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DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER

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Statement of Robert Dunham, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center, on the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Foster v. Chatman*:

"The United States Supreme Court made an important statement this morning that the racial manipulation of death penalty juries to exclude African-Americans from sitting in these important cases will not be tolerated. This was one of the clearest instances of race-based prosecutorial efforts to skew the composition of death penalty juries and to disenfranchise African-American prospective jurors. History has taught us that this type of conduct risks intolerable racially-discriminatory death sentences that undermine the legitimacy of the courts and destroy confidence that the death penalty can be administered fairly. The Court's decision today is a step toward addressing this issue."

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The Death Penalty Information Center 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.

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