

**HECTOR AND SUSIE BLACK,  
Tennessee  
Parents of Patricia Nuckles,  
murdered in Georgia in 2000**

The Blacks' daughter, Patricia Nuckles, was murdered in 2000 by Ivan Simpson, who was searching for money for drugs. When Hector wrote a letter to the sentencing judge saying that he didn't want Ivan Simpson to die, some members of the Black family were afraid this would lead to a sentence so light that Simpson would be back on the streets again. But Simpson was ultimately sentenced to life without parole.

Hector and Susie are involved with the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing, and have begun meeting with state lawmakers to lay the groundwork for a death penalty moratorium and study bill that will likely be introduced in 2008. The Blacks have spoken to many church and university audiences, and Hector was featured in the recently published book *Field Notes on the Compassionate Life* by Marc Barasch.

“What good does taking the killer’s life do us? Would it bring back our daughter? The death penalty is murder of the worst kind: cold, premeditated, calculated. It has never been proven to be a deterrent, it isn’t a fair system (when did you last hear of a wealthy person being executed?), and it makes it impossible for the convicted person to repent.”

Links to more information:

<http://earofthesoul.blogspot.com/2006/06/meet-hector-black.html>

[http://www.stphilipscathedral.org/sermpri nt/Ascension\\_2005\\_Maxwell.htm](http://www.stphilipscathedral.org/sermpri nt/Ascension_2005_Maxwell.htm)



*Hector and Susie Black*



*Patricia Nuckles*