

## 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](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/jacqueline)



#### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Jacqueline Montanez  
Dwight Correctional Centre  
23813 E.3200 North Road  
Dwight  
Illinois 60420  
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?**

*'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](mailto: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.