



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jon Crane

Phone/Email 203-982-4575, [jon@criticalpr.com](mailto:jon@criticalpr.com)

## **DUVAL SINGLED OUT AS ONE OF THE WORST "EXTREME CONCENTRATION OF DEATH SENTENCES"**

### ***Faith Leaders Call for Suspension of Death Penalty in Duval Co.***

On Wednesday, August 24, at 10:30am, local faith leaders will hold a news conference in front of the Duval County Courthouse in reaction to a [report from the Fair Punishment Project](#) branding Duval County an "outlier" in its overuse of the death penalty. Clergy will release a letter to the State Attorney's Office signed by over 50 religious leaders from Duval County demanding a halt to death penalty prosecutions in their county.

The faith leaders who will address the issues raised in the report will include the Most Reverend Felipe Estévez, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine, Pastor Reginald Gundy of Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Susan Rogers of The Well at Springfield, and Pastor Phillip Baber of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville. Equal Justice USA's Jacksonville-based organizer, Christine Henderson, will facilitate the news conference.

"The overzealous pursuit of the death penalty has become a symbol of our racist and broken criminal justice system, and now we have confirmation that Duval County is in fact one of the worst of the worst," said Pastor Gundy. "There is no escaping our outlier status when many other Florida counties are beginning to turn away from the death penalty."

Bishop Estévez also expressed concerns: "Whenever we can choose life over death, we are called to do so. Duval County's high use of the death penalty raises grave concerns and goes completely against promoting a culture of life, since means other than execution are available to keep society secure."

Once again, the news conference and the release of the letter will take place on Wednesday, August 24, at 10:30am in front of the Duval County Courthouse, located at 501 West Adams Street in Jacksonville.

*Equal Justice USA (EJUSA) is a national organization that works to transform the justice system by ending the death penalty, strengthening programs that help crime survivors rebuild their lives, and promoting trauma-informed responses to violence that save lives and heal communities.*

20 Jay Street, Suite 808  
Brooklyn, New York 11201  
[www.ejusa.org](http://www.ejusa.org)

p: 718 801 8940  
f: 718 801 8947  
[info@ejusa.org](mailto:info@ejusa.org)