James S. HIRSCH, Fourth Estate Ltd., 2000, ISBN 1841151300

About a boxer who suddenly finds himself wrongfully convicted of murder, and the battle of some idealists to get him out of prison.

Film by Norman JEWISON, DVD Release 2000, featuring Denzel Washington.



**A DEATH IN TEXAS**, by Dina TEMPLE-RASTON, Henry Holt & Co LLC, 2002, ISBN 0805072772

The book tells the true story of a man's murder and a town's redemption. Three white men chained J. Byrd Jr. to the bumper of a truck and dragged him to his death. Sheriff B. Rowles, a man who believed justice to be colour-blind, charged the killers with murder.



**BACK FROM THE DEAD. LIFE AFTER DEATH ROW: ONE WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR THE MEN WHO WALKED OFF AMERICA'S DEATH ROW**, by Joan CHEEVER, Wiley & Sons, 2006, ISBN 0470017503

The story of 589 former death row inmates who through a lottery of fate were given a second chance at life in 1972 when the death penalty was abolished; it returned to the United States four years later.



**THE INNOCENT MAN**, by John GRISHAM, Doubleday, 2006, ISBN 0385517238

The author is best known for fictional courtroom dramas. This riveting book presents an actual case of justice gone wrong. Two men are sent to death row based on shoddy police work, lies and pseudo-science.



**CHASING JUSTICE**, by Kerry Max COOK, William Morrow, 2007, ISBN 006057464X

A riveting chronicle of an innocent man on death row for a murder he did not commit, of police corruption, and of a crusading lawyer, who helped free him.



**A SAINT ON DEATH ROW – THE STORY OF DOMINIQUE GREEN**, by Thomas CAHILL, 2009, ISBN 978-0385520195

*A Saint on Death Row* will introduce you to a young man whose history, innate goodness, and final days you will never forget. It also shines a necessary light on America's racist and deeply flawed legal system.



**THAT BIRD HAS MY WINGS**, by Harvis Jay MASTERS, 2009, HarperOne, ISBN 978-0061730450

In this polished tale that belies the author's raw origins, Masters (*Finding Freedom*), who has been imprisoned on San Quentin's death row since 1990 and become a devout Buddhist, recalls the neglect, abuse and cycle of crime and hopelessness that relegated him to prison at the age of age 19.

## 2) Victims' Families



**FORGIVING THE DEAD MAN WALKING**, by Debbie MORRIS, Zondervan, 2000, ISBN 9780310231875

Already familiar to readers from the movie *Dead Man Walking*, this horrifying crime story related here by one of the victims becomes an inspiring morality tale of one woman's redemption.



**DON'T KILL IN OUR NAMES**, by Rachel KING, Rutgers University Press, 2003, ISBN 0813531829

Families of Murder Victims speak out against the death penalty



**JOURNEY OF HOPE - From Violence to Healing**, by Bill PELKE, Xlibris, 2003, ISBN 9781413419917

Initially Bill did not object when Paula Cooper was sentenced to death for the murder of his grandmother. But he moved from supporting the death sentence to working to have Paula's sentence overturned and dedicating his life to abolishing the death penalty.

## 3) Inmates' Families



**HIDDEN VICTIMS. THE EFFECT OF THE DEATH PENALTY ON FAMILIES OF THE ACCUSED**, by Susan F. SHARP, Rutgers University Press, 2005, ISBN 0813535840

Many people consider murderers to be sub-human. Sociologist Susan F. Sharp interviewed many families of people on death row and shows how the vicious circle surrounding such crimes affects many more people than the individual accused criminal and the victim.



**CAPITAL CONSEQUENCES**, by Rachel KING, Rutgers University Press, 2005, ISBN 9780813535043

Families of the condemned speak out against the death penalty



**IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND DEATH ROW FAMILIES**, by Elizabeth BECK and others, Oxford University Press, 2007, ISBN 0195179412

The families of murder victims suffer, but what about the families of convicted murderers? They also become victims. This book tells their moving stories.



**LAST WORDS FROM DEATH ROW: THE WALLS UNIT**, by Norma HERRERA, Nightingale Press 2007, ISBN 1933449292

The sister of an innocent man executed in Texas tells how her brother and the family suffered and how justice went wrong. The book fulfils her promise to her brother to tell his story.

## 4) Bystanders – Security Personnel, Spiritual Advisors, Jurists, etc



**IN COLD BLOOD**, by Truman CAPOTE, Penguin Books Ltd, 1966, ISBN 978-0375507908

Two two-time losers living in a lonely house in western Kansas are out to make the heist of their life, but when things don't go as planned, the robbery turns ugly. From there, the book is a real-life look into murder, prison, and the criminal mind. Non-fiction.



**DEAD MAN WALKING: AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE UNITED STATES**, by Sister Helen PREJEAN, Vintage, 1994, ISBN 978-0679751311

The book is the result of Sr. Prejean's visits to two death row inmates at the Louisiana State Penitentiary where she served as a spiritual advisor.



**WITHIN THESE WALLS**, by Rev. Carroll PICKETT, St. Martin's Press, 2002, ISBN 1904132235

A chaplain who spent 15 years working on death row tells his moving story.



**THE DEATH OF INNOCENTS**, by Sister Helen PREJEAN, Random House, 2005, ISBN 0679440569

Sister Helen accompanies two possibly innocent men to their execution and reveals the weaknesses of the American justice system.



**A LIFE AND DEATH DECISION: A JURY WEIGHS THE DEATH PENALTY**, by Scott E. SUNDRY, Palgrave MacMillan, 2005, ISBN 978-0230600638

This book gives the reader a window, almost a fly-on-the-wall peek, into the capital jury room, a place most people do not experience first-hand. Written by Professor Scott E. Sundry, a "must read" according to some reviewers.



**WARDEN: TEXAS PRISON LIFE FROM THE INSIDE OUT**, by Jim WILLETT and Ron ROZELLE, 2005, ISBN 1931721505

The book is about Willett's career and his experience of 30 years in Texas prisons, first as a guard and then as a warden.



**LIVING JUSTICE**, by Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, 2006, ISBN 978-0743483469

Capitalizing on a shifting trend in public attitudes about the death penalty in 2000, former actors Blank and Jensen decided to write an ensemble piece using the words of real people to highlight the legal flaws in the death penalty statute.



**PRISON CITY: LIFE WITH THE DEATH PENALTY IN HUNTSVILLE TEXAS**, by Ruth MASSINGILL, Peter Lang Publishing, 2007, ISBN0820488909

Prison City looks beneath the placid surface of Huntsville, Texas, execution capital of the world, sheds light on controversial issues usually hidden, and reflects basic questions of crime and punishment, as well as vengeance and forgiveness.



**DIALOGUES ON THE ETHICS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**, by Dale JACQUETTE, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009, ISBN 978-1439235607

Dale Jacquette presents a fictional dialogue over a three-day period on the ethical complexities of capital punishment. Jacquette moves his readers from outlining basic issues in matters of life and death, to questions of justice and compassion, with a concluding dialogue on the conditional and unconditional right to life. Jacquette's characters talk plainly and thoughtfully about the death penalty, and readers are left to determine for themselves how best to think about the morality of putting people to death.



**EXECUTED ON A TECHNICALITY: LETHAL INJUSTICE ON AMERICA'S DEATH ROW**, by David R. Dow, Beacon Press, 2005, ISBN 0-8070-4420

David R. Dow, a death penalty attorney and professor of law compellingly shows that sentencing innocent people to death is only one aspect of the contemporary debate on the death penalty. Basic fairness in the criminal system is equally important. Because such fairness is missing and cannot be restored, the death penalty deserves a grave of its own. A "must read" for everybody who cares about justice in the USA.

By the same author: published in February 2010:



**THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EXECUTION**, by David R. Dow, Twelve, ISBN-13: 9780446562065

In his latest book David R. Dow offers a candid look at the way he lives around the constant impending deaths of his clients. Without being preachy, the book reveals all of the problems with the death penalty as it is administered in Texas.



**ANGEL OF DEATH ROW: MY LIFE AS A DEATH PENALTY DEFENSE LAWYER**, by Andrea de LYON, Kaplan Publishing, 2010, ISBN 978-1-60714-434-2

Dubbed "The Angel of Death Row" by the *Chicago Tribune*, Lyon was the first woman to serve as lead attorney in a death penalty case. Throughout her career she has defended those accused of heinous acts and argued that, no matter their guilt or innocence, they deserved a chance at redemption.



**THE LAST LAWYER: THE FIGHT TO SAVE DEATH ROW INMATES**, by John Temple, University Press of Mississippi, 2009, ISBN 978-1-60473-355-6

*The Last Lawyer* is the true, inside story of how an idealistic legal genius and his diverse band of investigators and fellow attorneys fought to overturn a client's final sentence.

## 5) Films



**DEAD MAN WALKING**, 1997, USA, with Susan Sarandon

The film is about the last days of a man condemned to death in Florida and the visits to the family of the victims as seen through the eyes of a nun, Sister Helen Prejean, who has befriended the prisoner.



**MONSTER'S BALL**, 2003, USA, with Halle Berry

The touching story of a former death row official, who falls in love with the widow of a man who was executed in Georgia. The director Marc Foster is Swiss.



**THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE**, 2003, USA, with Kevin Spacey

The film is about David Gayle, an opponent of capital punishment, who finds himself on death row for the murder of another activist, Constance Harraway.



**MONSTER**, 2004, USA, with Charlize Theron

This film traces the tragic life of prostitute and serial murderer Aileen Wuornos, who was executed in Florida in 2002.



**CAPOTE**, 2006, USA, with Philip Seymour Hoffman

Successful writer Truman Capote becomes fascinated by the murder of a Kansas family and writes "In Cold Blood", a non-fiction novel. The film depicts his growing involvement with the case and the murderers.



**FIRING LINE**, DVD Release 2008, USA, with William F. Buckley, Steve Allen

Buckley and Allen begin by discussing why the controversy over the death penalty should be a touchstone issue, and progress to considerations of whether it in fact deters, and whether, even if it does, it can be morally defended. Taped on April 11, 1966

## BÜCHER und FILME auf DEUTSCH



**SCHREIBEN GEGEN DEN TOD**, von Rolf LYSSY, 2002 – Schweiz

Die Schweizerin Ursula Corbin führt seit mehreren Jahren eine Brieffreundschaft mit einem zum Tode verurteilten Gefangenen in Texas und besucht ihn regelmäßig. Hier wird gezeigt, wie Menschlichkeit in ein unmenschliches System gebracht wird.



**LASST MEINE TOCHTER ENDLICH FREI**, Renate JANKA, Droehmer Knauer, 2003, ISBN 3-426-776-731

Die traurige Geschichte einer Berlinerin, die seit 1989 im Todestrakt in Arizona sitzt. Ihre Mutter hat die aufrüttelnde Fallstudie einer höchst fragwürdigen Rechtsprechung zusammen getragen.



**DIE LETZTEN STUNDEN**, Carroll PICKETT, Carlton STOWERS, Europa, Hamburg, 2004, ISBN 978-3203810232

Ein Kaplan erzählt über seine Erlebnisse mit Todeskandidaten.



**AUS DER TODESZELLE**, Mumia ABU-JAMAL, Atlantik, 2005, ISBN 978-3926529626

Neues von dem bekannten Autor, der in Pennsylvania in der Todeszelle weilt. Das Buch wird als wichtiger Lesestoff für Gegner der Todesstrafe bezeichnet.



**TODESSTRAFEN**, Ingo WIRTH, 2004, ISBN 3861896109.

Ein Rechtsmediziner beschreibt die Techniken der Henker und das Sterben der Verurteilten. Das Hinrichten als Phänomen der menschlichen Zivilisation und auch zur Kulturgeschichte gehört.



**TODESSTRAFE: AUGES UM AUGES**, Kazem HASHEMI, 2008, Horlemann Verlag, ISBN 978-3895022531.

Dieses Werk beschäftigt sich mit der Todesstrafe weltweit sowie mit ihren kulturellen/religiösen und politischen/gesellschaftlichen Hintergründen. Zwei Geschichten, eine davon aus dem Iran, die andere aus einem westlichen Land, schildern die Todesstrafe aus der Perspektive von Betroffenen



**GOTTESBEGEGNUNGEN IM GEFÄNGNIS**, Tobias Brandner, Lembeck-Verlag, ISBN 978-3-87476-588-6

Das Buch ist mehr als ein Handbuch der Gefangenen- und Seelsorge. Der Autor führt den Leser auf eine spirituelle Reise in die Welt der Gefangenschaft, wo Grundanliegen des Menschseins - Freiheit, Sinn, Vergebung, Zugehörigkeit - neue Bedeutung erlangen.

## LIVRES et FILMS en FRANCAIS



**UN LONG SILENCE**, de Mikal Gilmore, Editions Sonatine, 2010 ISBN 978-2-3558-4051-7

Cet ouvrage est une réponse au fameux livre de Norman Mailer « Le chant du bourreau » qui relatait la vie de Gary Gilmore, célèbre condamné à mort américain. Mikal est le frère cadet de Gary. Dans un élan de survie, il se lance dans une enquête, à la fois affective, douloureuse et sans concession sur sa propre famille et ses origines.



**L'EXECUTION**, de Robert BADINTER, Le livre de Poche, ISBN 2-253-01122-3 et **L'ABOLITION** du même auteur, Fayard, 2000, ISBN 978-2247075089

Ces deux livres sont le récit d'une longue lutte contre la peine de mort. Ils commencent par le procès de Claude Buffet et de Roger Bontemps et s'achèvent avec le vote de l'abolition, le 30 septembre 1981.



**REFLEXIONS SUR LA PEINE DE MORT**, de Albert CAMUS et Arthur KOESTLER, Calmin-Levy, Agora, 1957, ISBN 35-57-0906-02/4

Pour Albert Camus, la suppression de la vie humaine ne se justifie que dans la perspective de l'immortalité. Arthur Koestler dénonce la peine de mort comme contraire à la fois à la logique du déterminisme et à l'esprit du libre arbitre.



**JE NE SUIS PAS KARLA**, de Guillemette FASURE, Le Serpent à Plumes, 2002, ISBN 978842613662

L'auteur a rencontré ces femmes oubliées pour écrire leurs histoires douloureuses et tragiques. Entre analyse et reportage, *Je ne suis pas Karla* dénonce la brutalité du système pénal américain à travers des portraits de femmes au bord de l'abîme.



**DE LA HAINE A LA VIE**, de Philippe MAURICE, folio documents, 2001, ISBN 978-2070422708

Gracié par François Mitterrand, l'auteur nous présente une formidable leçon de courage et d'espoir, plus convaincant et plus fort que toute fiction, le récit d'une renaissance.



**DIX-SEPT ANS DANS LE COULOIR DE LA MORT**, de Richard Michael ROSSI, Fayard, 2001, ISBN 978-2213608686

Voici un témoignage documenté, précis, sobre mais percutant qui dresse un tableau complet des conditions de vie matérielle et psychologique imposées aux condamnés à mort dans les prisons de haute sécurité américaines.



**LA DERNIERE MARCHÉ**, de Soeur Helen PREJEAN, Editions Pocket, 1996, ISBN 978-2266070942

En 1982, Soeur Helen Prejean accepte de devenir la conseillère spirituelle d'un condamné à mort. Ce qui ressort de cette intimité ultime est un voyage spirituel profondément touchant à travers le système de la peine capitale aux USA.



**MON PERE**, de José GIOVANNI, 2000 – France

Un fils qui raconte l'histoire de son père qui l'a tout simplement sauvé de la guillotine. Un témoignage poignant.



**MADE IN THE USA**, de Solveig ANSPACH et Cindy BABSKY, 2001 – France

Les deux réalisatrices s'attachent à raconter le dossier d'Odell Barnes Jr., exécuté le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 2000 pour un crime qu'il n'avait pas commis.