

State Continues to Ignore Truth: Man Imprisoned Since 1984 Struggles to Regain Freedom

My name is Donald Glenn and I need support in order to gain my release from prison.

In 1984, while I was suffering from mental illness, I was involved in a shoot-out with police in Cambridge, Ohio. In my psychotic mindset, I did not believe these police were real people. I believed they were deadly alien-beings conspiring and plotting against me. Acting upon my psychotic delusions and hallucinations at the time of this shooting, I shot and killed Officer Dragosin and injured Officer Woody. If not for my being mentally unstable, this tragic shooting never would have occurred. I am incredibly sorry that any of this ever happened. I am sincerely remorseful about this tragedy every day.

During the course of the trial, I was mentally ill and declared by experts to be legally insane. But because a police officer was killed and another police officer was injured, the court ignored the evidence and the law and convicted and sentenced me to death in prison instead of properly finding me to be legally insane, and placed in a mental hospital for treatment of my mental illness.

In the long legal process, numerous reputable experts concluded and reported to the court that I was legally insane at the time of this tragic shooting. On appeal, the higher court reversed the death sentence but did not reverse the conviction. That is, contrary to the evidence and the law, despite the fact that I was declared to be legally insane, the courts simply reversed the death sentence rather than finding me not guilty by reason of insanity and hospitalizing me rather than imprisoning me.

This case was a high-profile media case that involves the police and because I was unable to defend myself due to my own mental incompetence, the judges and prosecutors engaged in grand-standing, and re-manufactured the events in a way that really did not happen so they could make me look like a monster rather than a person who desperately needed help. The death and injury of these police officers are admittedly tragic, but this does not justify intentional fabrications and untruths. The judges and prosecutors took advantage of my mental disabilities to know what was happening or to otherwise defend myself.

Before, during, and after my trial, I did not know that I was mentally ill and I did not know about medicines for my mental illness. In the thirty-plus years of my imprisonment, I have sought treatment for my mental illness. I have been taking medicines for my mental illness for many years now. I am 100% medicine compliant and my mental illness is stable now. I can honestly say that this tragedy of the past is the result of circumstances that will never happen again.

Over the years of my imprisonment, I have successfully completed a multitude of positive life-changing educational and vocational re-entry programs. I am an elderly person now and I do what I can to help others. I am not the same person that I was when this tragedy happened. I have made many positive life changes over the years. I have held a steady job with the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) for a number of years now. I have worked as a Drill Press Operator, as a Grinder Operator, and currently as a Sand Blasting Operator. I am a model prisoner. I have developed many educational and vocational skills for re-entry employment. I have made many positive accomplishments to ensure that I will be a law-abiding, responsible and productive member of society when I am released from prison.

Unfortunately because of the death and injury of these police officers, the Courts and the Ohio parole board will not take my prior mental illness condition and my long struggle to regain my sanity into account. I continue to serve time imprisoned for crimes that happened when I did not have the abilities to think or reason clearly, for events that happened when I was legally insane, according to Ohio's own laws.

It is my hope that my tragic situation will move you to support my release from prison and assist me in such efforts. I believe I would benefit greatly from an online petition and/or your efforts to circulate my information. It is still my hope to live the remainder of my life in a meaningful and purposeful way, preferably as a law-abiding, responsible, productive member of society. Anyone interested in contacting me may do so at the following:

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