

# Miscarriage of Justice

• 35 years in prison and counting for killing man in self-defense

By Mark Anderson

**P.F.** Lazor, 64, who once had a promising career as a singer-guitarist in a Buddy Holly tribute band, has spent the last 35 years in the California state prison system on an evidently bogus second-degree murder charge—even though the maximum sentence for that charge is 17 years.

"Nobody's ever served that kind of time for second-degree murder," longtime friend Ken Masat told AFP. "It's basically life in prison."

In 1983 in Santa Clara County, Calif., Lazor, who many called "Buddy Holly Jr.," was in an altercation with a man, resulting in Lazor fatally shooting him in self-defense.

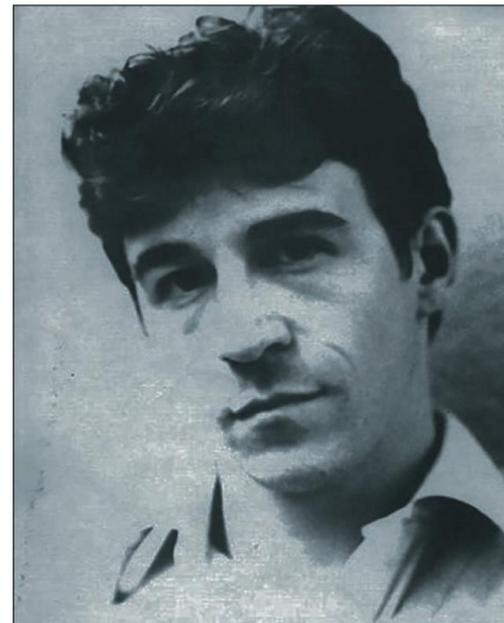
Lazor had his own house, which sat upon someone else's land. But he allowed the landowner's nephew, John Allred, to temporarily use a room in the house until Allred found his own place. After several run-ins with Allred, a known drug addict, Lazor contacted police, but they refused to write a report since Allred's uncle had "connections."

At one point, the attorney finally relented and claimed he'd allow Lazor to testify, but only if Lazor would strictly limit his responses to his lawyer's questions. But Lazor never got to testify in order to show he acted in self-defense. Without an opportunity to tell his full story, Lazor was made to look like the aggressor to the jury.

The treatment of Lazor during his three-plus decades in prison is where things have gotten particularly nasty. For instance, in Lazor's last two parole hearings—June 6 and Nov. 16 of 2017—his parole was denied on spurious grounds, even though Lazor apparently has been a model prisoner, once having saved a fellow inmate from an attack, Masat said.

"Lazor also has a stunning personal success story prior to his incarceration, known not only as a musician but as an inventor and realtor, despite having endured extensive illnesses," Masat noted.

"On Nov. 16, they put his parole off another five years; it's unbelievable," Masat said. He noted the state's pettiness is evidenced by the fact that Lazor was denied parole last June because of some questionable 11th-hour "rule violations," such as a disputed claim that he had merely raised his



**P.F. Lazor** was an amazing success story. Born into extreme poverty and battling serious childhood illnesses, by the age of eight he was already working. He later became a musician, published poet, and inventor. That all changed when he killed a man in self-defense and received pathetic legal counsel.

Moreover, several prisoners have written affidavits testifying that prison guards have frequently floated lies that Lazor had been a child molester,

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One day, Allred went too far and kicked in Lazor’s door, clutching a meat cleaver and what appeared to be a handgun. He attacked Lazor, who pulled his pistol and shot Allred. Lazor then called the police and an ambulance, which arrived while Allred was still alive. He died shortly thereafter.

Lazor was arrested. At trial, his lawyer turned out to be a sell-out who refused to call any of the 250 supporters, who wrote letters and offered to testify. Lazor’s best potential witnesses were subpoenaed and put on a witness list but were never called. And due to the “exclusionary rule,” none of his close friends was allowed to even observe the trial proceedings.

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So why was Lazor hit with such a draconian sentence, deplorable treatment and repeated parole denials? Masat replied that, while there aren’t any easy answers, Lazor has become something of an activist in prison, a passionate Christian with conservative views, who also happens to be an AMERICAN FREE PRESS subscriber.

“He’s been a whistleblower against the violations of his own rights and those of others,” Masat said. “Lazor’s been moved 54 times, either to a different room or a different prison. Every time he gets moved, they destroy more of his property and legal paperwork—a clear rights violation.”



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Moreover, several prisoners have written affidavits testifying that prison guards have frequently floated lies that Lazor had been a child molester, a dangerous accusation in any prison environment. One inmate, who’s been in California prisons for 29 years, wrote that he’s never seen anybody treated worse than Lazor has been treated. He’s just one of several inmates who’ve gone on record in Lazor’s defense, despite the personal risk to themselves from prison authorities.

Ironically, “One year after his conviction, California enacted a law (Home Protection Self-Defense Bill, Penal Code section 198.5) which [would have recognized that Lazor’s] act was not a crime, but it cannot be applied retroactively,” states a passage on the website “Free-Lazor.org.”

A ray of hope can be found in a *habeas corpus* motion Lazor recently filed, for which a hearing is pending.

The judge did order the state to show cause as to why Lazor is being held so long,” Masat said.

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"The judge did order the state to show cause as to why Lazor is being held so long," Masat said. "Lazor has high hopes the judge will look at this more than anybody else has. It's a disturbing case of disproportionate sentencing and kidnapping by imprisonment."

Unless concerned citizens convince state officials of the sheer injustice of this case, it looks like Lazor could hit the 40-year mark in prison.

Write to P.F. Lazor at C73842, A4-103, P.O. Box 1050, Soledad, CA 93960, to Gov. Jerry Brown at State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 and to Department of Corrections Director Scott Kernan, Sacramento, CA 95814. Gov. Brown's phone is 916-445-2841 (Fax 916-558-3160); Kernan's phone is 916-324-7308. ★

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