

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

FILED

2020 MAR 16 AM 9:33

SHERRA WRIGHT, PRO SE
PETITIONER

VS.

STATE OF TENNESSEE
RESPONDENT

HEIDI HUNN
CRIMINAL COURT CLERK
CASE NO. 1705881
BY AB

(POST-CONVICTION)

PETITION FOR RELIEF FROM CONVICTION OR SENTENCE

Mailing Address of Petitioner:
(including zip code) Unit 2 North A-21
3881 Stewarts Lane
Nashville, TN 37218-3302

Place of Confinement: Tennessee Prison For Women

Department of Correction
Number: 610305

1. Name and location (city and county) of court which entered the judgment of conviction or sentence challenged: Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee
2. Date of judgment of conviction: July 25, 2019
3. Case number: 1705881
4. Length of sentence: 30 years at 30%
5. Offense convicted of: Facilitation of First Degree Murder (T.C.A. § 39-13-202; Class A Felony) Facilitation Attempted First Degree Murder (T.C.A. § 39-13-202; Class B Felony)
6. What was your plea? (Check One)
(a) Guilty _____
(b) Not guilty _____

(c) Not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect _____

(d) Not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect _____

(e) Nolo contendere _____

(f) None _____

If you entered a guilty plea to one count or indictment, and a not guilty plea to another count or indictment, specify:

(a) Guilty plea counts: 2 Counts

(b) Not guilty plea counts: N/A

7. Kind of trial: (Check One)

(a) Jury _____

(b) Judge only _____

8. Did you testify at the trial?

Yes _____ No _____

9. Did you appeal from the judgment of conviction?

Yes _____ No _____

10. If you did appeal, answer the following:

(a) As to the state court to which you first appealed, give the following information:

(1) Name of court: N/A

(2) Result: N/A

(3) Date of result: N/A

(4) Grounds raised on appeal: N/A

(b) If you appealed to any other court, then as to the second court to which you appealed, give the following information:

(1) Name of court: N/A

(2) Result: N/A

(3) Date of result: N/A

(4) Grounds raised on appeal: N/A

(c) If you appealed to any other court, then as to the third court to which you appealed, give the following information:

(1) Name of court: N/A

(2) Result: N/A

(3) Date of result: N/A

(4) Grounds raised on appeal: N/A

11. If more than one (1) year has passed since the date of final action on your direct appeal by the state appellate courts, state why the one (1) year statute of limitations should not bar your claim: N/A

12. Other than a direct appeal from the judgment(s) of conviction and sentence, have you previously filed any petitions, applications, or motions with respect to the judgment(s) in any state or federal court?

Yes No

13. If your answer to Question 12 was Yes, then give the following information in regard to the first such petition, application, or motion you filed:

(a) (1) Name of court: N/A

(2) Nature of proceeding: N/A

(3) Grounds raised: N/A

(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion?

Yes No

(5) Result: N/A

(6) Date of result: N/A

(b) As to any second petition, application, or motion, give same information:

(1) Name of court: N/A

(2) Nature of proceeding: N/A

(3) Grounds raised: N/A

(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application, or motion?

Yes No

(5) Result: N/A

(6) Date of result: N/A

(c) Did you appeal the result of the action taken on any petition, application, or motion identified above to any appellate court:

(1) First petition, etc. Yes No

(2) Second petition, etc. Yes No

(d) If you did not appeal when you lost on any petition, application, or motion, explain briefly why you did not appeal: N/A

14. If you did not raise the grounds you raise here in your original prosecution and on your appeal from that prosecution, explain why your claim in this case has not been waived for failure to raise it on appeal. If the claim was raised, explain why your claim is not previously determined: N/A

15. If you have previously filed a petition, application, or motion with respect to the judgment(s) in any court, explain why your claim in this case has not been waived for failure to raise it in that prior proceeding. If the claim was raised, explain why your claim is not previously determined: N/A

16. Specify every ground on which you claim that you are being held unlawfully, by placing a check mark on the appropriate line(s) below and providing the required information or by attaching separate pages.

INCLUDE ALL FACTS WHICH SUPPORT THE GROUNDS YOU CLAIM.

GROUNDS OF PETITION

(1) Conviction was based on unlawfully induced guilty plea or guilty plea involuntarily entered without understanding of the nature and consequences of the plea.

(2) Conviction was based on use of coerced confession.

___ (3) Conviction was based on use of evidence gained pursuant to an unconstitutional search and seizure.

___ (4) Conviction was based on use of evidence obtained pursuant to an unlawful arrest.

(5) Conviction was based on a violation of the privilege against self incrimination.

___ (6) Conviction was based on the unconstitutional failure of the prosecution to disclose to defendant evidence favorable to defendant.

___ (7) Conviction was based on a violation of the protection against double jeopardy.

___ (8) Conviction was based on action of a grand or petit jury that was unconstitutionally selected and impaneled.

(9) Denial of effective assistance of counsel.

___ (10) Newly discovered evidence

___ (11) Illegal evidence

(12) Other grounds

Police Fabricated Evidence / Brutality / Misconduct:

- The police implicated the Petitioner's children in a report. It was falsely created. It alleged that the Petitioner implicated them by placing them at the crime scene with Billy Turner while "he cut that fence". They are lying. The Petitioner avers that she said no such thing. They wanted to scare the Petitioner and them into not having them credible as witnesses. (police perjury – misconduct)
- Full phone records that would show Lorenzen in Arkansas during ct. 3 of crimes charges. Petitioner avers her children were at a basketball game and she was with the victim that afterwards receiving an engagement ring.
- Petitioner avers that the victim was not in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Petitioner was held on extremely high bond, \$20 million, without any prior history of crime. Bill Turner (the charge partner with a violent history) was set at a lower bond. This was unfair. Petitioner was housed in F-pod

(Advanced Segregation) Maximum Security. Petitioner was held in isolation for eighteen-months straight, with mostly one hour out of her cell each day. Some days, the Petitioner was held for over 30 hours before being let out. The Petitioner's health declined. The Petitioner became diabetic. Petitioner gained enormous amounts of weight due to no exercise being available. When held in isolation, Petitioner was tortured. Petitioner tried writing to Judge Lee Coffee to fix her problems after she couldn't get help but he said that it was "illegal" to contact him. Petitioner tried on several occasions to get relief, but her attorneys did nothing to stop her torture. Petitioner gave them over 20 documented pages of abuse, dates and times, and incidents.

- Officer Anita Wilkins daily abused the Petitioner. She taunted the Petitioner concerning her breakdown on the Petitioner's "dead baby's birthday". And she submitted the Petitioner's medical breakdown to the courts for national exposure for America to make fun of the Petitioner's issues.
- Petitioner suffered nightly abuse from Lorenzen Wright's second cousin, Officer Claudia Bond, who the Petitioner asked to be removed from her pod because of her effect on the Petitioner's mental health/physical health. The staff did nothing. In fact, they promoted her abusive tactics.
- The Petitioner suffered from isolation. The Petitioner never received the opportunity to have a roommate. (Even women who murdered numerous children had roommates) The jail wanted to cover up the Petitioner's abuse, so they kept the Petitioner separated in the Petitioner's living quarters. The Petitioner met with Dr. Terry Moson, doctor of mental health. In those meetings, the Petitioner outlined the benefits of having social skills and connections and emphasized that the Petitioner was "the only" inmate being held under such harsh conditions. Even he advocated for the Petitioner.
- Several grievances were filled out about the Petitioner's case of abuse. And several letters were written. These letters were destroyed often by staff. The Petitioner confronted Captain Benn and handed her hand-written copies; she did nothing.
- My attorney visits were tampered with. Information only discussed on the Petitioner's visits would be circulating around the jail a few hours following the Petitioner's meetings. The staff used it, spread it and shared it. The Petitioner's defense was compromised.
- The Petitioner's phone calls were tampered with. The information only discussed by telephone was spread throughout the jail by staff. (The Petitioner's children's mental state, the Petitioner's husband's support, any financial conversations, and plans as a family). The Petitioner's privacy was violated and used to impose mental health threats.
- The Petitioner's 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution "protection from cruel and unusual punishment and protection from the abuses" by staff was violated frequently. It became a circus.

- The Petitioner's 11th Amendment to the United States Constitution "right to communication" was violated. The Petitioner's family was turned away with lies.
- The Petitioner was also placed in red-shirts, on detention, to torture the Petitioner before court, pressured into considering deals. Kept from family for weeks at a time without any communication. Denied usage of telephone equipment. Kept in red shirt past time allocated in order to show up to court appearing "bad". The Petitioner was tortured and demeaned. The Petitioner was lied on in numerous reports.
- The police confiscated my legal paperwork at the Petitioner's departure from Jail East prior to transportation on court dates and attorney visits.

Ineffective Counsel:

- Did not have an investigator hired for the Petitioner's defense during the Farese, Jr. entire time representing the Petitioner as his client. And the State issued the funds for the investigator or approved it. Attorney Ballin wanted to move forward. He's the one who asked the Judge Coffee for the money. But Farese, Jr. was lead attorney. And his "good friend" was the Petitioner's prosecutor, Paul Hagerman. So, he didn't want for his friend to lose at trial. Due to lack of investigation, an eye-witness died. The Petitioner avers that this would be failure to provide adequate representation.
- Steve Farese, Jr. orchestrated a secret "off-site" meeting. The Petitioner's son (one key-witness) and the Petitioner's sister, Senator Katrina Robinson were told to attend and entertain a plea deal of 15 years at 30%. The Petitioner avers that they were told to discuss the deal in privacy, without sound on or the cameras. But, when the Petitioner's son, Lorenzen, Jr. realized that the Petitioner was transported by the lead detective of the prosecutor, who had bullied him at his school, UT of Martin, he decided that it was a farce. Farese had placed the Petitioner and her children at risk. The detective even lied to try to get the Petitioner to talk in the car. He bought the Petitioner food and he set up a secret recorder after he denied having one. The Petitioner saw it fall to the floor when he hit his brakes.
- Also, at the "secret meeting" the prosecutor never came like Farese promised. It was just a set-up to get the Petitioner and her family comfortable enough to share details with each other and steal the collective thoughts. He even burst into the room, where he left the Petitioner and her family all alone, and said, "This is not a meeting where you make up stuff to help your Momma" The Petitioner's son replied "I thought you said that there was no sound? So you're working with the police? Meeting over!" The Petitioner avers that this was entrapment and provocation along with prosecutorial misconduct.
- On the same week as the "secret meeting" the Petitioner's son was stalked by Steve Farese, Jr. at 5131 Royston Lane, Memphis, TN 38125. In this moment, Farese emerged from his vehicle irate. This happened

after the Petitioner instructed him not to discuss the Petitioner's case with any family members unless the Petitioner was present. The Petitioner did this because Mr. Farese was lying and manipulating all of the Petitioner's and family's words, attempting to use scare tactics to divide and conquer the Petitioner and her family. At this meeting, he threatened the Petitioner's son with a lie-detector test if the Petitioner's son pushed for the Petitioner to go to trial. He also made racial slurs against the Petitioner's son and called him a "smart little nigger". Farese was angry because the Petitioner's son went on to expound on a letter that he had received from a mutual cousin of the Petitioner and Jimmy Martin, Jr. (the Petitioner's accuser). In the letter, the Petitioner's mutual cousin gave a possible location of the missing murder weapon and Martin's confession of drowning the 9mm himself. The statement and witness would provide physical evidence for the Petitioner's exoneration and destroy the prosecution's narrative. Petitioner's son also witnessed an argument between Jennifer and Jimmy Martin about a weapon at a family reunion in 2010 that he recalled at the secret meeting. My attorney did nothing to help the Petitioner. Instead he come to Jail East and stated, "Do you know what happens to little black boys that try to help their mommies?" Petitioner avers that this would constitute concealing exculpatory evidence and intimidating a witness.

- The Petitioner was approached by an inmate who's family member worked with the Petitioner's ex-husband, Lorenzen Wright, Sr. as his mob contact. This same man, "Levi" also showed up at the Petitioner's son, Lorenzen Jr.'s school and threatened his life. The inmate had witnessed a meeting between the Petitioner's accuser, Jimmy Martin, Jr. and "Levi" where they plotted his murder. This inmate, was willing to make a witness statement on the Petitioner's behalf. But as the case progressed and the Petitioner's children were threatened, A.D. became scared for her life to testify later on. The Petitioner lost a valuable witness and avers that this was failure to provide adequate representation.
- Counsel approached the Petitioner at Jail East. Farese made a huge scene, screaming in the halls, out of the door, because the Petitioner wouldn't take the deal. The Petitioner did not want him consulting with the prosecution any longer about deals. Farese was angry because the Petitioner's children had started a "go fund me" page for bailing me out and raising future attorney fees. He said "YOU'RE NOT IN CONTROL!" "Take the deal now! You're making big mistake." He also became angry because the Petitioner's son was planning to release a videotape in the Petitioner's defense. Petitioner avers that this is intimidating a witness, provocation and witness-tampering.
- Petitioner cites Petitioner cites U.S. v. Gonzalez, 113 F.3d 1026 (9th Cir. 1997); U.S. v. Sanchez-Barreio, 93 F.3d 17 (1st Cir. 1996); Moore v. U.S., 950 F.2d 656 (10th Cir. 1991); and specifically United States v. Sanderson, 595 F.2d 1021 (5th Cir. 1979) stating that trial counsel's misrepresentation of material facts, withheld information, and exerted pressure on defendant

to induce a guilty plea and requires an evidentiary hearing to resolve claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

Plea Under Duress:

- Son's life was threatened at this school (July 2010)
- The Petitioner's attorney, G. Mathes, was brutally attacked and beaten by sources after she spoke out about them coming to the Petitioner's home over the news (August 2010).
- Petitioner's cousin, Isaac Henderson, "Mac Geni" was killed at the Waffle House after he snitched on Jimmy Martin to Crime Stoppers around the Petitioner's birthday. (2014). The mob told him "we are the police!"
- "Levi", Lorenzen Wright's mob contact, was murdered at his home after the mob finally discovered that he had "kept their money in the Ren deal". (2014)
- Window of Cadillac Escalade was shot out an attempt on the Petitioner's life was made that night on the Petitioner's journey to her daughter's volleyball practice. (2014)
- The Petitioner's son was contacted on FaceBook by mob source and told "tell your Momma, can I come play basketball with you on that new court that she just bought?" The Petitioner's family immediately fled to Houston, Texas after that. (2015)
- Petitioner's daughter's apartment was broken into as an attempt on her life after the murder weapon found was announced. Her automobile was also targeted and the Petitioner's family's addresses were stolen in her address book from her glove compartment. She moved abruptly from North Carolina to California. She contacted MPD former officer, Roderick Robinson to go to a safe house in Charlotte, NC (his daughter's apartment) (2017)
- Petitioner was bullied by her attorney and told "YOU'RE NOT IN CONTROL!" Petitioner was also told "Do you know what happens to little black boys who try to help their mommies?" He was very upset about a videotape that the Petitioner's son, Lorenzen Jr, was contemplating to release to the world over the internet. He also said "It's dangerous out there in this game. I advise you to take the deal before he gets hurt." (2018)
- The Petitioner's family was tortured. Her children were told "I better take the deal. I'll take your money. No refunds. How will you find more money for another attorney?" Farese put fear in their hearts, out of desperation to help his friend, Paul Hagerman, who admitted only had circumstantial evidence on me. (2018)
- Petitioner was abused at Jail East into a mental breakdown. Making decision started becoming more difficult after that. Petitioner wrote letters/grievances, but no one offered assistance. The Petitioner even wrote Judge Coffee for some mental relief. But he said direct communication was illegal. So the Petitioner was too ashamed and scared to ask him again.

- The Petitioner met with Farese, Jr. The Petitioner requested to speak with Blake Ballin or his father, Steve Farese Sr. but he didn't do it. Then he got in my face and said "Take the deal I don't care what you tell me. THEY WANT YOU! They are going to let Billy Turner go home just to get you. It doesn't matter what you do or say. It's all set. You need to take the deal. 15 years @ 30% ain't shit! At least you get to see your kids again!"
- The Petitioner received a scary letter in her laundry bag at Jail East. It said "Take the deal or they ALL DIE!!" This happened a couple of weeks before the Petitioner took the deal.
- Within that week or so, the Petitioner's brother's home was gunned down by undetermined sources. Then it was gunned down again and their vehicles.
- Finally, on July 25, 2019, after not being able to withstand the pressures, the Petitioner took the deal. The Petitioner paused once when Judge Coffee asked if I was being threatened. The Petitioner turned to the victim's sisters and stated "I DIDN'T DO THIS." And the Petitioner was denied the right to speak openly that day, after asking the judge.
- Petitioner cites U.S. v. Gonzalez, 113 F.3d 1026 (9th Cir. 1997); U.S. v. Sanchez-Barreio, 93 F.3d 17 (1st Cir. 1996)

Petitioner avers that her Fifth (5th) and Fourteenth (14th) Amendments were violated as she did not receive due process and was not protected from self incrimination.

Petitioner avers that her Sixth (6th) Amendment was violated as attorney did not zealously defend the Petitioner to protect her rights.

17. Do you have any petition or appeal now pending in any court, either state or federal, as to the judgment under attack?

Yes _____ No _____

18. Give the name and address, if known, of each attorney who represented you at the following stages of the case that resulted in the judgment under attack:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) At preliminary hearing | Steve Farese, Jr.
122 Church Avenue
Ashland, MS 38603 |
| (b) At arraignment and plea | Steve Farese, Jr.
122 Church Avenue
Ashland, MS 38603 |
| (c) At trial | N/A |

(d) At sentencing

**Juni S. Ganguli
202 Adams Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103**

(e) On appeal

N/A

(f) In any post-conviction proceeding

N/A

(g) On appeal from adverse ruling in a post-conviction proceeding **N/A**

19. Are you currently represented by counsel?

Yes ___ No

(a) If Yes, give name and address, if known, of the attorney representing you. **N/A**

(b) If No, do you wish to have an attorney appointed?

Yes No ___

(c) Has any attorney assisted in drafting or given advice regarding this petition for post-conviction relief?

Yes ___ No

If Yes, give name and address of attorney(s). **N/A**

20. In the judgment you are attacking, were you sentenced on more than one count of an indictment, or on more than one indictment, in the same court and at the same time?

Yes ___ No

21. Do you have any future sentence to serve after you complete the sentence imposed by the judgment under attack?

Yes ___ No

(a) If so, give name and location of court which imposed sentence to be served in the future: **N/A**

(b) Give date and length of sentence to be served in the future: **N/A**

(c) Have you filed, or do you contemplate filing, any petition attacking the judgment which imposed the sentence to be served in the future?

Yes ____ No

22. What date is this petition being given to prison authorities for mailing?
March 6, 2020

CONCLUSION .

Petitioner hereby prays that this Honorable Court will (1) appoint Counsel to represent the Petitioner. (2) That the State be **ORDERED** to file a response within thirty (30) days from this Petition being filed as required by **Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-30-108 (a)**. (3) That the District Attorney General be **ORDERED** to provide any transcripts relevant to the court, and the Petitioner pursuant to **Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-30-108 (b)**. (4) That upon Counsel being appointed for the Petitioner in this action, Counsel be given time to **amend** said Petition, if necessary, in accordance with the statutes. (5) For the Petitioner to be notified of said date for any hearing in this action. (6) For the Court to direct the Clerk of this Court to provide the District Attorney General, the State Attorney General and Reporter, and the Counsel appointed to represent the Petitioner in this action with a copy of said Petition pursuant to **Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-35-105 et.seq.** (7) That this Honorable Court **ORDER** and hold an evidentiary hearing in this case as soon as it is practicable. Petitioner requests (8) any such other relief this Court deems appropriate.

Wherefore, petitioner prays that the court grant petitioner relief to which petitioner may be entitled in this proceeding.

**PETITIONER'S VERIFICATION UNDER OATH
SUBJECT TO PENALTY FOR PERJURY**

I, Sherra Wright, swear and affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct

Executed on March 4, 2020.



Sherra Wright
#610305
TPFW Unit 2 North A-21
3881 Stewarts Lane
Nashville, TN 37218-3302

AFFIDAVIT OF INDIGENCY

I, Sherra Wright, do solemnly swear and affirm that because of my poverty, I am not able to bear the expenses of the action which I am about to commence. I further swear and affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, I am justly entitled to the relief sought.



Sherra Wright

STATE OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF DAVIDSON

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the 4th day of March, 2020.



Notary Public

My commission expires: May 9, 2023

