

TINA DUROY, Texas
Sister of James Colburn, executed
in Texas in 2003

Tina Duroy's brother, James Colburn, was executed in Texas in 2003 after being convicted of the murder of Peggy Murphy. James had been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia at the age of 14.

Tina has spoken against the death penalty at rallies and events around Texas, and in 2004 she spoke to several Swiss audiences as part of a tour arranged by Swiss photographer Fabian Biasio, who created a photo exhibit, "Diary of an Execution," documenting Tina's life before and after her brother's execution. When the exhibit had its opening in Texas, Tina spoke on a panel about the death penalty and mental illness., organized by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

"We had been trying to get help for my brother for years. After he was 18 and no longer covered by my family's insurance, we couldn't find a hospital that would hold him for more than three days and then send him back out. My grandparents drained their savings and then there was nothing left. When my brother was arrested, I didn't seriously believe that someone with such an extensive medical history would be sentenced to death. I don't understand how our country can execute mentally ill people when they don't try to treat them first. Watching my brother be executed was the hardest thing I ever had to do in my life. I still have flashbacks. And now every time someone is executed in Texas, I have to see a photo of the gurney on the news and be reminded."



Tina Duroy with a photograph of herself and her brother as children. Photo by Fabian Biasio.