

A Story of Innocence

“I know what dead feels like”

While Sharrod Holmes stood in front of the sentencing judge that just gave him multiple 30 year sentences and then two more 15 year sentences to run wild for a grand total of sixty (60) years in Florida prison, all he could think was that, he knew he was innocent and he felt dead literally.

Later he would explain the out-of-body experience, saying that now he knows what “dead” feels like. Prison cells are cold. Prison cells are lonely; Heartbreak isn’t the best word to use when describing what a sixty (60) year prison bid will do to the human soul, but there isn’t another word for what happens when your heart stops working. Broken, angry and alone. A place where even Kings cry.

That was 2008, today is 2024. He’s still being held in a Florida state prison where he maintains his innocence. Since then, 5 witnesses plus one of the named victims have come forward with sworn statements that Sharrod Holmes was in fact NOT the gun-wielding shooter that the state attorney accused him of being.

Newly discovered evidence, multiple appeals to the court, evidentiary hearings and an undisputed legal arguments that Sharrod Holmes is innocent have been dismissed, disposed of and disregarded by our state Attorney and Pinellas county court system.

To talk to Sharrod is a humbling experience for anyone. To listen to him explain the reality of knowing he might die of old age before an unjust sentence expires is the kind of thing that words can’t describe. The pain in his voice and the dull glare in his eye from disbelief is something I hope we can put an end to today.

When Sharrod was being interviewed for this report, his description of having his life taken by wrongful conviction, he kept reaching back to the feeling of being “dead.” Unfortunately this nightmare isn’t just an isolated occurrence. Currently there are an estimated 3,611 to 9,420 wrongfully convicted prisoners in the Florida D.O.C who live in fear that they may never be “alive” again. Sharrod is a father to 5 children and a grandfather to 15. How does a person find a silver lining in those kind of circumstances, when a 60 year prison sentence is taking everything that your “life” consists of?

The rule of law means little today. The protections afforded by the due process of our law are now exchanged for politics and gain rather than life and liberty. When six eyewitnesses come forward on their own accord and clarify that the circumstantial evidence is flat-out wrong and still our court turns a blind eye, the question turns into a search for how this nightmare for Sharrod and his family will end.

To admit that your heart is broken and beyond is understandable but to know that our judicial system is also broken beyond repair is a different type of hurt. And yet no one in our government will make the necessary changes to end social injustice....that is unforgivable. This MUST end now! Social injustice can’t continue while we turn a blind eye. We need solutions!

Asking you if this story bothers you isn't the right question; but will you do something to support Sharrord right now, today?

Join our effort and support a real life rescue mission of a man buried alive under the rubble of a broken and collapsed judicial system. The combined effort of our family, as well as a book that Sharrod wrote himself while being incarcerated are coming together to heal a miscarriage of justice. Click the link here to help

No amount is too small. Whatever your heart suggests is appreciated, but whatever you do, don't choose to do nothing. Social injustice has to end and it's going to take all of us to end it. Don't hesitate! If we don't do something now, Sharrod will die in prison simply because he couldn't afford the legal defense needed to prove his innocence. Together we're simply better.

From all of us on Sharrod's team, family and friends; Thank you for your time, consideration and generosity.

THE HOLMES!