

National Black Church Initiative

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PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY EVEN IN THE CASE OF THE DC SNIPER

*John Allen Muhammad is a Child of God and May God Have Mercy on
His Soul*

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative has consistently opposed the death penalty for anyone, no matter how horrendous the crime. The state has no right to take a human life because it has no ability to give it. The issue of life and death is the dominion of God, through his son Jesus Christ. The United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia in putting to death John Muhammad for these killing committed a wrongful act. The church will never relinquish its authority over life and death issues to the state. When the state attempts to wrestle control from the church in this area it is a sin.

Capital punishment is morally wrong and reprehensible and amounts to cruel and unusual punishment. Capital punishment is not fair, and is based upon a flawed system. This system continues to convict and kill minorities, especially African Americans, at a disproportionate rate. It has been proven that capital punishment does not deter crime. Not every person on death row is guilty. There have been over 300 cases overturned, and the convictions nullified based upon new DNA evidence. Even though we are not arguing that John Allen Muhammad fits into that category, we still believe that capital punishment is inherently wrong and evil, and must be abolished – not just in the United States, but around the world.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the NBCI, said, “It gives me no joy as a church leader and a Christian to witness the state taking over God’s authority by taking a life, despite the crimes that Mr. Muhammad has committed. The speed with which the Commonwealth of Virginia executed John Mohamed speaks to the thirst of the state for death. It is amazing to realize how

unconscionably and how eagerly the state of Virginia put Mr. Mohamed to death. It seems as though his execution was on the fast track.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.