

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
IN THE U.S.
VS.
ISIL BEHEADINGS!
ARE THEY MORALLY
EQUIVALENT?

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 15, 2014



Here's what provoked me:

A writer clearly concluded that capital punishment in the United States and the beheadings carried out by ISIL are morally equivalent. I must admit I was surprised by this clear example of distorted morals, or should I say "clear example of amorality." You can't make this stuff up!

Here's my response:

Capital Punishment in the United States vs. ISIL Beheadings! Are They Morally Equivalent?

Letter writer Bobbi Alowan Palmiter submitted the following on September 15: "Is there any real difference between ISIL's executing a man in an act of righteousness – as morally justifiable – and an act of capital punishment in this country, other than that we've seen the one and not the other? ... There are none so blind as those who will not see."

To the writer I say no, I'm shouting: Do you really see relative equivalence between these two incidents? To equate these two outcomes, one has to equate the deeds of those being put to death – i.e. committing a brutal pre-meditated murder in the United States is equivalent, in the Middle East, to providing humanitarian services, being a news reporter, or being a photographer for an international news service. Is that what Palmiter is representing? If so, that's truly shameful – and it's you who do not see!

For the record, I do NOT support capital punishment!

