



WHO LIVES WHO DIES WHO DECIDES
The Art Event on Capital Punishment
Founder, Kenneth Reams

Nov. 29, 2014 (Saturday)

Dear Anne,

My name is Kenneth Reams, I am currently on death row in the state of Arkansas and I'm the founder of "Who Decides, Inc.", a non-profit organization that's in its infant stages... yet we are growing.

I'm writing this letter to you from the confines of solitary confinement — full of energy, ideals, ambition and pure optimism.

Just a couple days ago I received a ^{email} printout that you recently sent to (Judith Elane), after viewing our Website. Kathy Spillman of "Witness to Innocence" informed you about us and advised you to contact Judith, which you did. In your email to her, you basically wanted to know if it was possible for us to work together in some form, being that we both have the drive and vision to spark ~~the~~ ^{society} consciousness on the subject of capital punishment in America.

Well, I'm writing to you directly in reply to your email, and as the "FOUNDER" and producer of the project you viewed on the web, I am expressing my desire and interest in exploring (how) we can maybe collaborate. It is my hopes that we can both work together and do some positive things while accomplishing the goals we both aim for in our projects.

Let me tell you about (Who Decides, Inc.), our mission and purpose. The ideal that exist is my own creation. Two years ago, I sat our to take "ART" and the powers it hold, and use it as a vehicle to educate society about the (practice and history) of the death penalty in America. I mean, I intend to use "art" to open up the minds about the practice and history in a FRESH NEW WAY. We have

started the foundation building of this corporation with using visual art, but I plan to do/produce poetry shows, plays, and even films....in the future. In all that I'm doing my overall mission is to ~~also~~ establish a (National Death Penalty Museum) here in America.

Now, Anne, I know that all of this sounds lofty and I am FULLY AWARE of the factors and odds against me and my vision, but I have already started this movement and I have dedicated the ~~past~~ past 2 years on pushing it. Nothing will stop me! As I said earlier, we are in the infant stages of this movement, I have faced some difficult points already, but there is no doubts — I am doing something unique, inspiring, powerful and very educational.

As I write this letter to you (now), Who Decides, Inc. is currently displaying its FIRST visual art exhibition in the downtown area of Little Rock, Arkansas. We held a reception for the public exhibition on the evening of (November 13), and 82 individuals came out in attendance. And if the weather wasn't so bad many more would have come out. It was 35° to 40° degrees and light snow the evening of the reception, so that hurt our attendance somewhat. But the event was beyond moving! I had special "speakers" to fly in, we served food and beverages, had live jazz music and presented some amazing pieces of art spanning 400 years of history — every exhibit was on the death penalty. All of the art exhibits, (around 50 pieces) was done by me and my fiancée Isabelle...who is a French citizen.

At some point we plan to do as you all are doing and collect exhibits from death row inmates throughout the United States, but as I said, we are still in the infant stages of building this non-profit corporation. We are in fact taking in work from other death row prisoners, but we haven't fully formed

In just a couple days from now I will turn (40 years old). My birthday is on December 21st. As I look back on my life I didn't think that I would be ALIVE at (40), I am truly living life against the odds. I am locked in a small cell pretty much (24 hours a day) and a big world exist on the outside of my small box — however, from my small box, I will effect the world with my work if I am given enough time. I intend to make America think anew about its history with Capital punishment and the practice of it. I know that I will not and cannot effect the mind of everyone in America, but I plan to strike a big blow. I was just a lost kid when they sentenced me to death, but today I am a determined man living life against the odds.

I hope you and your family
enjoy a blessed Christmas,

Kenny R.

1-13-2015

June:

In the past, I mentioned to you that I am on death row even though I "did not" shoot the victim in my case. That fact is 100% percent true. However, "racism" is a (very large part) of why I am death row. My case is DEEPLY ROOTED in racism.

In 1993, I was tried by 11 whites and 1 black. The only reason they put the (one black juror) on my case was to keep my case from later being reversed due to racism on appeal.

During my jury trial — the family of the victim stood up in open court and screamed out: "KILL THAT NIGGER".

Anyway, I'm sending you some testimony from one of the key witnesses that my lawyers placed on the witness stand. I think you may find it very interesting. This testimony will also give you a open glimpse into "part" of my case.

- Renny Reams