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Last updated June 2026
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The death penalty

[Death to the death penalty](#)

By Amnesty International, 2010

Duration: One minute

Amnesty International France in collaboration with advertising agency TBWA produced two short advertisements to coincide with Amnesty International's Death Penalty Campaign and will be launched on the 4th of October 2010.

[What if the death penalty disappeared in America](#)

By Aplus

Duration: 1:29 minutes

[Menschenrechte in drei Minuten erklärt](#)

Von Amnesty International

Sprache: Deutsch

Länge: 3 Minuten

Ein Video, das einfach und klar aufzeigt, was die Menschenrechte sind. Es wurde speziell für junge Menschen zwischen 13 und 20 Jahren entwickelt und kann auch von Lehrpersonen im Unterricht verwendet werden.

[The State of the Death Penalty in the United States](#)

By Law Shelf Educational Media

Duration: 8:20 minutes

Capital punishment in the United States is an ever-evolving issue. Early in our country's history, the death penalty was applied to seemingly trivial offenses like trading with Native Americans and horse theft. On the other hand, many states today have completely abolished the death penalty. These two extremes illustrate the ambivalent relationship the US legal system has with the death penalty.

[Lessons From death row inmates](#)

TED-Speech by David Dow, Texas, 2012

Duration: 18 minutes

David R. Dow is an esteemed professor at the University of Houston Law Centre who has dedicated his life to defending death row inmates.

In his 2012 TED speech, he talks not about the ethics of capital punishment, but on where the ideologies of pro-death penalty and anti-death penalty campaigners meet: on the topic of intervention.

Life in prison

[The Gray Box](#)

By The Ochberg Society for Trauma Journalism, 2014

Duration: 16 minutes

An investigative look at solitary confinement and about how people try to survive it, for example through artwork.

[Docs: Death Row – Inside Indiana State Prison](#)

By Independent Television, 2013

Duration: 1:31 h

Veteran broadcaster Trevor McDonald ventures inside one of America's most notorious maximum-security prisons – Indiana State. Behind its walls he comes face to face with the 12 condemned men awaiting execution on Death Row and some of the other 1900 inmates most of which are convicted of murder. In this second and final episode, Trevor McDonald meets the most hated inmate on Death Row – Fredrick Baer. Convicted of the brutal murders of a mother and her young daughter, Trevor finally comes face to face with the killer in his death row cell. In one of the most compelling interviews ever filmed on death row, Baer talks through his life and his crime.

[Indiana Women Behind Bars – Part 1](#)

[Indiana Women Behind Bars – Part 2](#)

By ITV stories, 2013

Duration: about 45 minutes each

Veteran broadcaster Trevor McDonald ventures inside two prisons that hold some of America's most notorious women criminals. Indiana Women's Prison and the Rockville Correctional Facility in the State of Indiana hold over 1800 offenders. Some are serving long sentences for very violent crimes; others will never be released.

[Women on death row](#)

Free documentary, 2025

Duration: 54 minutes

In the United States, 54 women are “on hold” for the execution of their death sentences. Linda Carty and Melissa Lucio are imprisoned in Texas. Linda Carty is accused of kidnapping and killing her neighbor to abduct her baby. Melissa Lucio allegedly mistreated her 2-year-old daughter. Detained in Arizona, Shawna Forde, head of an anti-immigration militia, was convicted, along with her accomplices, for murdering a father and his daughter. Some of them hope to have their cases reviewed. We followed them down the green line.

[Louis Theroux: Behind Bars](#)

By Stuart Cabb, 2008

Duration: 1 h

Louis Theroux: Behind Bars is a television documentary written and presented by Louis Theroux about one of America’s most notorious prisons, San Quentin. There, he meets and speaks to serial murderers, gang members, at-risk inmates and guards.

[Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail – Part 1](#)

BBC, 2011

Duration: 50 minutes each

This is a British television documentary is in two parts. The program follows Theroux as he spends time in the Miami-Dade County jail system: the Pre-Trial Detention Center (PTDC) (formerly known as DCJ or “Main Jail”); Metro West Detention Center (Metro West); Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center (TGK); and the Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department Boot Camp Program (Boot Camp).

Part 1: Held in large cage-like dwellings, holding up to 24 men, the inmates have developed a strange and violent jail culture. The men remain in the cells almost all the time and may only leave for yard time twice a week, leading to their living under the sway of a gladiatorial code known as “GABOS” (“**G**ame ain’t **b**ased **o**n **s**ympathy”) where, “The most powerful inmate rules by sheer force of strength.” They fight each other for food, for status and often just to pass the endless hours of confinement. Trips to the infirmary for the wounded are a frequent occurrence as inmates viciously attack and beat each other, but the guards say they are powerless to end the abuse. Theroux also follows a couple of men who are transferred out to the Metro West Detention Center.

[Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail – Part 2](#)

Theroux goes deeper into the jail system when he meets an alleged triple murderer, in solitary confinement at TKG, who faces a possible death sentence if convicted.

The journalist also follows a group of forty or so younger inmates who have escaped imprisonment by pleading guilty and agreeing to attend a four-month military-style program at Boot Camp. Amongst them is a 14-year-old boy facing a possible ten-year sentence for armed robbery if he cannot survive the boot camp's brutal training and indoctrination program. Many will drop out and receive prison sentences, but for a handful this will be their second chance at life.

[Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity – Part 1](#)

[Louis Theroux: By Reason of Insanity – Part 2](#)

Link of part 2 currently not working

BBC, 2015

Duration: 1h each

The documentary focuses on the lives of mental patients at two of Ohio's state psychiatric hospitals "Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare" and "Summit Behavioral Healthcare" who have been sent there after committing crimes but having been acquitted by reason of insanity.

Death row prisoners and their Family and Friends

[The Road to Livingston](#)

By panda bear films and Austin documentary collaborative / offshoot media, 2015

Duration: 1:20 h

The Road to Livingston offers a glimpse into a world that many of us do not know exists – that of family members, friends, sympathizers, activists, and many others who know inmates on death row. By following one woman's efforts to visit her incarcerated brother Louis Perez in Texas, we are introduced to this world and the stories inside.

[Four Weddings and An Execution – Dating Prisoners Documentary](#)

By: Firecracker Films, 2017

Duration: 48 minutes

A documentary about women, both in the U.K and America, who became penpals with an inmate and their friendship turned into romance, even marriage.

[Marrying the Night Stalker: In Love with the Most Evil Serial Killers](#)

By Patrick Schmidt, Pallas, 2013

Duration: 54 minutes

Why would someone fall in love with a convicted killer whose only hope of leaving prison is in a coffin? Notorious murderers like “Night Stalker” Richard Ramirez still receive bags of fan mail. He ended up marrying one of the women who wrote to him. Susan Atkins, convicted of the murder of actress Sharon Tate, also married twice while still in prison. We meet the men and women who have fallen in love with murderers. Some of them have conceived children in prison with their spouses. Others have dedicated their lives to freeing their partners. Should we see these people as deluded victims? Or can love really flourish behind prison walls?

Execution

[Death Row: The Final 24 Hours \(Documentary\)](#)

By WAG TV for Discovery Channel

Duration: 42 minutes

If you know you will die in 24 hours, what thoughts will go through your mind? You might not get the chance to ponder those thoughts, because nobody of us knows exactly when or where he will die. But prisoners sentenced to death know that. It might sound ironic, but they are few of the people that can have the last 24 hours to think about their life.

This documentary takes a look at exactly what goes through the minds of criminals and prisoners during their last 24 hours of sentence. And how the walk from the death row prison to the execution looks like. The documentary also takes a look at what passes through the mind of the executioner and police officers that need to pass the sentence. It is not easy sleeping at night knowing you need to kill somebody the next day. But somehow, these people find a way to do that.

[Fourteen days in May](#)

By BBC 1, 1987

Duration: 1:25 h

Fourteen Days in May is a documentary directed by Paul Hamann. The program recounts the final days before the execution of Edward Earl Johnson, an American prisoner convicted of rape and murder. Johnson protested his innocence and claimed that his confession had been made under duress. He was executed in Mississippi's gas chamber on May 20, 1987.

The documentary crew, given access to the prison warden, guards and chaplain and to Johnson and his family, filmed the last days of Johnson's life in detail. The documentary argues against the death penalty and maintains that capital punishment is disproportionately applied to African Americans convicted of crimes against whites. The program features attorney Clive Stafford Smith, a noted advocate against capital punishment.

[Tod in Texas – Werner Herzog / Todesstrafe in den USA](#)

Von Werner Herzog, 2011

Sprache: Deutsch

Länge: 1:40 h

Der Filmemacher zeichnet das Bild des Todeszellenkandidaten Michael Perry. Er wartet in einem Hochsicherheitsgefängnis in Texas auf seine Hinrichtung. Perry hat eine fünfzig Jahre alte Krankenschwester ermordet. In zwei weiteren Mordfällen wird er der Tat verdächtigt, konnte allerdings nie ausreichend belastet werden. Die Morde ereigneten sich in Conroe, Texas im Beisein von Perrys Partner Jason Burkett. Neben den Tätern kommen auch Opfer und Leidtragende zu Wort.

[Death Row Doctor: Why I Take Part in Executions / Op-Docs](#)

By New York Times Opinion, 2019

Duration: 8 minutes

Can the vow that doctors take to “do no harm” permit taking part in capital punishment? This week, the New York Times Op-Docs brings you “Death Row Doctor,” about Dr. Carlo Musso and his assistance with executions in Georgia. Directed by Lauren Knapp, the film challenges us to answer the question of whether having a doctor in the execution chamber is a perversion of medicine ... or a common-sense act of mercy.

[Life and Death Row: Richard Cobb – Execution](#)

By BBC1, 2014

Duration: 53 minutes

BAFTA and Royal Television Society award winning observational documentary following victims, inmates and their families in the countdown to execution.

Cases

[Roger McGowen condemned to death number 889](#)

By Nicolas Pallay Production: Les Films du Carrossier

Duration: 59 minutes

Condemned to death for murder in 1987, Roger McGowen, raised in a disadvantaged neighborhood of Houston, Texas, has never stopped claiming his innocence. This documentary is Roger's story, his battle, his hopes and downs, but above all his incredible love for life and people. A life-changing testimony of humanity and hope.

[Was Aileen Wuornos A Monster Or The Victim?](#)

By True Lives, 2011

Duration: 44 minutes

In this documentary, we take a look at whether the serial killer Aileen Wuornos was a monster or in-fact the victim. Born To Kill takes an in-depth look at the cases of some of the most notorious murderers that have shocked the world.

[Life and death row: Willie Tyrone Trottie – Forgiveness](#)

By BBC, 2016

Duration: 28 minutes

About Willie Tyrone Trottie, Texas

T.T. Trottie is preparing himself to lose another parent. His father killed his mother 21 years ago and will be executed a week from now.

[The Execution – Clifford Boggess](#)

By FRONTLINE, 1999

Duration: 1:20 h

This FRONTLINE documentary explores the human cost of capital punishment, focusing on Clifford Boggess's case. The 1995 investigation delves into Boggess's crimes and life on death row, examining the perspectives of victims' families and prison staff. Through interviews and archival footage, the film raises profound questions about justice and redemption.

[Life and death row: Emilia Carr – Love triangle](#)

Links see below

By BBC, 2016

About Emilia Carr, Florida

Duration: 10 minutes each part

Over eight mini-episodes, Life and Death Row: Love Triangle tells the story of Heather, a beautiful young wife and mother, who has disappeared without trace. Her adulterous husband Joshua and his pregnant lover Emilia are brought in for questioning. What has happened to Heather and who is telling the truth?

Published alongside this eight-part series is evidence linked to the case including witness statements, secret police recordings and photos of the crime scene. Will one man's love triangle become a death sentence for both women?

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#) [Part 4](#) [Part 5](#) [Part 6](#) [Part 7](#) [Part 8](#)

Justice

[True Justice – Bryan Stevenson’s Fight For Equality](#)

By HBO Documentary films, 2019

Duration: 1:40 h

For more than three decades, Alabama public interest attorney Bryan Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, has advocated on behalf of the poor, the incarcerated and the condemned, seeking to eradicate racial discrimination in the criminal justice system. An intimate portrait of this remarkable man, *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson’s Fight for Equality* follows his struggle to create greater fairness in the system and shows how racial injustice emerged, evolved and continues to threaten the country, challenging viewers to confront it.

More videos and information on the homepage [Equal Justice Initiative](#)

[What Bryan Stevenson Learned about Mercy From his clients](#)

By SuperSoul Sunday | OWN, 2015

Duration: 1 minute

Civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson explains to Oprah Winfrey why mercy and compassion should be extended to everyone and reveals the major obstacle to that happening.

[Racial Terror Lynching in America Animates](#)

By Equal Justice Initiative, 2016

Duration: 5 minutes

Narrated by EJI Director Bryan Stevenson, the five-minute video illustrates the widespread violence and racial terror created by lynching and mass atrocities perpetrated against African Americans, frequently with the support of government officials. The threat of lynching forced millions of Black people to flee the American South to the urban North and West as refugees from violent racism during the first half of the 20th century.

Forgiveness and Restorative Justice

[The Joys of Forgiveness on Death Row / Sunny Jacobs](#)

By TED Talks, 2016

Duration: 19 minutes

As an innocent condemned to death, Sunny Jacobs realized she had some serious choices to make. Her decisions led her to understand more about life and freedom than anything she had ever experienced. Locked in solitary confinement for five of her seventeen years on death row, she embraced her life, always choosing to believe in hope. In this remarkable tale, Sunny shares her thoughts on how to achieve ultimate liberation. Sonia “Sunny” Jacobs (64) was sentenced to death at the age of 28 for the murder of two police officers in Florida. When she was imprisoned, her two young children were cast into the foster care system. Nearly 17 years after her arrest, Sunny’s conviction was overturned on appeal. Her story, along with those of five other wrongfully convicted death row inmates, became *The Exonerated*, a play put on by the nonprofit theater, The Culture Project. Sunny is the author of *Stolen Time: One Woman’s Inspiring Story as an Innocent Condemned to Death*.

[Father meets his children’s killer / Extraordinary moment inside maximum security prison](#)

By 7 News Spotlight, 2025

Duration: 50 minutes

A father who lost his three children. And the man who killed them. Samuel Davidson was three times over the legal alcohol limit, drug-affected and out of control when the ute he was driving mounted a footpath and mowed down seven children in the 2020 Oatlands tragedy that shocked the nation. Abdallah siblings Antony (13), Angelina (12), and Sienna (8), along with their cousin Veronique Sakr (11), were all killed instantly. Three other children were injured. Davidson was sentenced on appeal to 20 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 15 years.