

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Statement on Federal Death Row Commutations

December 23, 2024

I've dedicated my career to reducing violent crime and ensuring a fair and effective justice system.

Today I am commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals on Federal death row to life sentences without the possibility of parole. These commutations are consistent with the moratorium my administration has imposed on Federal executions, in cases other than terrorism and hate-motivated mass murder.

Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss.

But, guided by my conscience and my experience as a public defender, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Vice President, and now President, I am more convinced than ever that we must stop the use of the death penalty at the Federal level. In good conscience, I cannot stand back and let a new administration resume executions that I halted.

Categories: Statements by the President : Federal death row commutations.

Subjects: Counterterrorism and homeland security; Death penalty, Federal moratorium; Hate-based violence, efforts to combat; Pardons and commutations.

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