**QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE RAMIRO GONZALES CASE**

* Just 71 days past his 18th birthday at the time of the offense for which he was sentenced to die, Ramiro Gonzales is one of the youngest persons to be sentenced to death in the United States since 2005, when the Supreme Court held that the Constitution bars imposition of the death penalty on anyone under the age of 18.
* Texas is virtually alone in the United States in carrying out executions of persons who were teenagers at the time of their offense. More teenaged defendants have been executed in Texas than in any other state. In fact, only four other states have executed more persons *of any age* than Texas has executed who were teenagers at the time of the offense.
* In February 2018, the American Bar Association—the largest voluntary association in the world and the national voice of the legal profession—adopted a formal resolution calling on “each jurisdiction that imposes capital punishment to prohibit the imposition of a death sentence on or execution of any individual who was 21 years old or younger at the time of the offense.”
* Now a mature, deeply spiritual, and profoundly changed adult, Ramiro has conclusively refuted the prediction that he would present a danger to others, as numerous TDCJ death row guards and even the State’s own mental health expert at trial have now acknowledged.
* In the 15 years that Ramiro has been on death row, he has devoted himself to self-improvement, contemplation, and prayer, and has grown into a mature and peaceful adult. He is devoutly religious and shares his practice with spiritual advisors and with others on death row. He has discovered a love of reading and enjoys sharing and discussing poetry and novels. He appreciates philosophy and prose, and writes poetry and devotionals. He is a practitioner of yoga and meditation, and has become a vegetarian.
* In recent interviews, death row prison guards have described Ramiro as “sensitive,” “genuinely” changed, a “good communicator,” and as someone who they “feel safe around” and who is “never problematic.”
* Psychiatrist Edward Gripon—the mental health expert who testified for the prosecution at trial that Ramiro would present a future danger, even if incarcerated—has recently re-evaluated Ramiro after 15 years on death row and now concludes that Ramiro does not present a danger to anyone.  According to Dr. Gripon: “*With the passage of time and significant maturity he is now a significantly different person both mentally and emotionally. This represents a very positive change for the better*.” He concluded that, contrary to his testimony at trial, Ramiro “*does not pose a threat of future danger to society*.”
* Over the past year and a half, as part of his efforts to atone for his crimes, Ramiro has actively sought to be considered as an in vivo (living) donor of a kidney to someone who is in urgent need of a kidney transplant. While the Texas Department of Criminal Justice permitted Ramiro to be medically screened as a potential donor, it has steadfastly refused to allow Ramiro to make an “altruistic” kidney donation, i.e., to donate a kidney to a recipient unknown to him. Because Ramiro has a rare blood type, it is highly likely that there is someone with the same blood type who is in urgent need of a kidney donation and who has not been matched with a potential donor like Ramiro.