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RESPECT FOR LIFE

By Stephen L. Bakke  February 1, 2018



Here's what provoked me:

In my somewhat biased, yet humble opinion, Des Moines Register columnist Rekha Basu sometimes slips from excellence and lets her obsession for abortion rights cloud her judgement. Regarding her recent rant against the death penalty, much of which I agree with, I think she showed how contradictory those opinions are compared with her zealous defense of abortion rights.

Here's my response:

Respect for Life

I support Rekha Basu's 1-31 article, "Killing killers won't breed respect for life." Objecting to the death penalty she wrote: "Tempting as such eye-for-an-eye vengeance may be at an emotional level, our criminal justice system isn't intended to get even. It's intended to punish [and] correct behavior.....Even one [homicide] death is too many, but so is even one death sentence for someone wrongfully convicted.....you don't teach someone to value life by telling him his life has no redeeming value....."

I admire Ms. Basu, a wonderfully talented journalist, but sometimes she lets ideology stain her judgement. In the recent past she has only reluctantly supported pro-life women being inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame (8-30-17). She also declared that "life begins at conception" is a myth (3-31-17). She added: "Lawmakers should stop playing God."

Basu is absolutely correct in her concern with having even one death sentence for someone wrongfully convicted. She should show proportionate concern with the approximately 60,000,000 unborn lives lost to elective abortions in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade in 1973. Just like she declared about the death penalty, aborting a living fetus is no way "to teach someone to value life."