

National Black Church Initiative

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September 19, 2011
For Immediate Release

The National Black Church Initiative Stands by Troy Davis *Death Penalty is Immoral; God is the Author and Finisher of Life*

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans morally pleads with Georgia’s Board of Pardons and Paroles to consider the fact that two key persons have recanted their stories which undermines the verdict and conviction of Troy Davis. The Black Church strongly feels if the state continues on this road to kill this young man when there is a question of innocence everyone associated with this possible execution God will deal with accordingly.

The Supreme Court has even granted Davis an opportunity to prove his innocence, but the trial judge refused to give him a new trial. What are they afraid of? The law eloquently talks about getting down to the truth and honoring the rule of law. In this case and many others, the truth is irrelevant because the trial judge refused to grant Troy Davis a new trial which would have allowed him access to the Supreme Court to prove his innocence. The Supreme Court action is unusual; it has never been done in fifty years. NBCI urges the Parole Board to be a lover of the truth and to consider all relevant evidence in this case including the recanting of two of the key witnesses.

Rev Anthony Evans, President of NBCI who was also born in the state says “Georgia has to make a decision here – whether it is going to break from its cracker past or walk into the sunlight and make real the Constitution for all of its brothers and sisters in the South and prove once and for all that the South has the same fervor for justice and peace as anywhere else in this country. Free Troy Davis.”

Southern towns have a cruel, inhumane, and racist history of executing African Americans on little or no evidence. The cases are many and the tradition is long. NBCI strongly urges the Georgia Parole Board to do something unusual that is uncharacteristic of their history and will prove once and for all that if you are Black and poor that the U.S. Constitution that over 800,000

white poor Americans died to preserve during the Civil War to protect the life, liberty, and property of the least of these. God says that he has no respects of persons and the South professes a profound religious tradition. We simply want the South to respect its own religious tradition.

NBCI simply asks and pleads that the Georgia Parole Board simply be guided by two principles – Getting down to the truth of this case and considering Troy Davis’ case as a testament of fairness under the Southern historic dominated white law tradition and the love for our Constitution that provides the same rights, privileges, and access to the law that they have continued to provide for white male landowners.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI’s mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI’s programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.