

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

Each year at the holiday season voices the world over cry out for peace.

This year, one of them, a voice of great power, will be lost unless you act.

Stanley Tookie Williams grew up where violence was a way of life. Now the State says another act of violence must end his life on December 13th.

In prison, Mr. Williams finally realized an opportunity for self-examination. This led him to renounce the lifestyle he had accepted and the gang he helped found. In the years following, he has written a remarkable collection of books that have touched the lives of thousands of children across the world, his eloquent message turning countless numbers of at-risk youth away from a violent path with only death at its end.

Despite the constraints of San Quentin's death row, Mr. Williams has become a tireless resource for every child, school district and community group that asks for his help. Through his work, gang truces have been mediated and long-standing wounds have been healed. Lives have been saved.

This work has not gone unnoticed, nor is it unappreciated. Thousands of letters have been sent you from ministers, teachers and community leaders who ask that you weigh the value of Mr. Williams' efforts, his message and his example, against the death sentence the court has imposed.

The impact and reach of his work have captured noteworthy attention. That an inmate on San Quentin's death row has earned five nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize and four for the Nobel Prize for Literature requires consideration.

The execution of Stanley Williams will silence a powerful voice for peace, but will not resolve unanswered questions about the conviction that put him on death row. The trial record shows disturbing signs of racial bias and cannot disguise a circumstantial case built on testimony from witnesses who personally profited from their story, including a jailhouse snitch with a record of perjury.

In 2002, in an unusual postscript to a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, one judge wrote, "Although Williams' good works and accomplishments since incarceration may make him a worthy candidate for the exercise of gubernatorial discretion, they are not matters that we in the federal judiciary are at liberty to take into consideration."

Stanley Williams' story has been told in many ways around the world and each time has brought a message of redemption, peace and hope.

Respectfully, we call on you to use your executive power to affirm the human capacity for personal transformation and reinforce the meaning of hope for young people everywhere by commuting Stanley Tookie Williams' sentence of death to life in prison.

Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams, MD

Jason Alexander

Salam Al-Maryati,
Executive Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council

American Friends Service Committee (Nobel Laureate)

Tom Andrews,
Former Member US House of Representatives

Edward Asner

Reverend Ed Bacon, Pastor
All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena

Bob Balaban

William Baldwin

Dr. Joan Willens Beerman, Ph.D

Leonard Beerman, Rabbi Emeritus
Leo Baeck Temple, Los Angeles

Harry Belafonte

Alan & Marilyn Bergman

Susan Blakely

Julian Bond, Chair
NAACP

Charles J. Brown

Jackson Browne

Gabriel Byrne

Sister Eileen Campbell, RSM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Gilbert Cedillo
California State Senate

Stephen Collins

Jill Clayburgh

Peter Coyote

Bryan Cranston

James Cromwell

Russell Crowe

Suzanne Cryer

Mario Cuomo
Former Governor, NY

Sister Anne Curtis, RSM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Ted Danson

Bishop Joe Morris Doss
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey, Ret.

Richard Dreyfuss

Mervin M. Dymally
Member, California State Assembly

Steve Earle

Hector Elizondo

Shelley Fabares

Mike Farrell

Laurence Fishburne

Robert Foxworth

Bonnie Franklin

Greg Germann

Melissa Gilbert

Danny Glover

Elliott Gould

Sister Marilyn Graf, Sisters of Mercy

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Auxiliary
Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, Mich.

Paul Haggis

Robert David Hall

Tom Harkin
United States Senate

Tess Harper

Sister Judith Hilbing, O.P.
Justice Promoter, Dominican Alliance

Sister Mary Jane Hotstream,
President, St. Louis Region, Sisters of Mercy

Ken Howard

Gordon Hunt

Anjelica Huston

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.,
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

Rabbi Steven Jacobs
Temple Kol Tikvah, Encino

Steve Jaffe

Peter Jason

Casey Kasem

Kerry Kennedy
RFK Human Rights Foundation

Irene Kahn
Secretary General
International Secretariat of Amnesty International (Nobel Laureate)

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Pastor Emeritus, Holman United Methodist Church, Los Angeles

Most Reverend Oscar H. Lipcombe,
Archbishop of Mobile, Alabama

Rev. S.J. Lucey, S.J.
President, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala.

Gregory Luke, Esq.

Peter MacNicol

Sister Margaret Maggio
Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille

Mairead Corrigan Maguire
Nobel laureate

Sister Patricia McDermott, RSM
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Jim McDermott
Member, United States Congress

Reverend John McGarry, S.J.,
Jesuit Provincial of California Province

Jim McGovern
Member, United States Congress

Sister Reg McKillip, O.P.
Promoter of Peace and Justice, Sinsinawa Dominicans

George Miller
Member, United States Congress

Alfred Molina

Sister Suzanne Moore, M.M.,
President, Maryknoll Sisters

Sister Dierdre Mullan, RSM
Director, Mercy Global Concern, United Nations

Edward James Olmos

Jane Olson
Chair, Human Rights Watch

Ed O'Neill

Julia Ormond

Paula Poundstone

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Dr. Victoria Riskin, PhD

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Dave Robinson
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Phil Alden Robinson

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Member, Los Angeles City Council

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President, Cincinnati Region, Sisters of Mercy

Susan Sarandon

John Saxon

Bill Schulz
Executive Director for Amnesty International, USA, (Nobel Laureate)

Betty and Stanley K. Sheinbaum

Roderick Spencer

Mary Steenburgen

Gloria Steinem

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Loretta Swit

Bishop Arthur Tafoya
Archdiocese of Pueblo, CO

Jeffrey Tambor

Sister Magdala Thompson
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Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Nobel Laureate

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Sister Linda Werthman, RSM
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Sister Barbara Wheeley, President
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Betty Williams
Nobel Laureate

Jody Williams
Nobel Laureate

Sister Paulette Williams, RSN
President, North Carolina Region, Sisters of Mercy

Bishop Henry Williamson, Sr.
Presiding Prelate of the 9th Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Alfre Woodard

Noah Wyle

Peter Yarrow

Bishop Gabino Zavala
Auxiliary, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, National President, Pax Christi