

SPECIAL ISSUE
HOW PEOPLE ARE CONDEMNED TO DIE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

LIFE
ON
DEATH
ROW



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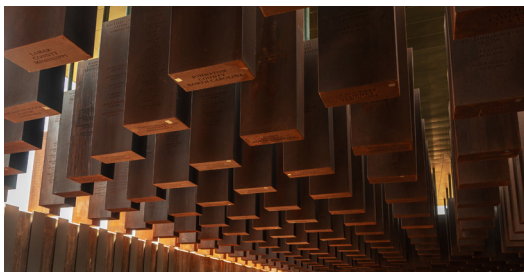
ELSEWHERE

30 | LYNCHING BY ANY OTHER NAME

Our modern-day incarceration system and capital punishment are inextricably linked to the history of racial violence and lynching in the U.S.

By Benjamin Acosta

Photo by Mercer Choi



74 | GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

For every ten people executed, one person has been exonerated, in a process that takes decades.

By Ilya Mclean

Photo by Y.T. Susej



TELEVISION

LOCKDOWN: BEST OF

A series of glimpses from within the confines of a maximum-security prison and the lives of the prisoners there available on NatGeo's website.

TELEVISION

LIFE & DEATH ROW

All three seasons of the show examining the effects of Death Row on victims, their families, and the legal system are available online on NatGeo's website.

110 | ANYTHING BUT HUMANE

Although the lethal injection method of execution gives the appearance of a peaceful death, the reality is anything but painless.

By Rhyolin Vade

Photo by Elphie Masters

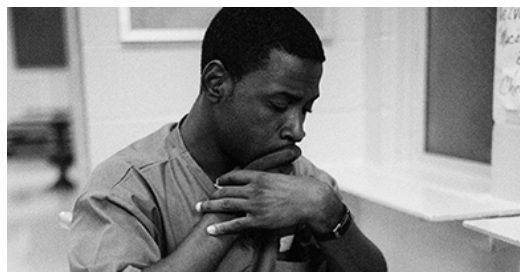


130 | CRUEL AND UNUSUAL

Dehumanization of prisoners is inherent in the functioning of death row. These are the stories of those abused by the death penalty system.

By Silas Munn

Photo by Ellimere Petty



TELEVISION

GENIUS IS BACK

The anthology series of the world's most brilliant innovators is back, with season two documenting the life of Pablo Picasso. Tuesdays at 10/9c.

BOOKS

JUST MERCY

Lawyer Bryan Stevenson writes on the need for mercy, compassion, and redemption in our criminal justice system. Available wherever books are sold.

104 | I VOLUNTEER AS TRIBUTE

An examination of the phenomenon of volunteer executions in the U.S., and the prisoners who decide to die.

128 | AROUND THE WORLD

A by-the-numbers look at conviction and execution rates around the world and at home, and whether capital punishment is effective.

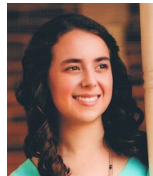
152 | EXECUTIONER

The impact of death row goes beyond the condemned. Here are the voices of those working on death row, and the effect it has had on them.

On the Cover A photo of one person who has been on death row for years.
Photo by Petra Reist.

Corrections and Clarifications
Go to ngm.com/corrections.

| MORE COMPASSION IS NEEDED IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE DEATH PENALTY



Death row is often referred to as a living death, and there's no wonder why.

Capital punishment is one of the most serious violations of human rights, dehumanizing all involved.

We have buried our emotions and respect for the humanity of others beneath a bureaucratic process designed to extract revenge and kill people as efficiently and cleanly as possible. Under such a system, we all become victims.

It is high time we address the death penalty and all of its flaws: the inhumanness, unfairness, its history tied to racial injustice, the lack of effectiveness. It's time to call the death penalty what it is: state-sanctioned murder. It's time we acknowledge the system as broken and make efforts to remove the last vestiges of barbarianism from our legal system.

This issue focuses on the way capital punishment harms us all, from the prisoners to the people who guard and execute them, to the effect it has on the rest of the country and the world. Despite the long road ahead towards change, we have hope for the future, for our common human dignity to prevail.

Thank you for reading *National Geographic*.

Samantha L. Seely

Samantha Seely,
Editor in Chief

An exhibit at the Equal Justice Initiative, in Montgomery, Alabama, with jars filled with soil from lynching sites, honoring those who were lynched in Alabama.
Photo by Samantha Seely

