

**GAIL RICE, Illinois
Sister of Bruce VanderJagt,
murdered in Colorado in 1997**

Gail Rice's brother, a Denver police officer, was shot by a skinhead during a botched burglary attempt. The killer then used Officer VanderJagt's service revolver to commit suicide. An accomplice, Lisl Auman, was convicted of felony murder and sentenced to life without parole in 1998. In a highly publicized case, Lisl's conviction was overturned on a legal technicality by the Colorado Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial. Lisl pled guilty, served several more months, and was released on probation in October 2005.

Gail began her abolition work in 1998, speaking against the death penalty to several audiences in Illinois. She also voices her opposition to the death penalty as a victim-impact speaker on monthly panels for juvenile offenders through the Cook County Department of Juvenile Probation.

"Having worked in prison literacy and prison ministry for 18 years prior to Bruce's death, I knew there was a different standard of justice for the poor and minorities, and I opposed the death penalty because I knew the system would never be fair. Only later did I see capital punishment as wrong in every case. If we judge certain people as worthless or as having no right to live, we become very much like the murderers whom we condemn.. The death penalty is about vengeance, not justice. As a Christian committed to restorative justice, I am convinced that capital punishment is in no way restorative."



Gail Rice



Bruce VanderJagt

Links to more information:

<http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=6&RecNum=4723>

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