DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER

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ANOTHER DEATH ROW INMATE CLEARED OF ALL CHARGES AND FREED

Missouri Inmate is 143rd Person Exonerated Since 1973

Washington D.C. - On October 30, the Death Penalty Information Center announced that Reginald Griffin of Missouri is the latest former death row inmate to be added to its Innocence List. On October 25, murder charges against Griffin were dismissed, making him the 143rd inmate to be exonerated from death row in the United States since 1973, according to DPIC. He is the first person exonerated in 2013 and the fourth in Missouri since 1999. He had been sentenced to death for the 1983 murder of James Bausley, a fellow inmate at the Moberly Correctional Center in Moberly, Missouri.

"The risk of wrongful conviction and of executing the innocent continues to be a significant part of the capital punishment system," said Richard Dieter, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center. "For every nine executions, we find one person on death row who is innocent. The system is flawed and broken."

No physical evidence implicated Griffin of the murder, and evidence that was uncovered later revealed that guards had confiscated a sharpened screwdriver from another inmate, Jeffrey Smith, as he was leaving the area where the stabbing occurred.

Two other prisoners, Doyle Franks and Arbary Jackson, were also charged with the murder, but Griffin was the only one sentenced to death. Both Franks and Jackson consistently claimed that Smith was the third person involved in the stabbing. Griffin's conviction was based largely on the testimony of two prisoners who benefitted from their cooperation with the prosecution. The Missouri Supreme Court overturned Griffin's conviction in 2011.

Griffin is the fourth inmate sentenced to death and subsequently exonerated in Missouri. The other three men are Clarence Dexter (exonerated in 1999), Eric Clemmons (exonerated in 2000), and Joe Amrine (exonerated in 2003).

Missouri has carried out two executions in the last four years, and 68 since 1976. State officials recently announced they will use pentobarbital as the sole drug in their lethal injections and have included a compounding pharmacy in their execution team as the source of the drug. This blocks the public from knowing the name of the pharmacy, since the execution team is

protected by a state secrecy law. Missouri's next execution is scheduled for November 20, 2013.

In order to be included on DPIC's Innocence List, defendants must have been convicted, sentenced to death, and subsequently either (a) been acquitted of all charges related to the crime that placed them on death row, (b) had all charges related to the crime dismissed by the prosecution, or (c) been granted a complete pardon based on evidence of innocence.

To speak with Richard Dieter, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center, please contact Elaine de Leon, Communications Director, at 202-289-4022 or edeleon@deathpenaltyinfo.org.

For more information on Reginald Griffin's case, contact Cyndy Short, lead attorney, at 816-931-2229.

For more information on Missouri's death penalty, contact Rita Linhardt, Chair of Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, at 573-635-7239.

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The Death Penalty Information Center (www.deathpenaltyinfo.org) is a non-profit organization serving the media and the public with analysis and information on issues concerning capital punishment. DPIC was founded in 1990 and prepares in-depth reports, issues press releases, conducts briefings for the media, and serves as a resource to those working on this issue.