

## Previous Engagements:

- Faces of Wrongful Conviction, UCLA, 2006
- World Conference Against the Death Penalty, Paris 2003, Montreal, 2004
- The Community of Sant'Egidio, Programs against the death penalty, Rome, 2006
- Alaskans Against the Death Penalty, education events, Juvenile Detention Center program, 2006
- Testimony, NY State General Assembly Committee on the Death Penalty, 2005
- Maryland Legislature, lobbying against the death penalty, 2007
- Presenter ACLU Death Penalty curriculum, DC High Schools 2005
- Speaker, VT Film Festival, 2005
- Post-production presenter, The Exonerated, 2007
- College Presentations - Columbia, Georgetown, Howard, Berkeley, and others
- K-12 Presentations - DC Public Schools and others
- Legal Campaigns - Tookie Williams, Kevin Cooper, Troy Davis, Kenneth Foster, Vernon Evans and others.

## Affiliations

Journey of Hope, Advisory Board,  
Witness to Innocence, Advisory Board  
Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Board Member, '05-'06  
WPFW/Pacifica Radio, Board Member, elected '05  
Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights  
National Coalition Against the Death Penalty  
Amnesty International  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Campaign to End the Death Penalty

## Target Audiences:

- Students
- Professionals
- Churches
- Community organizations
- Activist campaigns
- At-risk youth

## Topics:

- Alternatives to gang violence
- Problem solving for youth
- Community organizing
- The criminal justice system and the death penalty
- Alternatives to incarceration

## Programs Available:

- Day-long workshops
- Motivational Speaking
- Panel Discussions

**For additional information and scheduling, contact:**

**Phone: 240-863-3183**

**Email: [events@shujaa.org](mailto:events@shujaa.org)**

**[www.shujaa.org](http://www.shujaa.org)**

# Shujaa Graham



- Community Organizer
- Youth Advocate
- Anti-Death Penalty Activist

Shujaa Graham's story is a compelling one. His message of forgiveness, transformation and hope is an inspiration to his audiences.

*By both words and deeds he will move you as few speakers can*

Shujaa is a riveting speaker with a powerful message. Our most at-risk youth listen to Shujaa because he understands their lives in a way that few outsiders can.

College students and professionals listen because Shujaa's story is relevant, hard-hitting and, ultimately, filled with hope.

There is a reality gap today driving a deep wedge between generations. Today's young people have heard time and again about the importance of respect, hard work and the importance of doing the right thing. However, the message is often lost because young men and women do not respect the speaker. Listening to Shujaa's story, they learn that he has seen and heard what many can only imagine. They know he understands them and their challenges.

- **Growing up in a segregated south**

Shujaa Graham was born in Lake Providence, Louisiana, in the segregated South of the 50s. He grew up on a plantation where his family worked as share-croppers.

- **Living as a gang member**

In 1961, he joined his family in South Central Los Angeles where they had moved to build a more stable life. As a teenager, Shujaa lived and experienced the 1965 Watts riot and the police occupation of his community. In and out of trouble, a gang member, he spent much of his adolescent life in juvenile institutions until the age 18 when he was sent to Soledad Prison.

- **Breaking the cycle of violence**

Shujaa came of age within the prison walls. Mentored by the leadership of the emerging prisoner rights movement, Shujaa taught himself to read and write. A student of history and world affairs, he became a prominent leader of a growing resistance movement within the California prison system. At the same time groups like the Black Panther Party were expanding in the outside community.

- **Living on Death Row**

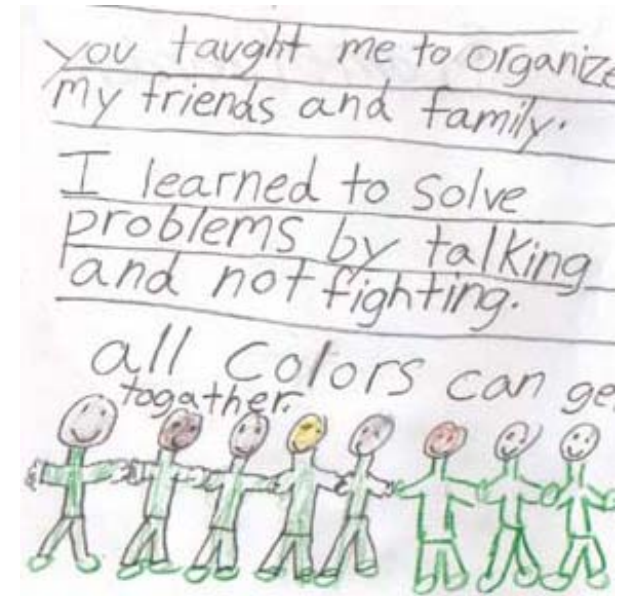
In 1973, Shujaa and Eugene Allen were framed and convicted of the murder of a prison guard in Stockton, California. Shujaa spent 5 years on San Quentin's infamous death row. In 1981 their conviction was overturned and Shujaa was released.

- **Life as an exonerated Death Row inmate**

Since his release Shujaa has worked tirelessly to build support to the abolish the death penalty, to expose the brutal reality of prison life, and to counteract gang violence. The depth of Shujaa's experiences has given him insight into the lives of many disheartened people. Although he has endured brutality and injustice, he walks with integrity and pride.

The story of Shujaa's life illustrates that you can rise from the depths of poverty and violence and make your dreams a reality. Shujaa has been married for 26 years, and is the father of three children and grandfather of three boys. He is a self-employed landscaper, and activist.

For some, Shujaa is the first contact with hope. He has a powerful and compelling presence, and speaks with a soft voice and the courage of his convictions.



Shujaa is comfortable presenting his story to legal, church, political, student or youth groups of any size. His evocative and powerful story makes for a compelling presentation. He enjoys taking questions from his audience, and talking with them about their concerns are. He speaks to a variety of groups in language they understand, helping them see options that are real, obtainable and filled with hope. With both words and deeds, Shujaa will move you as few speakers can.