

A severely mentally ill person was executed by lethal injection by the state of Connecticut on Friday the 13th of May 2005, several hours before the dawn. It was the first execution in New England in 44 years. Hundreds of us stood outside the prison on a bleak, cold morning in the middle of spring, chilled by our failure to have stopped this premeditated murder being committed in all our names.

The Connecticut Post described the process of the execution, as follows:

**“Just four days shy of the 45th anniversary of Connecticut’s last state sanctioned killing, an executioner pumped a poison cocktail into the serial killer’s veins.
...First injection: 2,500 milligrams thiopental [to sedate him]
...Second injection: 100 milligrams pancuronium bromide [to paralyze him]
...Third and final injection: 120 milligrams potassium chloride [to stop his heart and kill him]”**

TO STOP HIS HEART AND KILL HIM

Many people tried unsuccessfully to prevent this execution. Four years ago, some of us spoke before this same body and called for the abolition of capital punishment as we do today. Nothing about the nature of the so-called “death penalty” has changed since the spring of 2005, except the terrible fact that a human being was killed in our names because of a law that has no right to exist.

So I can only reiterate what I said then:

Execution is state sponsored murder. When the state murders its own citizens, it renders its own authority illegitimate.

Execution by lethal injection—or by any other method—is as bizarre and horrible an act as the crimes committed by those on death row—many (if not all) of whom are mentally ill.

The murder of murderers is nothing more than an empty act of revenge. It does not prevent crime. It does not restore the life of one innocent victim. It heals nothing and no one. It only further tears the fabric of society, and diminishes the humanity of us all.

We must not allow the state to kill in our names. No executions. No exceptions.

Abolish capital punishment. Abolish state sponsored murder.

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