

**ROBIN THEURKAUF, Connecticut
Wife of Thomas Theurkauf, Jr.
Killed in New York in 2001**

Robin Theurkauf's husband Thomas was killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person tried in the United States in connection with the September 11th terrorist attacks, faced a possible death sentence but was ultimately sentenced in 2006 to life in prison without parole.



Robin Theurkauf

Robin delivered testimony during the victim impact portion of Moussaou's trial, and now serves as the seminary intern for the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty. She speaks to church congregations throughout the state about her experience and her reasons for opposing the death penalty.

"I am opposed to the death penalty because it sanctions violence and revenge as justice. We have somehow become socialized to believe that if we do not kill the author of a horrific crime, justice has not been done. We need a new way to understand a just response to horrible crimes that does not include more violence. When we exercise the death penalty we become in some way what we deplore. In my experience the death penalty cannot not provide closure, but rather the repeated appeals and news coverage reopen old wounds again and again. One of the most unappreciated blessings of the life sentence for Moussaoui is that he can no longer hurt us with his words.