

wrongful imprisonment of four men known as the Ford Heights Four. In the last three years, numerous people in Illinois have been freed from prison after years of wrongful incarceration. The use of paid informants produces unjust convictions; undermine public confidence in the system, and figures prominently into the equation of putting innocent people in prison. Recalling the words of former Governor Ryan after releasing several innocent men from death row: "If those many innocent were on death row, its mind shattering to imagine how many innocent people that we still have in general prison population."

The Committee to Free Minister Michael D. Smith is asking people that are concerned about social justice to become involved and support the effort to free an innocent man.

**Committee to Free
Minister Michael D. Smith
Men & Women In Prison Ministries
10 W. 35th Street St. 9C5-2
Chicago, IL. 60616
(708) 749-4945
www.mwipm.com**

We encourage people to write directly to Minister Michael D. Smith, since hearing from concerned individuals is a source of strength to continue fighting for freedom.

**Minister Michael D. Smith
Reg. No. N-40598
Dixon Correctional Center
P.O. Box 1200
Dixon, Illinois 61021**

The Committee To Free Minister Michael D. Smith is a project of the Men & Women In Prison Ministries (M&WIPM) which is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides services to prisoners, their families and the community at-large. Please make all financial contributions payable to:

**M&WIPM
10 W. 35th Street St. 9C5-2
Chicago, IL. 60616
(708) 749-4945
www.mwipm.com**

Your support is needed, appreciated and most welcomed!

Twenty-Seven Years And Counting: The Wrongful Imprisonment Of Another Innocent Men



Minister Michael D. Smith is currently imprisoned at the Dixon Correctional Center located in Dixon, Illinois, where he is serving a sentence of 80 years. He has been continuously incarcerated for the last 27 years for a crime he did not commit.

Michael D. Smith was railroaded into the Illinois prison system as a direct result of police corruption, fabricated evidence, perjured testimony, prosecutorial abuse, and the workings of a paid informant.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On December 4, 1980, Russell Diggs was shot to death in Chicago. Nearly a year later Michael D. Smith was charged with the murder. Two street gang members were the key witnesses for the prosecution against Michael D. Smith. Notable there was no physical evidence linking Michael D. Smith to the crime.

Minister Michael D. Smith is the victim of a “diabolical scheme” concocted by Detective Michael Pochordo and Detective Steven Hood of the Chicago Police Department along with Darryl Moore, a powerful street gang leader, notorious drug dealer, and a paid informant who worked closely with Detective Michael Pochordo. Evidence has surfaced which reflect that Detective Michael Pochordo secured monies from the Chicago Police Department to pay Darryl Moore to be an informant. Moreover evidence exists to show that the Office of the Cook County State’s Attorney, under the watch of Richard M. Daley, paid monies to the creditors of Darryl Moore. Emphatically, both street gang members were under the command of Darryl Moore.

1st Street Gang Member **Leon Moore**

Leon Moore has revealed in a signed and notarized statement that Darryl Moore instructed him to inform the police that Michael D. Smith murdered Russell Diggs and to cooperate with whatever the police want. Furthermore, his statement shows that he met with Detectives Michael Pochordo and Steven Hood and was told that he would be charged with the murder of Russell Diggs, if he did not cooperate. Leon Moore also stated, “that he feared for his safety and the well-being of his family members, if he did not obey the orders of Darryl Moore.”

2nd Street Gang Member **Derrick Potts**

Derrick Potts admitted on the witness stand, in a court proceeding, that he testified falsely against Michael D. Smith. Derrick Potts stated that he testified falsely because the prosecution made him a deal in reference to pending criminal cases. Derrick Potts also testified that the prosecution reneged on a deal and that is why he exposed the truth of him testifying falsely against Michael D. Smith.

Darryl Moore has vividly revealed in a signed and notarized statement that he met with Detective Michael Pochordo in early 1981 and it was decided that Michael D. Smith would be blamed for the murder of Russell Diggs. Additionally, Darryl Moore made known that he ordered both street gang members to testify falsely against Michael D. Smith and to cooperate with Detective Michael Pochordo. Also, Darryl Moore stated that he was paid in excess of \$25,000.00 for providing names of people that could be blamed for murders and supplying people that would cooperate and testify falsely against people blamed for murders. Darryl Moore worked with Detectives Michael Pochordo and Steven Hood in approximately ten (10) murder cases.

There are major systemic problems with the Illinois Criminal Justice System. It is a system where corruption abounds, unethical conduct flourishes, perjuries testimony is the norm, and paid informants are handsomely rewarded for their untruthful testimony.

In recent times, the County of Cook made an out-of-court settlement for 36 million dollars as compensation for the