

LETTER TO ANNA ARCENEAUX, ODALIS ROJAS,
AND EVERYONE AT THE A.C.L.U CAPITAL
PUNISHMENT PROJECT -

"THANK YOU"!

BEFORE THIS HAPPENED TO ME I THOUGHT
THE DEATH PENALTY WAS FOR THE WORST
OF THE WORST. I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE
INNOCENT WAS THERE, BECAUSE I THOUGHT
THERE WOULD BE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE.
3 1/2 YEARS ON DEATH ROW, I KNOW DIFFERENT.
I GREW TO KNOW SOME GOOD PEOPLE ON
DEATH ROW IN ALABAMA. SOME OF THEM
DID NOT COMMIT THE CRIME, LIKE MR.
SOME WERE IN THE WRONG PLACE BUT
DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. SOME MAY HAVE
COMMITTED A BAD CRIME, BUT THEY WERE
NOT COLD-HEARTED OR SELFISH. SOME WERE
THERE BECAUSE THEIR LAWYERS WERE NOT
SEASONED. SOME BECAUSE THE JUDGE
OVERRIDE THE JURY.

THE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON DEATH-ROW WAS TERRIBLE. I STILL TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH. THE CELL IS ~~8~~ 8 FEET LONG 6 FEET WIDE WITH 8 FOOT CEILINGS. I WAS LOCKED INSIDE 23 OR 24 HOURS A DAY. I HAVE SHORT ARMS BUT I CAN TOUCH BOTH WALLS AT THE SAME TIME. THERE WAS A SUICIDE WHILE I WAS THERE, A MAN WHO HAD BEEN ON DEATH-ROW ABOUT 10 YEARS. I KNOW THAT BEING ON SOLITARY WAS PART OF HIS SUICIDE. IF YOU ARE NOT MENTALLY STRONG, IT BREAKS YOU DOWN. ALL THE WAY DOWN.

* THERE WERE 17 EXECUTIONS WHILE I WAS THERE. I KNEW THEM, I KNOW EVERY NAME AND THE DAY THEY WERE EXECUTED.

* NO MATTER WHAT, I KNOW THAT THE DEATH-PENALTY IS WRONG. IT IS A COMPLETELY BROKEN SYSTEM!

SINCERELY,
Montez V. Spradley