

On Wings of Hope

Project Hope



Volume 24 Issue 2

Apr. - Jun 2020

*Execute
Justice
Not
People*

THE TEMPTATION OF THE PITY POT

How comfortable it is to sit on the pity pot! As I sit on it I can indulge in self pity, count all the ways in which the world in general and people in particular have failed me and be something which requires absolutely no work. I can kick back, feel important and enjoy my role as victim. And you want to dislodge me from my very comfortable perch? Please tell me why?

First and foremost I want you off that pity pot because you are so much more than that. Of course in a manner of speaking we are all victims of circumstance as so much in life was chosen for us and not by us. The problem with buying into the victim role however is that we surrender our personhood and can no longer see what we can do to either improve our situation or if that is not possible, focus on what we do have. I can think of nothing more demeaning than being regarded as a victim. Nothing!

Perhaps you believe that being a victim has been helpful in gaining support from people who feel sorry for you? Sure, but doesn't something inside of you revolt against being an object of pity? And don't you think that you might be able to get help without that, maybe from people who are put off by your victim role? In the end victims who feel sorry for themselves are not very attractive to most people, in fact they might provoke questions of why and how we got there and I am not sure that we would always care for the answer.

And just so you don't misunderstand me, there is a difference between grieving and feeling sorry for oneself. Of course we grieve for so many losses in our lives and we should, but then there is the question of how we do that. Will we turn inwards and feel sorry for ourselves and vegetate on the pity pot or will we use our losses constructively for ourselves and possibly others? I know you can do it which is why I ask you: please, please get off that pity pot, because you are so much more than just a helpless victim!

Esther

P.S. Written before we knew about Covid-19 but still relevant, wouldn't you agree?

Greetings to all,

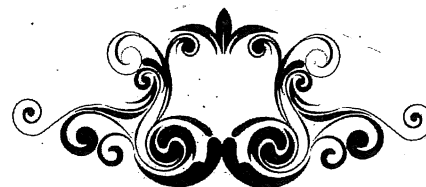
During these trying times we are hoping that every one of you and your families are holding up.

I would like to share a few words with everyone if I may. Positivity. Hope. Faith. Perseverance. All things we have to have during these trying and uncertain times. We as individuals, a country, the world, have faced ordeals of great proportions, and we persevered because we maintained hope and stayed positive as we stood first on faith. This too shall pass!

The effects of the COVID-19 virus has helped to shine a spotlight once again that the barbaric experiment of murdering one's citizens is not needed to keep the world from blowing up. Court proceeding after court proceeding has been put on hold and executions have been stayed due to the COVID-19 virus, and the world didn't blow up. What blew up was the outpouring of compassion, generosity, and humanism. However great those things are, what is sad is that it always takes a tragedy to bring us together as a people. Under the chaos and uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus racism, discrimination, and the experimental practice of state sanctioned murder has taken a back-seat, and has been replaced by compassion, generosity, and humanism. Why can't we have this kind of understanding, compassion, and togetherness everyday without having to be led there by fear and uncertainty. Just a thought!

Well, in the midst of all the chaos, confusion, fear, tragedy, and uncertainty we still find hope, positivity, and blessings. We are thankful and blessed to have the Honorable Senator Hank Sanders (ret.) join our Advisory Board. Thank you Senator Sanders, and welcome. Also, although her great work on putting together the PHADP Archive continues from home, we have to thank Prof. Katie Owens-Murphy for all that she does and continues to do.

(continued...)



PROJECT HOPE TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY (phadp)
501 (C) (3) non-profit.

MISSION STATEMENT:
Working together with friends, supporters and other advocates to educate the public and bring about the abolition of Capital Punishment in Alabama.

NATIONAL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 1362, Lanett, AL 36863
Email: beesther@earthlink.net
Web: www.phadp.org.
Email group: phadp-mail-subscribe@yahoo.com, also on Face Book:
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty in Alabama

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Anthony Boyd, Chairman
Bart Johnson, Vice Chairman
Jeffery Lee, Sec. /Treas.
Jessie Phillips, Coordinator
Nicholas Smith, Sgt At Arms
Info Dir. Randy Lewis

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Anthony Boyd, Pres./CEO
Bart Johnson, Vice Pres.
Esther Brown, Executive Director

DEVELOPMENT: Brandon Fountain
STUDENT REP: Petra Jackson
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR: Donald Blocker

BOARD OF ADVISORS
Atty. Bryan Stevenson, Senator Hank Sanders,
Atty. Christine Lichtenfels, Callie Greer
Atty. Kacey L Keeton, Assistant Federal Defender
Robert M Wilson, Judy Collins,
Robin DeMonia, Ann Williams,
Ursula Malchau, Gary Drinkard,
Shelley Douglass, Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy,
Paul Labatte, Britta Slopianka

**THIS NEWSLETTER WAS WRITTEN,
TYPED AND FORMATTED ON DEATH
ROW AT HOLMAN PRISON**

We have to also extend a huge congratulations to our Student Representative Miss Petra Jackson on her recent graduation from The University of Vermont. We are extremely happy for her, and proud of her. Congratz Petra!

So you see there are positives amidst the turmoil. We just have to see them, hold onto them, and treasure them...no matter how small or large. Keep hope alive and be blessed

In Solidarity,
 Anthony Boyd
 Chairman, PHADP

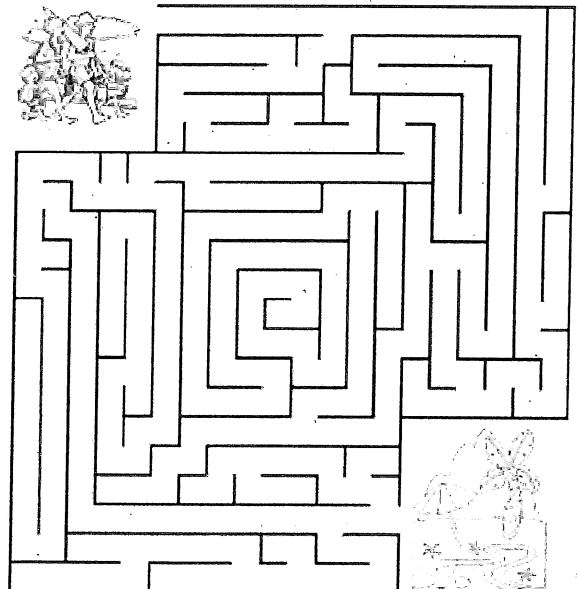


- Word List**
- SARE FEET
 - BEACH
 - BOAT
 - FLIP FLOPS
 - FLOWERS
 - ICE CREAM
 - LEMONADE
 - POOL
 - STRAWBERRIES
 - SUMMER
 - SUNSCREEN
 - SUNSHINE
 - SWIMMING
 - UMBRELLA
 - WATERMELON

L E M O N A D E W Q G R F B E
 F I G K G I T E A I E I P R V
 P L I A H L N H T F Z E N I N
 D A O C B I T B E S F U Y Q N
 H I A W H E B A R W L V X J K
 S E K S E S C R M I N G F K N
 B E N E J R Q E E M Z K L Y G
 G U J P A P S F L M S Y I L H
 S H Q J O W S E O I U R P H F
 P R S A N O G E N N M D F P G
 W K Q R D A L T U G M R L G R
 V N I C E C R E A M E S O J C
 U M B R E L L A H E R G P X R
 T S T R A W B E R R I E S I L
 Y B O A T S U N S C R E E N M

SUMMER MAZE

Can you help them find the beach?



*Execute
 Justice
 for
 People*

Alabama News

Second Quarter 2020

* The top story is, of course, the pandemic. Several states have postponed executions, however, Missouri is working overtime to move forward with the execution of a likely innocent man. Courts continue to rule on cases in the pipeline and grapple with deadlines and hearing schedules in this new age of social distancing. All visitation remains on hold here at Holman, both legal and otherwise.

* Amazing News! The Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty archives are online! We are very, very fortunate! Thank you to all who have worked so hard to make this possible, as well as everyone who has shown an interest and support.

* Congratulations to our long-time friend and student representative Petra Jackson for graduating summa cum laude from the University of Vermont. We wish her the best in her continuing education the medical field.

* Executive Director Esther Brown provided her report for the Death Penalty Moratorium Committee of the Alabama Chapter of the NAACP and participated in their quarterly meeting over Zoom. Not even a global pandemic can slow down our fearless leader, we all thank her for continuing to take care of things on the outside during these strange times.

* We were pleased to sign on to a letter sent by The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, Human Rights for Kids, and R. Street to state parole boards asking them to prioritize the review of individuals serving lengthy sentences for crimes committed as children, especially those who are particularly vulnerable to developing serious complications due to COVID-19. The letter also asked parole boards to suspend supervision fees during this time of economic crisis, to not condition release on completing programming that may be currently unavailable, to utilize video hearings, etc. In supporting them, we remembered in particular our former members who had been juveniles at the time of the crime and have now been resentenced.

* It is our pleasure to welcome Senator Hank Sanders (ret) who very graciously agreed to join our Advisory Board. No one has done more for abolition of the death penalty in Alabama than Senator Hank Sanders! We will forever be in his debt!

* It is with great sadness that we have to mention the passing of Jamal Jackson. Jamal was an asset for PHADP as an up and coming sub-board member. His presence will be sorely missed. Our hearts are with his family at this difficult time.

A FEW THOUGHTS

In the continual aftermath of events in Minneapolis, I've been trying to string words together from my whirling head of thoughts. I am wounded deeply by this continual loss in our country. But I am more heartbroken that violence like this is not a surprise.

I woke up feeling helpless. Another soul lost to this virus of hatred and violence, without reason. But I know that helplessness is selfish, so I must move on. Why do I have the right to feel helpless when I have never had to fear that my voice will be choked, that my purpose in life will be silenced by another's hate? As I sit mourning the nonsensical loss of another human, I know I cannot look outward for a solution, an answer to this horror. I must look inward, and start with myself. It is not the job of my friends--Grace and Chidimna--or even my brothers, Simon and Dennis, to teach me about the hardships they traverse and the racism they face. It is my own duty as a human being to educate myself and help others understand the covert oppression facing many in this world... To start the uncomfortable conversations with those who've lacked exposure to the realities faced by so many minorities in our country. In a country that preaches equality and freedom for all, why do we continue to fall short on that promise? We need to do better. We *MUST* do better. And it starts with me. A privileged white woman who is horrified by her own feelings of helplessness, shame, and guilt. A privileged white woman outraged by this hurt, and ready to stand for justice.

Petra Jackson, phadp Student Representative.

We congratulate Petra on her graduation Magna cum Laude with a B.S. in Health Services from the University of Vermont! The next stop is Medical School! And yes, we are family and yes, we are proud of you!

I received A Few Thoughts after Wings of Hope had already been dropped off at the printer. I shared it on my Facebook page and judging by the outpouring of support realized that if possible these timely thoughts had to be included in The Wings of Hope. We all must speak up and be ready to stand for justice! All of us!

"With liberty and justice for ALL."

Alabama Fails to Meet AEDPA's Requirements to Benefit

AEDPA Chapter 154

Chapter 154 derives from a proposal developed in 1989, under the leadership of Justice Lewis F. Powell, to address the problem of protracted and repetitive litigation in capital cases and to fill a gap in representation for capital defendants at the stage of state postconviction review.

The proposal contemplated that more expeditious procedures would apply with greater finality, in federal habeas corpus review of capital cases in states that appoint counsel for indigent capital defendants in state collateral proceedings. See 135 Cong. Rec. 24694-98 (1989); 137 Cong. Rec. 6012-14 (1991); HR Rep. 104-23, at 10-11. (1995)(House Judiciary Committee Report)

Congress enacted Chapter 154 as part of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996. See Public Law 104-132; sec. 107(a); 110 Stat. 1214,1221-26/ Under Chapter 154's original form, federal habeas courts determined the applicability of Chapter 154's expedited federal habeas review procedures in the context of adjudicating federal habeas petitions filed by state capital defendants/

In 2006, Congress enacted amendments that brought Chapter 154 into its current form. See Public Law 109-177, sec. 507, 120 stat 250, 250-51 (codified in part at U.S.C. 2265). The amendments transferred responsibility for determining a state's satisfaction of Chapter 154's requirements from the regional federal courts to the Attorney General, subject to de novo review by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. See 28 U.S.C. 2265. Under the revised scheme, the Attorney General, if requested by an appropriate state official, makes a determination and certification whether the state has established a postconviction capital counsel mechanism satisfying the chapter's requirement, with exclusive review of the certification by the D.C. Circuit. See 28 U.S.C. (2265(a),(c)).

The amendments also added a provision stating that there are no requirements for certification or application of Chapter 154 other than those expressly stated in the Chapter, 28 U.S.C. 2265 (a)(3), reflexcting congressional concern that some courts had declined to apply Chapter 154 on grounds going beyond those congress had deemed to be warranted in its formulation of Chapter 154, See 152 Cong. Rec. 2441, 2445-46(2006)(remarks of Sen. Kyl); 151 Cong. Rec. E2640 (daily ed. Dec. 22, 2005) (extension of remarks of Rep. Flake).

In order for a state to benefit from the "Procedural Benefits" that the AEDPA provides, states that opt in have to meet the requirements of Chapter 154 as set out by Congress, which are:

(1) States must have established a mechanism for the appointment, compensation, and payment of reasonable litigation expenses of competent counsel in state postconviction proceedings brought by indigent prisoners who have been sentenced to death, and
 (2) States must provide standards of competency for the appointment of such counsel. 28 U.S.C. 2265(a).
 Additional specifications relating to the appointment of postconviction counsel appear in 28 U.S.C. 2261(c)-(d).

Randy Lewis
 Z - 741 / 0 - 19

The Power of Being on the Same Page

So, here's another thing that we here on life row have in common with our free-world counterparts. We all face challenges getting, and staying, on the same page. Conflicting reports on everything from world news, local politics, even the weather is enough to make anyone question their understanding.

If you've ever been in a relationship, then you know how difficult getting just two people on the same page (not to mention the kids). So it isn't hard to imagine how much more difficult, and important it is for large groups.

Recently Holman welcomed the men from Donaldson, and the process of sharing information back and forth with them revealed just how different our experiences have been. I'm looking forward to learning more from them, and I'm excited by the influx of new ideas and energy.

The bad news is, we will still get fractured opinions from the courts, unclear and inconsistent rulings, etc. But the good news is, we stand united, we stand on a clear purpose, and we have all of you standing with us!

Be the Other Voice
 Bart Johnson
 Z-778 / F-18

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty
 P.O. Box 1362, Lanett, AL 36863
 Tel: 334 499 0003
beesther@earthlink.net • www.phadp.org



Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty is an interfaith 501 C 3 organization whose mission is to educate and mobilize communities to act to abolish the death penalty in Alabama. PHADP relies on YOU for support. Suggested donations: \$25/individual, \$40/household, and \$100/congregation, or whatever amount is affordable. Checks should be made out to "PHADP" and sent to the above address.

Project Hope

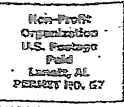


Lanett, AL 36863

(334) 499-0003

www.phadp.org

**EXECUTE JUSTICE,
NOT PEOPLE!**



Meanwhile...

The same court that professes to only be concerned with the constitutionality of the legal process and not the guilt or innocence of defendants continues to point to inflammatory facts of a specific case, completely unrelated to the constitutional questions presented to them. You can call it shifting the focus or moving the goalposts, but whatever you call it, it is an impediment to justice.

**EXECUTE JUSTICE
NOT PEOPLE**

Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

A Christian Perspective

Produced By
Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty

Volume 24 Issue 2

Apr. - Jun. 2020



Organizational Information

A Christian Perspective is
Published by Project Hope
To Abolish the Death
Penalty. Address
correspondence to: Bart
Johnson, Editor
(Z-778-F-18), Holman 3700,
Atmore, AL 36503

Editorial Staff

Editor
Bart Johnson
Assistant Editor
Randy Lewis
Writers-Contributing
Jeffery Lee

Executive Committee

Anthony Boyd
President/CEO
Bart Johnson
Vice President
Esther Brown
Executive Director

Spiritual Advisor
Donald Blocker

For more information
about Project Hope to
Abolish the Death Penalty,
write to:
PHADP, P.O. Box 1362
Lanett, AL 36863

All articles in this
newsletter may be
reprinted without
permission unless
otherwise stated. We ask
only that you put:
*reprinted by permission
of Project Hope to
Abolish the Death
Penalty, P.O. Box 1362
Lanett, AL, 36863*

Greetings Friends and Family,

It's an honor and a privilege to be able to share with you, our supporters, each quarter. This is especially true during these uncertain times. I hope that you have all found ways to adapt to this "new normal," in your lives.

These last few months have been a stark reminder that life doesn't happen in a vacuum. In a vacuum there is no interaction between particles (people, events, etc.), but in our lives, everything is connected to something else. We may not always make the connections, or we make the wrong connections, but the connections are there.

This means that the good that you do is never wasted. And that even if you keep the bad that you do behind closed doors, it still gets out, effects things.

Fortunately, it also means that when one door closes, another one opens. That difficult times will come, and we get to decide whether they erode us or polish us.

We didn't start here.

It doesn't end here,

But we are going through here.

We might as well make good use of our time while we are here.

I want to close with a quote that one of our long-time supporters sent. It certainly hit home for me, maybe it will for you as well.

There are some of your graces which would never be discovered if it were not for your trials.
-Charles Spurgeon

Yours in Christ,

Bart Johnson
Vice-Chairman, PHADP

Corona-Vision

Greetings to all the supporters and readers of PHADP's newsletter. My prayers are that each of you and your families are being safe and protected from the COVID-19, as you abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

A couple of months ago, I was having a telephone conversation with one of my nephews, and he mentions, or rather started to complain about how uncertain and boring his life was because of the pandemic quarantine. How he's not able to go places and do things like he would normally do. At that moment, I thought maybe my nephew could relate to what I have been going through.

So my response to him was welcome to my world as a result of being incarcerated on death row for the last thirty-three years.

But by exercising my faith in the God who reveals, I'm learning that I'm too blessed to be stressed and I refuse to be discouraged, to be sad, or to cry. I refuse to be downhearted and here is the reason why.

I serve the Creator who is Almighty, who is sovereign and supreme. I serve the Savior who loves me. He is omniscient and omnipotent, Immanuel is His name, who is omnipresent and never changes. The Deliverer of us all who remains the same.

I refuse to be defeated, my eyes of faith are looking beyond the stars. My God has promised to be with me, no matter where I lodge.

I'm looking past my circumstances to heaven's throne room above, my prayers have reached the heart of God, I'm abiding in His love, because of all that He has done.

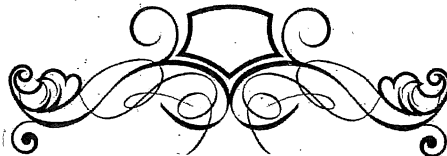
I give God thanks in all things, believing that the battle is God's and the victories are mine, for He will help me win the race.

In closing, I wish above all, that you would prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers, by words of faith, love, and life amen.

With much love and appreciation for you all!

Earl "Pete" McGahee
Z-466 / H-18

**Execute
Justice
Not
People**

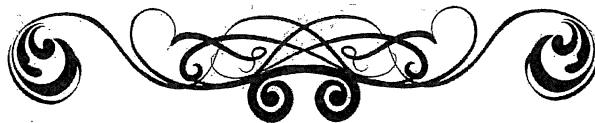


Courage Under Crisis

The fight to abolish the death penalty takes a person with a unique spirit. The spirit of courage is needed when going up against this monster called capital punishment. Courage is simply defined as the ability to do something that frightens others. Statistics have shown over the past few years that the popularity of the death penalty has dropped, yet those who used to be in favor of the death penalty haven't come out against it due to a lack of courage. There's six types of courage, but I've chosen five that relate to the death penalty, in my opinion. There's physical courage, social courage, moral courage, emotional courage, and spiritual courage.

It takes a physical courage for those that are out on the front lines voicing their opposition to the death penalty. Those brave men and women take the risk of bodily harm, yet they voice their convictions. In this day and age with the advancement of technology and the internet, the attacks can come in many forms. So it takes a social courage to stand against the death penalty. With the growth of social media and the speed news travels, proponents of the death penalty rage a vicious war of words through multiple social media outlets. The opponents of the death penalty continue to stand strong against a risk of social embarrassment. The fight takes courage, the courage to see the abolition of the death penalty.

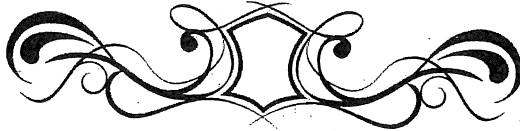
The ability to do the right thing regardless of how popular the decision is is the third type of courage it takes to fight the death penalty. This is moral courage. It makes sense to be against murder in any form, yet those in favor of the death penalty believe state-sanctioned murder is justified. Those that stand against murder should have the moral fortitude to say killing is wrong, yet it doesn't happen because they lack the fourth type of courage, which is emotional. It takes emotional courage to have the happiness required to stand against the death penalty, knowing the amount of negativity that's going to come your way. There's a lot of negative thoughts and ideas about death row and the people on death row, which over the years have spread like a virus and a lot of people have become infected with this virus. They're either in favor of the death penalty or don't even care about the death penalty. When you don't care about the death penalty, to me, you're in favor of the death penalty.



When we as a people, a nation, a world, ask ourselves the deepest question of why we are here and what is our purpose, then we will have the fifth courage it takes to fight the death penalty, which is spiritual courage. I'm not saying this from a religious standpoint, because one can be spiritual in many forms. My courage that I've found over the years to continue my fight against the death penalty is rooted and grounded in my faith and belief in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So I know that I'm not fighting this fight in my own strength. To all those that are standing with us in this fight against capital punishment worldwide, take heart and be of good courage because our fight isn't in vain.

I remain,

Jeffery Lee
Sec/Treasurer, PHADP
G-1



Corona Has Been Good To Me!

Ok, so I'm sitting here listening to the dire forecasts of corona spreading across the world leaving devastation in its wake. Have to admit, it all had me a little worried, basically living in a petri dish as I do.

Then, all of a sudden, Masks! Yup, the state finally caught up and gave us all face masks. I for one was most excited about my mask. I mean, it's not everyday one has an excuse to walk around looking like a surgeon. "Hello, my name is Dr. Booman!" hee Hee...

Seriously though, I was eager to get my mask, cause, well, as all of our readers should know by now, I'm an artist. And no self-respecting artist walks around with a plain white mask. So being me, the first thing I did was paint my mask. And you know, the strangest things do happen. One officer saw my mask and asked me what I would charge to do him one. And a business was born! yay me! Within a day I had more orders than masks and my overwhelming debt wasn't so overwhelming anymore. Three weeks later and I'm out of debt and the orders have finally slowed down I'm still able to keep enough business to keep afloat. I was also able to work a few gifts for loved ones in as well.

All in all, corona has been very good to me. Tragedy to triumph for a few of us. Not much consolation to those who have lost to this virus, but any ray of light at this dark time seems a good thing to me. I only hope others can find their light in this time of trouble.

Carey Grayson
Z-598 / H-2

Enough Death

With the way the world is today you would think that the states would stop trying to kill people. But they have not, they keep asking for dates like 200,000 people around the world haven't died in the last 3 months.

You would think they had better things to do, but now they want to add to the number. The courts had been stopping them, but not anymore. Not only was Missouri able to slip one be, but likely an innocent man no less.

I said a lot, but us the citizens that put people in power who are so eager to kill the people that put them in power. It's like I said, anytime you give the government a power, it will be abused. And taking a citizen's life is the ultimate power a government can have over its citizens. It is no surprise that it is being abused.

So think about that the next time you vote.

Jessie M.D.Y. Phillips
Z - 785 / G - 18



Too Much Power

OK, Yes I am being an ass by saying this, but do y'all remember when I said that anytime you give the government a power, it will be abused. And taking a citizen's life is the ultimate power a government can have over its citizens.

Alabama's government showed you just how they are willing to use said power. They don't care who they kill or how, as long as they get to kill somebody, anybody. No matter what evidence you show the governor of Alabama, she will kill you.

Gov. Kay Ivey prayed to God about whether to kill an innocent man or let him remain alive. It's sad to say, but he is no longer with us. It's like Kay Ivey said that God wanted an innocent man to be murdered.

It's like I said, a government should never have the power to kill the citizens it governs, because it will abuse it.

Jessie M.D.Y. Phillips
Z - 785 / G - 18

Label the poisons, so you'll take less of them.

