

## SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

10th Annual Fast and Vigil

For use through July 2, 2003

Contact: **(your name, phone number)**

(From June 28 to July 2, please call 202-543-9577, ext. 16, or 202-607-7036 (mobile) to reach David Elliot, the AAC press liaison in DC.)

### LOCAL RESIDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL ANTI-DEATH PENALTY EVENT

**(YOUR NAME)**, a resident of **(YOUR CITY)** will travel to Washington, DC to participate in the 10th Annual Fast and Vigil to Abolish the Death Penalty, held in front of the U.S. Supreme Court each year. Death Penalty Abolitionists from across the nation and from other countries join together each year for this event to maintain a four-day presence in front of the Court and to educate the public about alternatives to the death penalty.

The Fast and Vigil begins at 12:00 AM on Sunday, June 29, the anniversary of *Furman v. Georgia*, the U.S. Supreme Court's 1972 decision which found the death penalty to be unconstitutional in practice, forcing all states to rewrite their death penalty laws. The Fast and Vigil ends at midnight on July 2, the anniversary of *Gregg v. Georgia*, the 1976 decision which allowed the resumption of executions in the U.S.

[Insert a relevant quote here, such as " I am proud to travel to Washington to participate in this important witness against state killing", said **(YOUR NAME)**. " I am following in the footsteps of great women and men who spoke up against slavery and evil. I am standing up against the culture of violence and asking our nation to adopt alternatives to the death penalty and stop the killing" .]

The primary goal of the June 29-July 2 activities is to educate the public. This is the tenth year in a row that Abolitionists will stand vigil in front of the U.S. Supreme Court between these historic anniversaries. The primary goal is to further educate the public about why the death penalty is a bad public policy, and everyone is invited to stand with us for alternatives to the death penalty. But the Fast and Vigil also serves as an opportunity for activists to come together and renew their commitment to the struggle for abolition.

Interviews with **(YOUR NAME)** can be arranged prior to the event by calling **(YOUR NUMBER)**.

A live interview from the steps of the Supreme Court during the event can be arranged by calling 202-543-9577, ext. 16, or 202-607-7036 (mobile). For more information, please visit <[www.abolition.org](http://www.abolition.org)>.

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