

**MILTON JONES, Massachusetts
Father of Elijah Pace, murdered in
Massachusetts in 1993**

Milton Jones's 18-year-old son Elijah Pace was beaten to death with baseball bats by two young men aged 17 and 18. Both pled guilty to the reduced charge of manslaughter, received sentences of 7-10 years in prison, and were granted parole after 6 years.

Milton works as Director of Programs for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, an organization that has developed many innovative programs and services for survivors of homicide victims. He has served on the boards of several prison reform organizations, and founded the Community Re-entry Program, which operates at the county jail level. In 2007, he testified before Massachusetts lawmakers against a bill that would have reinstated the state's death penalty.

“At first, we felt that we wanted the killers dead. But at some point, I looked at what being in that frame of mind was doing to me and my family. What does it make me if I continue to harbor those feelings? It makes me no better than the person who did the crime. All the death penalty really does is perpetuate hurt and pain and violence. I also had to look at the fact that these were only kids, and in my heart I don't believe that killing is what they intended to do. I think in most cases where kids are concerned, they really didn't intend the outcome; it turns out to be a nightmare for them, too. As we decide their fate, we have to consider how they were thinking and ask ourselves, does this child really deserve to be killed?”



Milton Jones