

Between the Bars

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Greetings and welcome,

I speak from between the bars. A convicted so-called criminal. Stuck for more than 26-years under multiple unearned terms of imprisonment adjudged by the Los Angeles, California criminal court system. Don't be alarmed. I am a innocent robust heterosexual 67 year old grandfather; handcuffed by lies, false inferences and because of the collateral ramifications of my own prior criminal record.

ON 21 June 1984 I rejected a county prosecutor's plea offer deriving from my good faith self-defense against a street gang member's attempt to murder me immediately after I and my late father, James H. Hawkins, Sr., had intervened to prevent his and 3 associates endeavor to rob a mother and her 5 childrens of their bicycles, etc., ON 11 September 1983.

Before the 11 September event I had previously served prison terms in the California, federal and the Arkansas prison systems. My final, before this instant ongoing, term of imprisonment expired ON 9 January 1979! together-with a Certificate of Rehabilitation and parole discharge. I was maintaining a law abiding life, gainfully employed as a cemetery motor escort officer and part time Accountant specializing in Tax incidence and general business concerns; enjoying life, liberty and happy pursuits together with my ex wife, Helen, and 3 of my 4 childrens.

Notwithstanding my having paid my debt to society for my past criminal misconduct or the reality of my exemplary reform, in the eyes of the system, "once a felon

always a criminal" unworthy of either a fair trial or a "Just" ascertainment of truth by the Justices of the appeals courts - The unwritten exception.

Young Adults, please, take every precaution to preserve the credentials of your character. Choices made today will have exponential effects for both opportunities or career options. Always aspire to do the right thing. Establish a reputation for respectability and integrity, honesty and worth. Keep your Names Out Of The "Felony" Archives Of The System Of Justice - Remember, "No good deeds goes unpunished..."

What ought one do if actually and factually innocent of a falsely charged felony after having been previously convicted, sufficiently punished and reformed from criminal misconduct? Remember me. But if, unlike me, your past is not tainted by prior felonies and you have sufficient means to retain a smart lawyer... stand firm! On the integrity of your innocence but make every effort to be tried before a conscientious "law abiding" Judge who won't violate his or her oath to uphold and execute the rules of law or forsake Justice for the sake of patronizing "its" judgeship...

Even scene witnesses and relevant physical evidence exonerates me of the falsely charged prosecuted double homicide for which I'm under two separate consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole; and the false testimony in the self-defense gang trial, for which I was sentenced to serve a consecutive 28 year prison term, was impeached by the principal evidence that the trial judge refuse to let the jurors hear; and effectively quateering the ongoing unwarranted verdict of guilty. Apparently, it is more important to shield the image of justice from the collateral damages of a miscarriage of justice?

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Because of the multiple unearned prison sentences, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation even denied my request to attend the memorial funeral services of my beloved parents both of who, had patiently waited and hoped in vain that the appeals courts would reverse and rectify the trial courts' injustices and restore my freedom, but have since passed on broken hearted.

I respectfully welcome comments and will respond irrespective of opinion. In the words of Joseph: "... For I am in fact innocent and also I have done nothing at all for which they should put me in the prison hole...." Please help get me out of here.

Respectfully and sincerely,
James D. Hawkins, Jr.
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P.S.: Wednesday, December 2, 1987 news clipping enclosed with this letter.