

# Fact Sheet on Race and Maryland's death row

- There are 8 men on Maryland's death row.
- 75% of MD's death row are Black (6 people).
- Overall, 87% of MD's death row are convicted of killing whites (7 people).
- 83% of the Blacks on death row are there for killing whites (5 out of 6 people).



- A Governor-commissioned study performed at the University of Maryland found that "blacks who kill whites are 2 1/2 times more likely to be sentenced to death than are whites who kill whites, 3 1/2 times more likely than are blacks who kill blacks, and almost 11 times more likely to be sentenced to death than 'other' racial combinations."
- Since 1923, 77% of all death row inmates in Maryland have been Black.
- Blacks account for 88% of those executed for crimes committed under the age of 25 in Maryland. The youngest man executed in Maryland was a young Black man from Pennsylvania, Leonard Shockley, who was convicted in 1959 for a crime he committed when he was 16 years old. Shockley remains the youngest person executed in the United States since 1959.
- 100% of MD's death row inmates ever sentenced for killing a Black were Black. MD's death row has never contained any whites convicted of killing Blacks.
- Each year, over 80% of all murder victims are Black. Of the remaining white murder victims, the vast majority were killed by whites. Cases in which non-whites killed whites make up aprox. 5% of all murders each year, yet these types of cases make up 83% of death row.
- 50% of MD's death row (4 people) are convicted of crimes committed in Baltimore County (the affluent, mostly white suburb north of Baltimore city).
- Two out of the four people who have been executed since 1978 when the death penalty was reinstated in Maryland have been Black defendants accused of killing a white victim. All four people executed in Maryland have involved white victims.

Fact sheet produced by the Campaign to End the Death Penalty

For more information call: (202) 271-8014 or by email at [cedp\\_dc@hotmail.com](mailto:cedp_dc@hotmail.com).

[www.nodeathpenalty.org](http://www.nodeathpenalty.org)