



Equal Justice Initiative
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EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE



**SHOULD
WE
COMFORT
THE
CONDEMNED?**

A man is embraced by his father after he is sentenced to die by execution for the death of his infant son in Tuscaloosa, Alabama

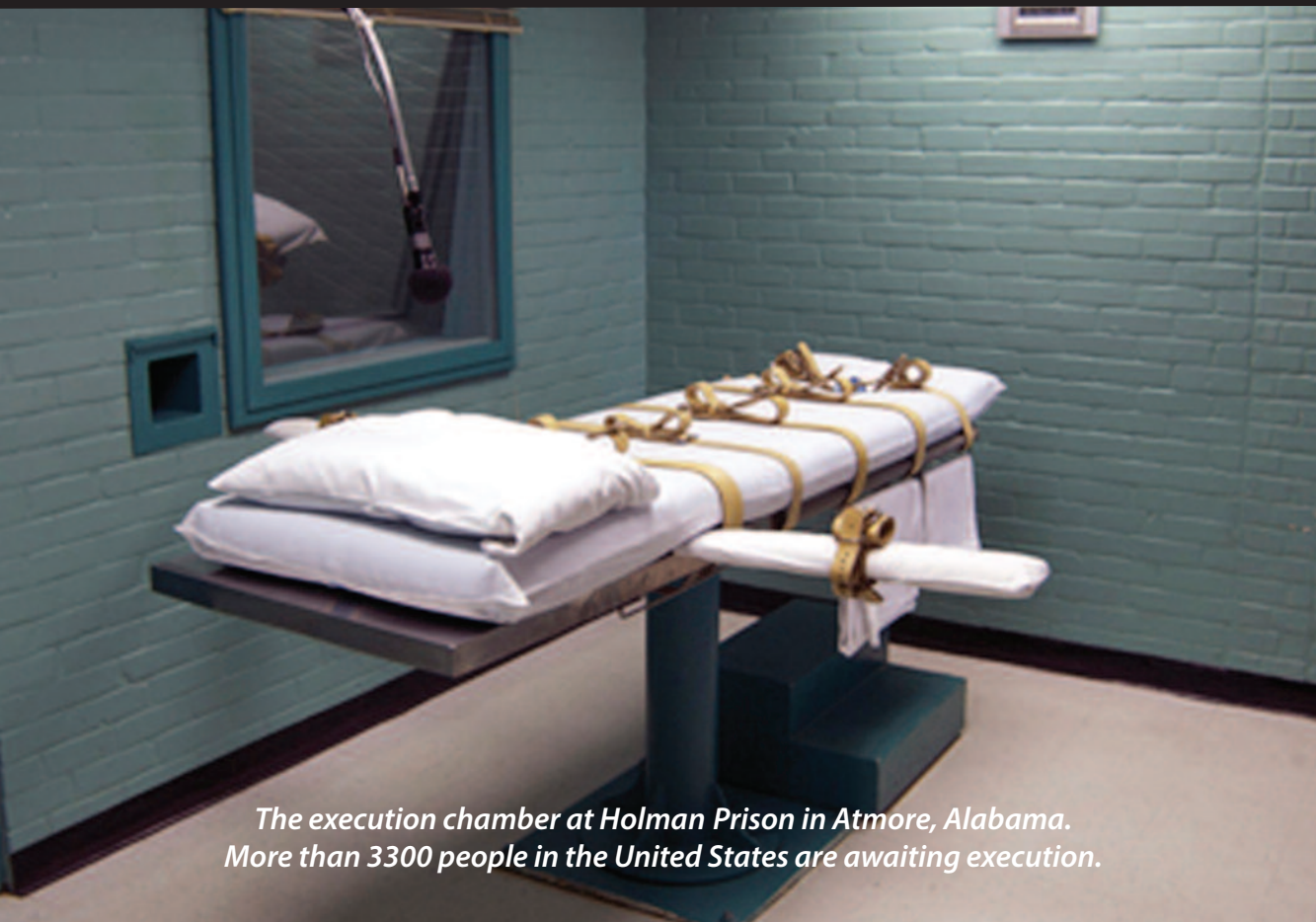


**SHOULD
WE
AID
THE
ACCUSED?**

*A man facing capital charges awaits
pre-trial proceedings in court*



A man says goodbye to his daughter in Geneva, Alabama, before he is taken to death row



*The execution chamber at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama.
More than 3300 people in the United States are awaiting execution.*

**SHOULD
WE
EXECUTE
THE CONVICTED?**



**SHOULD
WE
SENTENCE
CHILDREN TO
DIE IN PRISON?**

*A 15-year-old boy in Florida is sentenced to life imprisonment without parole
and runs to his mother in court*



**ARE
SOME PEOPLE
PUNISHED
TOO
SEVERELY?**

*A woman serving a life sentence at Tutwiler Prison in Wetumpka, Alabama.
The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world.*



**SHOULD
WE
PROTECT
INCARCERATED
CHILDREN?**

A 15-year-old boy is sentenced to life imprisonment in an adult prison, where he will soon be the victim of repeated sexual assaults. Children sent to adult prison face a risk of sexual victimization up to ten times higher than the risk for adults.



**ARE
WE
MORE
THAN THE
WORST THING
WE'VE EVER
DONE?**

"Criminal," "Murderer," "Rapist," "Thief," "Drug Dealer," "Sex Offender," and "Felon" have become complete and permanent identities that hundreds of thousands of children and adults will never be allowed to overcome.



An incarcerated man plays softball in a state prison yard

**SHOULD
WE
GIVE UP
ON THE
IMPRISONED?**



Innocent people wrongly convicted, sentenced to death, and later exonerated and released from death row at a Chicago conference on the death penalty

**WHAT
DO
WE OWE
INNOCENT PEOPLE
WRONGLY
CONVICTED?**



Children walk to school in a low-income neighborhood in Montgomery, Alabama



Impoverished residents wait all night in the freezing cold to receive aid from a charity in Birmingham, Alabama

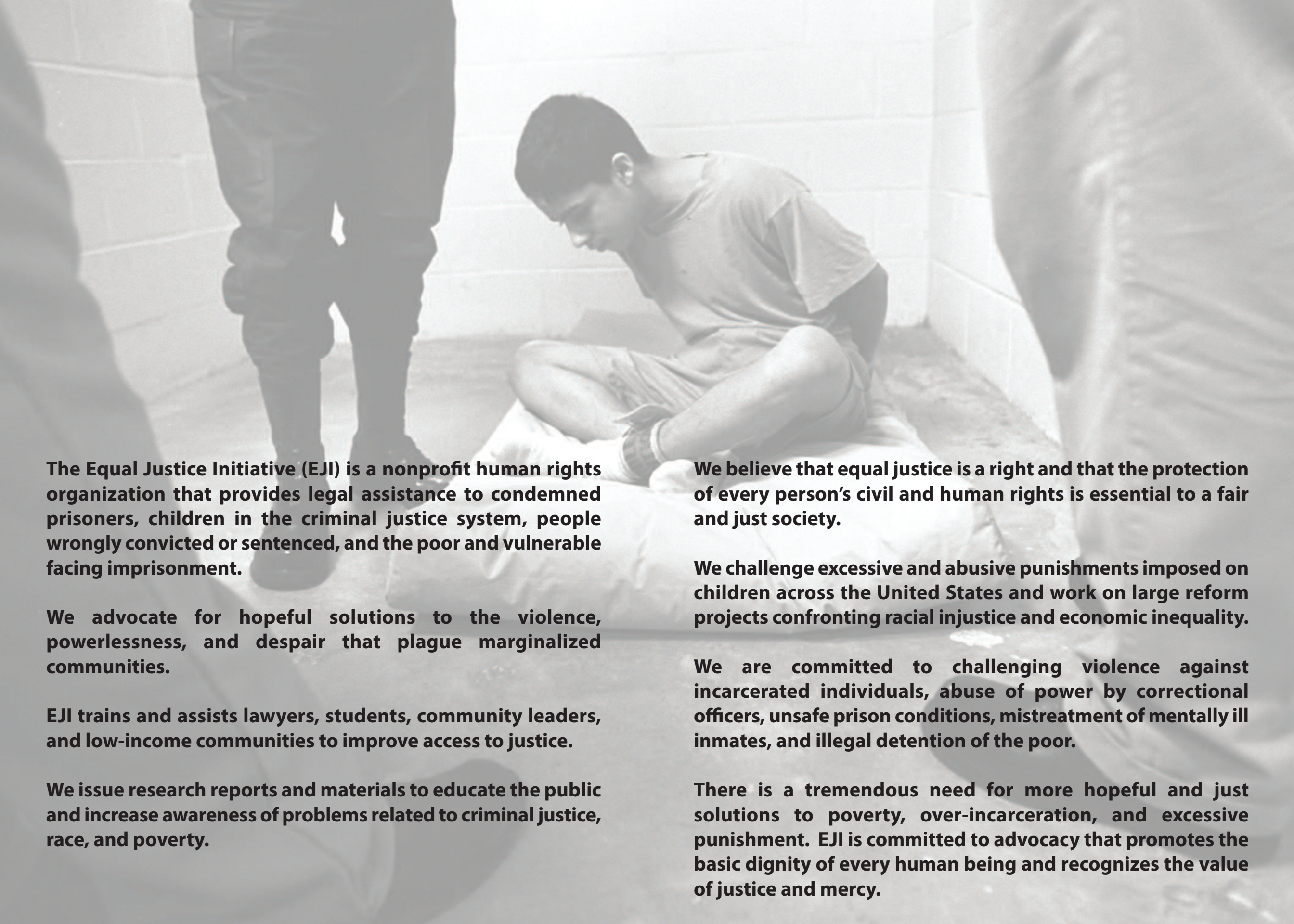
**SHOULD
WE
FORGET
THE
POOR?**



Birmingham, Alabama, 1962

**WILL
WE
OVERCOME
OUR
HISTORY?**





The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) is a nonprofit human rights organization that provides legal assistance to condemned prisoners, children in the criminal justice system, people wrongly convicted or sentenced, and the poor and vulnerable facing imprisonment.

We advocate for hopeful solutions to the violence, powerlessness, and despair that plague marginalized communities.

EJI trains and assists lawyers, students, community leaders, and low-income communities to improve access to justice.

We issue research reports and materials to educate the public and increase awareness of problems related to criminal justice, race, and poverty.

We believe that equal justice is a right and that the protection of every person's civil and human rights is essential to a fair and just society.

We challenge excessive and abusive punishments imposed on children across the United States and work on large reform projects confronting racial injustice and economic inequality.

We are committed to challenging violence against incarcerated individuals, abuse of power by correctional officers, unsafe prison conditions, mistreatment of mentally ill inmates, and illegal detention of the poor.

There is a tremendous need for more hopeful and just solutions to poverty, over-incarceration, and excessive punishment. EJI is committed to advocacy that promotes the basic dignity of every human being and recognizes the value of justice and mercy.



EJI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Photos by Steve Liss, Bernard Troncale, Bob Self/Florida Times-Union, Robert Sutton, and Robert Fouts.