

Lynne Stewart dedicated her life to representing the poor, the unpopular and the controversial. She is now dying in prison, suffering from stage 4 cancer, at least partially as a consequence of being in prison.

Leaving aside the fact that she was given the most draconian possible sentence, based on every possible speculative and negative inference that could be drawn, there is nothing this woman did that deserves a death sentence, which is what this amounts to now.

Our system of justice is profoundly less strong without the altruistic representation of attorneys like Lynne Stewart. The integrity of our law is only preserved by giving those accused of serious crimes, even including terrorism, the most vigorous possible defense.

We call on President Obama to exercise his discretion and compassion to commute the prison sentence of Lynne Stewart, perhaps concomitant with a restatement by her of remorse for whatever it was that she actually did.