

The Association Struggle for Justice, Languedoc-Roussillon

In 1991, the Black American prisoner Odell Barnes was sentenced to death without tangible proof of his guilt. This was met with great indignation.

The French association Struggle for Justice (Lutte pour la Justice), was created in 1996 by Colette Berthès upon Odell Barnes' request and has continued its activities since his execution on March 1st, 2000.

The association Struggle for Justice, Languedoc-Roussillon, was created in November 2000. Its mission is to maintain written contact with and provide financial support for two prisoners on Death Row: Rickey Lynn Lewis in Texas and David Lee Thomas in Florida. Both are black, poor, mentally handicapped and no doubt innocent of the crimes for which they have been convicted.

Fund for our mission come from:

- Annual membership fees and donations
- The sale of:
 - The book entitled "Texas, Death Row" with a preface by Robert Badinter who introduced the bill abolishing the Death Penalty in France. The book is a testimony and work of reflection written by Danièle and René Sirven upon their return from their visit to Polunsky Unit, the Texan Death Row.
 - T-shirts with the association logo
 - A CD compilation. *Filo*, *The Soul Travellers Quartet*, *Vincent Crépin*, *Lawrence McGuire*, *Agnès Natural Hope* and *Santal* all volunteered their talent to help Rickey Lynn who learned to read and write while in prison and himself provided a prayer, *My Precious Lord*, put to music by *Filo*.
 - Hand-painted lamps by Danièle Sirven

The support we can offer to these two men suffering such terrible conditions whilst in detention and the decent legal defence we can obtain for them depend entirely on the above sources of funding.