

**STUDENT HANDOUT:**

**Quotes from Religious Leaders Regarding the Death Penalty**

"What does forgiveness mean in the absence of repentance? Society must structure itself to honor life by being willing to take the life of one who has taken life. When someone takes a life, they should sacrifice their own life."

- Reverend Don Alexander, Oklahoma City.

"[The death penalty is] both cruel and unnecessary." "The universal abolition of the death penalty would be a courageous reaffirmation of the belief that humankind can be successful in dealing with criminality ... as such it would regenerate new hope in our very humanity."

- Pope John Paul II.

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