



PAUL DENNIS REID

TARGETING THE MENTALLY ILL SCHEDULED TO DIE: JUNE 28TH

Paul Dennis Reid, who has a long history of mental illness, is scheduled to be executed on 28 June. Reid has been diagnosed with schizophrenia - paranoid type as well as schizoaffective disorder and left temporal lobe dysfunction. The latter, according to neuropsychiatrist George Woods, "has produced in Mr. Reid a chronic, schizophrenia-like psychosis which has severely impaired his ability to weigh, deliberate, inform, and cooperate." In fact, every independent medical expert who has examined Reid in recent years has found him to be delusional.

Reid is scheduled for execution because he dropped the appeals of his conviction for the 1997 murder of Angela Holmes and Michelle Mace whom he kidnapped from a Clarksville Baskin Robbins. Reid's sister, Linda Martiniano, has filed a petition as a "next friend" because he is not competent to make the decision to drop his appeals. Martiniano said that her brother "is severely mentally ill. He does not think or act in a rational manner. It seems that everything he does is guided by his belief in a government conspiracy against him to bombard him with 'scientific technology'. When he has talked about giving up appeals and being executed, he talks about ending the torture of the scientific technology."

Reid's psychosis is long-standing and deep. He was found to be incompetent in Texas courts twice, more than two decades ago. As a result of these findings, he spent an extended period of time in a psychiatric correctional facility. Yet the state of Tennessee has continually moved to execute him, whether or not he properly understands the situation or is able to make rational decisions and assist in his own defense.

Reid's mental state also causes perceptual and memory impairments. He believes that many conversations are "repeats", that they have happened before, when they clearly have not. Reid's inability to accurately and consistently recall events makes it impossible for him to aid in his own defense, make rational decisions, or provide accurate information to his lawyers. For example, Reid believes that a court hearing in Nashville was a repeat of an imagined hearing from a previous year.

Reid's case is sadly not unique. Across the country 4 in 5 death row inmates suffer from mental illness, with 25% of inmates suffering, like Reid, from severe, often incapacitating, mental illness. In Paul Reid's case, as in the case of so many others, proper mental health treatment was never made available and the person sadly succumbed to their disease and perpetrated a horrible crime.

The question that must be asked is, are the mentally ill like Paul Reid, who, when properly treated, are unlikely to pose a threat to society, the people that we should be executing? The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the National Mental Health Association (NMHA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) all oppose the execution of the mentally ill.

TENNESSEE COALITION TO ABOLISH STATE KILLING

P.O.BOX 120552 ~ NASHVILLE TN ~ 37212

WWW.TCASK.ORG WWW.TCASK.BLOGSPOT.ORG

TCASK@TCASK.ORG

615.256.3906