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**Informal Poll Shows that the General Public
Believes Teresa Lewis Should Not Be Subject to Death Penalty**

Lewis will be the first Virginia woman in nearly a century subject to the death penalty

Washington, D.C. As the execution date for Teresa Lewis draws closer, the general public is being inundated with information from either side of the controversial decision to execute this woman in the state of Virginia. In an informal poll conducted by the **National Museum of Crime and Punishment** outside its doors in downtown Washington, D.C., 68% of people believe that Lewis should not be killed by the state, while 32% believe that Virginia made the right decision.

Lewis, who is scheduled to be killed by lethal injection on Thursday, September 23rd, pleaded guilty to seven offenses in May 2003, including two counts of murder for hire. She admitted to her involvement in the 2002 murder of her husband and stepson, and the judge who oversaw her sentencing deemed her the crime's mastermind; "the head of this serpent" for this vicious plan.

Advocates against her death penalty sentence point to the fact that the gunmen in the crime (the two men who actually killed the victims) were sentenced to life in prison, not the death penalty. Additionally, Lewis' lawyers have multiple tests that show Lewis is on the cusp of mental retardation. Some medical experts also determined that Lewis suffered from a dependent-personality disorder, which left her particularly susceptible to manipulation by men. However, Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell and the U.S. Supreme Court have already stated publicly they will not grant a stay in the case, with McDonnell stating that "I find no compelling reason to set aside the sentence that was imposed by the Circuit Court and affirmed by all reviewing courts. Accordingly, I decline to intervene and have notified the appropriate counsel and family of my decision." This ruling from the Governor and the Supreme Court means Lewis' Thursday execution is almost certain to proceed.

The National Museum of Crime & Punishment polled the general public outside their museum on 7th St. NW between E St. and F St. in downtown Washington, D.C. While the museum has an entire exhibit hall dedicated to the death sentence and its progression throughout United States history, including an actual electric chair used in the execution of 125 men in Tennessee in the 20th century, it does not take a stance on the death penalty. The museum also has information on this case through its blog, located on the web at www.crimemuseum.org/blog.

About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment

The NMCP's mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the history of crime, crime fighting and solving, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining, and educational experience. Some of the

attractions include a CSI Experience, a high-speed chase simulator and FBI shooting range, Americas Most Wanted studio, and a room where visitors can try to hack into a computer, crack a safe and test their Wild West shooting range. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). Learn more at www.crimemuseum.org.

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