

Convicted of triple homicide in 1999, Louis Castro Perez has been sitting on Texas's death row for over 10 years.

In September 1998, Louis Castro Perez stands accused for the murders of three South Austin women. According to police, the victims were bludgeoned and stabbed to death in their own home. Perez states he was a friend of the victims, and the one who discovered the grisly scene. He claims the only person he saw was Cynda who collapsed into his arms dying when he opened the front door. Perez recalls asking Cynda "what happened!" but never got a response from her. "Scared and in shock" he fled the scene not knowing he left a palm print in a pool of blood that surrounded her. Austin police alleged they identified Perez through fingerprints found around the house, making him the primary suspect. Perez insists he voluntarily turned himself into the police once he discovered he was the main suspect, but has always maintained his innocence of this crime. One year would pass before Perez's case was presented before a Texas jury. His trial lasts only 2 weeks where he is found guilty on all 3 counts of capital murder, his sentence, to die by lethal injection.

12 years later Perez has filed his last written appeal. He has requested a DNA test and feels confident that if granted a DNA test it will provide evidence that will point to convicted and executed serial killer Angel Maturino Resendez, better known as the Railroad Killer. 54 fingerprints along with countless forms of DNA not belonging to Perez were found during the investigation. Other clues left at the house were similar to those the railroad killer left at previous crime scenes. Resendez prior to his execution admitted to killing a few women in the Austin area, the time frame coincides with the murders of Perez's friends.

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and Perez's sister, Delia Marie Perez work closely with Perez in hopes of proving his innocence. Located in Austin, TCADP, a grassroots membership organization, educates the public about the realities of the death penalty. Through public education, legislative advocacy and religious outreach, TCADP has been fighting tirelessly in hopes of ending capital punishment in Texas.

By the end of May 2010 the total amount of people executed in the State of Texas since 1982 will be 457.

Texas is the leader in capital punishment when compared to the other 35 states that have the death penalty. An average of 17 executions occur per year in this state alone. All but ten of the condemned inmates are men and over 50% of them are African American, Hispanic, or Asian.

Perez knows his time is limited before he becomes another statistic of the death penalty. While not fighting his case, Perez keeps his spirits high by drawing, reading, and being as "cool as Polar Bear toenails."



Separated by glass Louis Perez poses with family members inside Huntsville's death row. Human contact is not allowed at anytime for Texas's condemned.



Delia Marie Perez showing pictures of her brother Louis Castro Perez.



Pencil drawing by Louis Castro Perez. Inmates are only allowed to use pencils and black ink pens. All other colors are considered contraband.



Small funerals are held by inmates who have work detail at the prison cemetery. Most bodies are left unclaimed by the family members of the condemned.



Inmates who have work detail at the prison cemetery dig new graves days before a scheduled execution in case a body is left unclaimed.



The Joe Byrd Prison Cemetery in Huntsville is the final resting place for most of Texas's death row inmates.



Outside the "Walls Unit" where Texas's executions take place.



A quaker protestor who was passing by a vigil requests to hold a sign. Individuals in the quaker community donate funds and offer support to many condemned inmates.



A TCADP member protesting 1 of the 4 executions scheduled during the month of May 2010.



Texas's electric chair "Old Sparky" was used until 1964 for executions. In 1977 Texas adopted lethal injection, which is the main form of execution today. However inmates can still request to die by electrocution rather than lethal injection if lethal injection can be proved to be unconstitutional to the inmate.