

April 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We, undersigned organizations, write to urge you to fulfill your campaign promise to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level and to incentivize states to follow the federal government's example by passing legislation that would do so. Until such legislation is passed, we strongly urge you to utilize your executive powers and place a moratorium on federal executions.

As a coalition of diverse faiths, the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition (ICJC) is held together by the belief that human dignity is inviolable, and that no matter what, we are to respect it. We advocate for transformative justice that prevents harm, promotes restoration with accountability, and seeks wholeness for all communities. Therefore, we ask you to fulfill your campaign promise and take executive action to curtail the federal death penalty by the end of your first 100 days.

During the last months of the prior administration, the United States embarked on a spree of federal executions without recent precedent, killing 13 Americans. These actions by our government constitute an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the human person. Yet, the Biden administration has not made clear these executions will stop. As a faith-based coalition, ICJC asks the Biden administration to use its power to put an end to this unjust practice. We ask that you:

- reinstitute the federal moratorium on federal executions;
- commute the death sentences of those on death row;
- establish clear guidelines that prohibit federal prosecutors from seeking the death penalty;
- withdraw authorization of all pending death penalty trial cases; and
- dismantle the federal execution chamber at FCC Terre Haute.

These actions will help fulfill your campaign promise of "strengthening America's commitment to justice" and eliminating the death penalty. We look forward to the permanent end of the federal death penalty and will also be advocating with members of Congress to put a bill on your desk to sign.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Baptists  
American Friends Service Committee  
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Interfaith Action for Human Rights  
Jesuit Conference – Office of Justice and Ecology  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National Council of Churches

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

The Episcopal Church

The United Methodist Church – General Board of Church and Society

T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

Union for Reform Judaism