
Death is Not Justice for Michael Tisius

1 message

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Joni

Tonight the state of Missouri carried out its 96th execution since the death penalty was reinstated. Michael Tisius was a beloved community member, and his memory will be a blessing. Tonight we are deeply saddened for those who love and care for Michael and are uplifting all co-victims of the death penalty, including his legal team:

Statement from Michael's Attorney

Today marks another sad chapter of America's perverse fascination with state-sanctioned homicide. For many, it will be another example of how countries like Saudi Arabia, China and Iran are our few remaining peers internationally. But, for those of us who knew and loved Michael, it is a much sadder chapter. We watched the growth and maturity of a young man — who was neglected by his mother, abandoned by this father, and callously and viciously beaten by his brother — who learned how to form lasting, loving relationships. He learned how to trust. He learned how to value himself. He never knew how to do these things, but he learned in prison. He channeled his sense of positive self-worth into good deeds: like donating his artwork for battered women's shelters.

We teach our preschoolers that two wrongs don't make a right. Today, we watch our adults casually dismiss such eternal guidance. Michael dies in peace and in power. He expresses everlasting remorse to the families of Jason Acton and Leon Egley. He has asked God for forgiveness as well. Tonight, he will greet his Maker.

He hopes the Acton and Egley families are brought a sense of closure by his execution. He ends his life with the same feeling he had post-crime. In his statement in the immediate aftermath, he said, "An officer asked me if I could go back and do it all over what would I do. I said I would kill myself to save their lives. I know I deserve whatever I get and got coming to me."

Michael's favorite Bible passage from Corinthians I, taught to him by his stepmother Leslie, captures his feelings on today's execution: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

**With Love and In Solidarity,
Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty**

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