



## Kevin Cooper: A Message from Death Row

I am proud and honored that my struggle for freedom and life itself is known to human rights fighters in Germany. You may know that not long ago an order for my execution was issued by California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The prison officials at San Quentin did not bother to tell me that I had won a stay of execution and continued to prepare me for my death by lethal injection. The 4,000 people who had gathered outside the prison to protest my execution learned that I had won a stay hours before I did.

The powers that be believed that they could reverse the stay with last minute legal maneuvers and therefore it was not necessary to inform me that the Third Circuit had grave questions concerning police manipulation of the evidence that had been manufactured

against me. They believed that it was not necessary to tell me that the court had ordered that my life not be taken at one minute after mid-night on their terrible day. They did not believe that it was their legal obligation to return me to my cell. I learned of the reprieve only minutes before my scheduled departure from this earth.

Preparations continued to take my life. There I sat, a few yards away from the execution chamber, an innocent man awaiting his murder by a state power that had falsified evidence against me and otherwise thwarted my every effort to win justice and my freedom. I had said my goodbyes to all those who had fought so valiantly on my behalf and did my best to muster my courage to depart.

I am alive today, pending the outcome of my most recent appeal, only because people of good will and who cherish justice have fought for my life and against the racist and classist death penalty. They would not accept the lies that have kept me from my friends and family so long.

To the people that have thus far made the political price of my execution too high to pay in regard to a massive loss in the credibility in the U.S. criminal "injustice" system I am deeply indebted.

I am alive and well due to your efforts. I remain confident that this horror will come to end and that I will eventually join you in the freedom struggle.

Solidarity and friendship,

**Kevin Cooper**

Death Row, San Quentin prison, San Quentin, California  
July 15, 2008