

PETITION TO VACATE THE CONVICTION OF DAMIEN ECHOLS,
JASON BALDWIN AND JESSIE MISSELLEY
(THE WEST MEMPHIS THREE)

based on the new evidence filed in Damien Echols federal appeal

In light of strong new evidence that Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley were wrongfully convicted of murdering three boys in West Memphis in 1993, we, the undersigned, call on the Arkansas Attorney General to join efforts to vacate these convictions.

Most immediately, the state Attorney General must respond to a federal writ seeking to overturn Damien Echols' conviction. The Attorney General is under no obligation to oppose this motion. In fact, he can and should ask the court to overturn this conviction and death sentence.

Many of us believe Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley are, in fact, innocent and that a tragic miscarriage of justice must be reversed. We believe all three should be released and fully exonerated. Some of us are not sure whether the three are guilty or innocent, but we believe the overwhelming new evidence casts substantial doubt on their convictions. We believe that they should get new trials, at the very least.

When the Attorney General responds to this new evidence, he speaks on behalf of the state, on behalf of the public. We do not believe anyone's interests are served by fighting to uphold these convictions. These convictions and efforts to defend them, in light of the overwhelming new evidence in the case, erode public confidence in our state's criminal justice system.

In the interests of justice, public safety and trust in the system, we respectfully ask the Arkansas Attorney General to consider the new evidence in this case carefully and thoroughly; to refrain from opposing efforts to overturn these convictions based on the evidence; and to instead join efforts to urge the court to vacate the convictions.

DATE

NAME (print & sign)

ADDRESS

e-mail

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