

# URGENT ACTION TO SAVE THE LIFE OF DEXTER JOHNSON



Scheduled execution date:  
August 15 2019

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Eventual updates available at  
<https://nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org>



*“I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Now choose life**, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God...” Dt 30,19*

UPDATE 09/08/2019

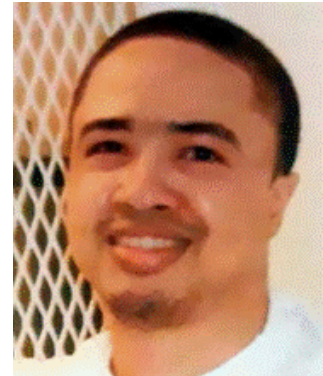
## 1) DEXTER JOHNSON: the case

Dexter was sentenced to death in 2007 for the homicide of a young couple, Maria Aparece and Huy Ngo, a crime he committed at 18, during a robbery with other 4 young men in 2006.

He suffers from brain damage and schizophrenia caused by some injuries during his childhood and his new lawyer (the previous one was replaced because a Court recognized his total ineffective counsel assistance) filed a flurry of motions to the several Courts, which rejected – one by one - all the rounds of appeals.

The execution date – previously scheduled on May 2, 2019, was postponed also thanks to the mobilization of all the friends who sent thousands of petitions.

This fact boosts us to continue more and more to send petitions in order to save the life of Dexter, who execution is scheduled on August 15.



**Dexter, aged 31 - Texas**

Federica of Sant'Egidio, who has been a pen pal with him since 2008, has written:

"Dexter told me that he was raised and lovingly protected, together with five brothers, by his sweet mother and, since he is in the jail, she has frequently visited him and she has provided everything for him". Dexter never knew his father, but he himself became a father: he has a daughter who is 13-years-old and he is so proud of her.

Dexter knows that, with the Community of Sant'Egidio, we support him and pray for him and he thanks everyone for this. During the 12 years spent on Death Row he had several moments of despair and sadness, particularly after the execution of his friends. He could overcome his anguish thinking of his family and his friends and he found comfort in the reading of the Bible and the prayer. "The Prayer – Dexter writes - helped me to be strong and not to lose my heart or despair, even in difficult times."

Together with Federica let's send petitions to the Authorities, asking to stop the execution.

**2) PETITION ADDRESSED TO GOVERNOR ABBOTT AND TEXAS BOARD OF  
PARDONS AND PAROLES IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIFE OF DEXTER JOHNSON  
TDCJ# 999527**

(In Texas, the Governor must have the recommendation of clemency from a board or advisory group)

YOU CAN USE THE FORM HERE. SIGN AND SUBMIT IT from the web site of [www.santegidio.org](http://www.santegidio.org)

**Dear Governor Abbott,**

**Dear Members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles**

I am writing to you respectfully, with the hope you may use clemency and mercy, in order to save the life of **Mr. Dexter Johnson TDCJ # 999527**, whose execution is scheduled on August 15 2019.

- First of all, I want to express special closeness to the family of Maria Aparece and Huy Ngo, and I pray for them and for their relatives, who have been victims of this unfair death, as well as we pray for all those who are victims of homicides and violent crimes.
- As many murder victims' families have witnessed with great courage, the killing of a person who committed a heinous crime, cannot give back a life once it is taken, and cannot give any real consolation. On the contrary an execution represents a further and useless bloodshed fuelling in our society a cycle of violence which cannot be interrupted with revenge.
- I am convinced that the dignity of every human person has to be respected without any exception, even towards someone who has committed an extreme evil. I totally support the position of the Catholic Church, which is convinced that evil cannot be confused with the person who has committed it, which in the Catechism declares: «the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.»
- I think that nowadays all the States, particularly those ones with a long democratic tradition, have developed effective systems of detention, which can ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.
- I think that the decrease of the death sentences in the US can be related with a better awareness regarding the death penalty and its contradictions and witnesses in the meantime the public opinion shows anew tendency, which is now more favourable to measures alternative to the death penalty, such as long detention- sentences or life imprisonment.

**For the above mentioned reasons,**

**And trusting fully in your discernment,**

- **I ask you to shape your decisions to feelings of humanity and pity towards Mr. Johnson;**
- **I ask you, as it deals with a tough choice, to stop the execution and postpone it, so that you have more time to ponder with consciousness.**
- **In the end I invite you also to consider the hypotheses to commute the death sentence of Mr. Johnson into a life sentence: it would represent a courageous act of clemency and a historic step, which would have the international media coverage it deserves.**

Respectfully

Signature

### **3) CALL TO BE MERCIFUL**

**CALL TO PRAYER ADDRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO TO THE BELIEVERS AND THE PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL IN THE NAME OF MERCY, RECONCILIATION, FORGIVENESS, IN ORDER TO SAVE THE LIFE OF DEXTER JOHNSON**



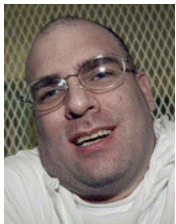

**The Community of Sant'Egidio urges the believers and every person of good will:**

- **To pray for the life of Dexter Johnson, aged 31, sentenced to death in Texas, so that his execution, scheduled on August 15, can be stayed and then definitely commuted;**
- **To pray for Maria Aparece and Huy Ngo, murdered during a robbery, and for their family, so that they may be comforted by the Lord and they themselves may pray for Dexter and his life;**
- **To pray for the family of Dexter, for his friends and for all those who have supported him;**
- **To pray for the Governor and the members of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, so that the Lord may inspire their choices and their acts of mercy and stop the execution. May the Lord teach him to make justice with wisdom, humanity and pity, without provoking other bloodshed.**
- **To pray for the Judges, so that they may practice justice, without any feeling of revenge from the State, guaranteeing the author of a crime may change his life, without committing other crimes and may redeem himself.**
- **To pray for all those who use weapons, so that the Lord may disarm them and the heart and the hands of all the violent ones;**
- **To pray so that it is possible to disseminate all over our cities the Gospel of Mercy, which calls everyone to be “as merciful as the Father”, towards every human being, particularly towards the poorest;**
- **To pray so that the rulers and the politicians – everywhere in the world – may convince themselves of the need to abolish the death penalty, which is considered in a large part of the world, as an archaic and useless penal instrument and regarded by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as “an inhumane measure that, regardless of how it is carried out, abases human dignity and per se contrary to the Gospel.”**

4) **WE ASK YOU TO PRAY IN A SPECIAL WAY FOR THOSE WHOSE EXECUTION IS SCHEDULED THIS MONTH IN THE UNITES STATES AND EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD**

**The list of the pending executions in the US**

(update <https://p2.smu.edu/rhalperi/pending.html>)

<i>Date of execution</i>		<i>Name</i>	<i>State</i>
15 August		<u><b>Dexter Johnson</b></u> <u><b>(see the petition)</b></u>	Texas
15 August		<b>Stephen West</b>	Tennessee
21 August		<b>Larry Swearingen</b>	Texas
22 August		<b>Gary Ray Bowles</b>	Florida

*This list of names will be put on the Tomb of St. Teresa of Calcutta,  
(who visited several inmates on death row between 1987 and 1990)  
so that their lives may be protected and saved.*