



USA

Jacqueline Montanez

SENTENCED AS A CHILD TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

Jacqueline Montanez is the only woman in the State of Illinois serving life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for a crime committed when she was a child.

Jacqueline was 15 when she and two other women shot and killed two members of a rival gang. She was tried in an adult court in 1993, so her difficult childhood could not be taken into account when determining her sentence.

She has spent more than 20 years – over half her life – in prison, and believes she is now a very different person.

Imposing a life sentence without the possibility of release on a person aged under 18 at the time of the crime violates international law. The USA is believed to be the only country in the world to impose such a sentence.

■ www.amnesty.org.uk/jacqueline



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SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Jacqueline Montanez, B47331
Logan Correctional Center
P.O. Box 1000
Lincoln, IL 62656
USA

- **Preferred language** English or Spanish
- **Salutation** Dear Jacqueline
- **Suggested message** I oppose the sentencing of children to life without the possibility of parole. Sending you best wishes. In solidarity.

CAN I

- ✓ **Send a religious card or message?**
- ✓ **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?**
- ✓ **Include my name and address? A return address must be included in the card. If you'd prefer not to give your own address, feel free to use ours:**
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

'I was sentenced to life in prison and it feels like I'm buried here, this is where I'm sentenced to die.'

Jacqueline Montanez

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER TO:

Ask the Governor of Illinois to grant clemency to Jacqueline Montanez and reconsider her sentence.

Write to: Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois
c/o Era Lauder milk
Associate General Counsel
Office of the Governor
James R Thompson Centre
100 W. Randolph
Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601
USA

Fax: +1 (312) 814-5154
Email: governor@illinois.gov

Salutation: Dear Governor

In your letter:

- Call on the Governor of Illinois to promptly reconsider the sentence of Jacqueline Montanez and grant her clemency.
- Emphasise that a sentence of life without the possibility of parole for anyone who was under 18 years old at the time of the crime violates international law and principles, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Emphasise that on the 25 June 2012 Supreme Court ruling (on Miller v. Alabama), confirms that Jacqueline Montanez' sentence is invalid and violates the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution which prohibits 'cruel and unusual punishment'. The need for the Governor's intervention is urgent.

STAY INFORMED

Contact Country Coordinator: noa.kleinman@amnesty.org.uk