The Honorable Mark Brnovich

Attorney General of Arizona

2005 N Central Ave

Phoenix, AZ 85004-2926

DATE

Dear Attorney General Brnovich,

Please do not allow the execution of death row prisoners to begin again in Arizona. Although you have urged Governor Ducey to “expeditiously” begin executions, I fervently ask that you support life, not death.

I am opposed to the death penalty for several reasons:

* I am a Christian and a United Methodist. We believe all human life is sacred and created by God and therefore, we see all human life as significant and valuable. We believe the death penalty denies the power of Christ to redeem, restore, and transform all human beings. When an individual is executed, that life is devalued and all possibility of change in that person’s life ends.
* There is a great possibility that innocent persons may be executed. In Arizona alone in the last 50 years, nine death row inmates have been exonerated and released. Nationally, more than 170 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence during that period of time. We should have no confidence in a system that results in so many fatal errors.
* Although some argue that executing inmates results in justice being done for the victims of the crime, it is hard to say that justice is being served. Certainly, the crime is not canceled out, rather, the violence and death are only increased. An execution can often be seen as an act of revenge, not relieving bloodlust but instead adding to it. Forgiveness is the only true cure for this kind of grief. In the end, grieving families continue to grieve. Justice would be better served helping the families face their grief so they can move on.
* The death penalty also does not act as a deterrent to crime. There is no credible evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than long terms of imprisonment. States that have death penalty laws do not have lower crime rates or murder rates than states without such laws. And states that have abolished capital punishment show no significant changes in either crime or murder rates. In fact, nations that abolish the death penalty then tend to see their murder rates decline.
* The death penalty does not mean that we will be executing monsters. We will be executing men and women. We will be executing any opportunity at redemption. And, in some instances, we will be executing innocent people.

In conclusion, I request that you choose life over death, and that you stop the march to begin executing prisoners again.

Sincerely,