

## **Texas CCATDP Statement On Execution Of Ivan Cantu**

DALLAS - Texas Conservatives Concerned About the Death Penalty (CCATDP) Director Nan Tolson tonight issued a statement on the execution of Ivan Cantu. Significant doubts were raised about Cantu's guilt, who was convicted and sentenced to death in 2001 for the murders of James Mosqueda and Amy Kitchen in Dallas.

"We are heartbroken that the State of Texas chose to move forward with the execution of Ivan Cantu this evening, turning a blind eye to mounting evidence that casts significant doubt on his guilt. From recanted testimony, withheld evidence, and jurors — including the foreman — speaking out about alleged flaws in the case, Texas had every reason to pause the execution and examine these concerns.

"Regardless of where you stand on capital punishment, it is a great miscarriage of justice when we put to death a potentially innocent person. When valid concerns arise, it is imperative that the State of Texas acts in good faith and ensures that justice is accurately and thoroughly served in every case.

"But truthfully, the death penalty is not 100% foolproof. It is an irreversible punishment that we cannot afford to get wrong. When a life is on the line, one mistake is one too many. There is strong evidence that Texas has executed several innocent people and tonight, Ivan Cantu has been added to that list. As long as the death penalty is used in Texas, that list will continue to grow because it is impossible to ensure absolute accuracy every single time.

"Tonight, we grieve for James Mosqueda, Amy Kitchen, and their loved ones. We grieve for Ivan Cantu and his loved ones. And we grieve for Texas' refusal to ensure complete certainty and the implication of such an egregious disregard for human life and justice."