

Statement from the President of Catholic Theological Union on the Planned Execution of Nidal Hasan

The Catholic Theological Union community opposes the execution of Nidal Hasan and, in particular, the plan to broadcast it on December 3.

We remember the thirteen people murdered at Fort Hood in 2009, those wounded, and the families whose lives were forever changed. Their suffering demands compassion, remembrance, and justice. Nothing excuses this terrible crime.

At CTU, we uphold the consistent ethic of life championed by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin: every human life is sacred, from conception to natural death, even the life of one who has committed grave wrong. As the Church teaches, “the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person” (CCC 2267).

Broadcasting an execution compounds the wrong by turning the taking of a human life into a public spectacle. Christians remember that Jesus himself was executed before a watching crowd. His crucifixion calls us to reject the spectacle of another person’s suffering.

We urge the Department of Defense not to broadcast this execution and the President to commute the sentence to life imprisonment. Justice can honor victims, protect society, and hold the guilty accountable without taking another life.

The greatness of a nation is measured not by its power to take life, but by its moral courage to uphold human dignity, even in those who have committed the gravest wrongs.



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President
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