

**DERREL MYERS, California  
Father of Joshua “JoJo” White,  
murdered in California in 1996**

Derrel Myers and Naomi White’s 23-year-old son JoJo was killed in 1996. JoJo was returning home from work at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, where he counseled at-risk youth, when he was confronted by a stranger who shot him to death. The killer has not been caught.

Derrel has spoken against the death penalty at the California State Legislature, the California Council of Parent Participation Nursery Schools, California Conference of the Sisters of the Presentation, Medical Students for Social Responsibility, Northern California Conference of ACLU Youth, the 2006 National Convention of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, and many anti-execution vigils at San Quentin Prison. On the day of the 2005 execution of Stanley “Tookie” Williams, Derrel took part in a 25 mile walk from San Francisco to San Quentin and then spoke to several thousand who had gathered in protest outside the prison.

“The death penalty is not just an individual issue of crime and punishment; it’s connected to the larger social problems of racism, inequality, and poverty. If we were a truly just society, one that respected all children in all their great diversity, one that offered real equal opportunity, liberty and justice for all, our son JoJo would be here living a hopeful, loving, and generous life. And so would the young man who killed him.”

**Links to more information:**

<http://www.deathpenalty.org/index.php?pid=victim&menu=1%22>

<http://www.alternet.org/story/32974/?comments=view&cID=92312&pID=92060>



*Derrel Myers*



*Joshua “JoJo” White (center)*

