

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S JUSTICE & CLEMENCY PROJECT

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Endorsements:

Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, Michigan NOW, Amnesty International USA, American Friends Service Committee, Michigan CURE, Ann Arbor AAUW, Team for Justice, Michigan Women Lawyers Association, Safe House, Jean Ledwith King, Esq., Sen. Elizabeth Brater, Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith, Sen. Michael Switalski, Rep. Frank Accavitti, Jr., Dr. Chandra Mudaliar, Dawn Van Hoek, Esq., Sen. John Conyers, Jr., Lynn Rivers, Mary Schroer, Lynn Martinez, James Neuhard, Esq., Governor William Milliken, Helen Milliken, Eve Ensler, William Edwards Foundation, Dr. Rosemary Saari, Jeanice Dagher-Margosian, Esq., Evanne Dietz, Esq., Human Rights Watch, National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, Free Battered Women, American Civil Liberties Union, University of Michigan, Michigan Women's Foundation, First Step, Dr. Angela Y. Davis, New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/Asian American Communities

PLEASE WRITE TO GOV. SNYDER, ASKING HIM TO GRANT CLEMENCY TO WOMEN PRISONERS REPRESENTED BY MICHIGAN WOMEN'S JUSTICE & CLEMENCY PROJECT WHO ACTED IN SELF DEFENSE AGAINST OR BECAUSE OF BATTERERS BUT DID NOT RECEIVE FAIR TRIALS BASED ON THE FACTS OF THEIR CASES:

***GOV. RICK SNYDER, PO BOX 30013, LANSING, MI 48909, and
cc: MICH PAROLE BOARD, PO BOX 30003, LANSING, MI 48909***

- 1. DELORES KAPUSCINSKI 191704 Kent County, Murder I, Life, 1988.** She shot her husband after severe sexual and emotional abuse. Expert witness testified, but no understanding of domestic violence by judge or jury in 1988. She is supported by MWJCP and UofM Law School.
- 2. LUANNE SZENAY 214992 Bay County, Murder I, Conspiracy, Life, 1990.** She was beaten, threatened with death, and her daughter kidnapped by her violent, drug addicted husband. She conspired with a co-worker who killed her husband.
- 3. NANCY SEAMAN 520695, Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 2004.** She killed her abusive husband in self-defense when he attacked her because she was leaving him. Her judge tried to change her conviction because the jury misunderstood the evidence. A federal judge also tried to overturn her case. Both judges support her clemency.
- 4. KAREN KANTZLER, Oakland County, Murder II, Life, 1987.** She shot her violent husband. He had broken her bones, beat her, thrown her, threatened her life. Trial judge, Hon. Norman Lippitt, admits he "made a serious and tragic error" in her case." Successor Judge Barry Howard also tried to free her, and supports her clemency.
- 5. MELISSA SWINEY 205346 Oakland County, Murder I, Life 1988.** Abused, incested, mentally disturbed she became pregnant, gave birth and left the newborn in a field. She has the support of her arresting officers. She has been the only woman in Michigan to receive Life for neonaticide (another young woman just was sentenced to life this year)
- 6. MELISSA CHAPMAN 196612 Genesee County, Murder I, Life, 1988.** Her violent boyfriend killed another man in her presence out of jealousy then forced her to help hide the body, threatening her life. She was 18.
- 7. MACHELLE PEARSON 176620 Washtenaw County, Murder I, Life, 1984.** At age 17, she accidentally shot a woman. Incested and beaten as a child, she ran away to an abusive predator who forced her to try to rob someone. She was raped in prison by a guard and had a baby. She is seriously ill with Myasthenia Gravis, has served 33 years.
- 8. SUSAN FARRELL, Oakland County, Murder I, Life, 1989.** Her mentally ill son killed her abusive husband.
- 9. MELANISE PATTERSON, Washtenaw County, Murder I, Life, 1995.** She went to pick up her things from her violent boyfriend after she left him. She took friends with her because she was afraid; one of them shot the boyfriend in self-defense.
- 10. TOWANDA EPPENGER, Wayne County, Murder I, Life, 1994.** She accidentally shot a former boyfriend when he assaulted her friend. She is a veteran of the Gulf War, suffered from PTSD.