

**CLEMENTINA M. CHERY,
Massachusetts
Mother of Louis D. Brown,
murdered in Massachusetts in
1993**

Tina Chery's 15-year-old son Louis was killed in the crossfire of a gang shootout in his Dorchester neighborhood. Ironically, Louis had been on his way to a party sponsored by the group Teens Against Gang Violence, of which he was a member. One man was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

Tina founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, which supports families of homicide victims and has developed a curriculum that helps youth build nonviolence and conflict-resolution skills and commit themselves to peace work in their families and communities. Tina has testified against reinstatement of the death penalty in Massachusetts, and continues to engage in outreach to survivors of violence in the Greater Boston area and throughout Massachusetts.

"I used to believe the death penalty was the answer to stopping the violence, but one day Louis said to me, 'I can't believe the woman who calls herself my mother supports the death penalty.' I did not give the statement a second thought until my son was murdered. The death penalty is not the answer; it only continues the cycle of violence that killed my son."

Links to more information:

www.institute4peace.org

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1365/is_4_35/ai_n6358774



Clementina Chery



Louis Brown