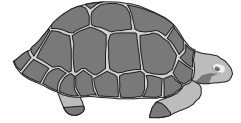


The Turtlestate Moratorium Coalition



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Citizens group calls for a moratorium in Turtlestate as 100th innocent person is released from death row 2,000 groups call for a moratorium on executions nationwide

EVERYTOWN – Last night Ray Krone became the nation’s 100th person to be released from death row after being sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. In light of this shameful milestone, the statewide Turtlestate Moratorium Coalition (TMC) has renewed its call for a moratorium on executions.

Krone served 10 years in Arizona prison, including nearly 3 years on death row, before DNA evidence proved him innocent of sexually assaulting and killing a cocktail waitress in 1991. Krone’s exoneration comes in the midst of heightened national concern about the fairness of the death penalty system.

“One hundred innocent people have almost been executed in this country,” said Jane Smith, Coordinator of TMC. “If this doesn’t demonstrate that there are some serious flaws in our system, I don’t know what does.”

The Turtlestate Moratorium Coalition issued its call for a moratorium on executions in 1998. Citing concerns about racial bias, incompetent counsel for poor defendants, geographic disparities, police and prosecutorial misconduct, and other problems, TMC has collected 85 endorsements from groups across the state. Turtlestate’s capital, Aquarium City, joined the call for a moratorium when it passed a resolution last year.

Use this paragraph to talk about your coalition and the key points or supporters in your state.

Nationwide, 2,000 groups have called for a moratorium on executions according to the national Quixote Center, whose *Moratorium Now!* campaign maintains a *National Tally* of groups calling for a moratorium. Among the 2,000 are 70 local governments including Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia, Tallahassee, Nashville, and San Francisco. The American Bar Association, six state and over a dozen county bar associations, the American Psychological Association, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Conference of Black Mayors, and most of the nation’s major religious denominations have also called for a moratorium.

“This is not a problem that exists somewhere else,” said Smith. “This could happen here. Are we going to let an innocent person be executed in Turtlestate? It’s time to step back and look at what’s happening. Our legislature needs to act.”

The Turtlestate Moratorium Coalition is a statewide coalition with over 7,000 members. For more information, visit www.turtlesforamoratorium.org or call 555-555-5555. For more information on the moratorium movement nationally, contact the Quixote Center’s *Moratorium Now!* campaign at 301-699-0042 or www.quixote.org/ej.

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