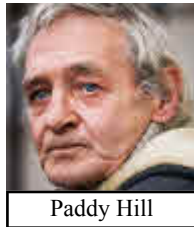


Paddy Hill Awarded Trauma Counseling For 17 Years Wrongful Imprisonment

Paddy (Patrick Joseph) Hill was one of six men exonerated and released in 1991 after 17 years of wrongful imprisonment for several IRA bombings of pubs in Birmingham, England in 1974 that killed 21 people and injured 162. The press dubbed the men the Birmingham Six.

The intense media coverage of the wrongful conviction cases of the Birmingham Six (1991), the Guildford Four (1989) (made into the movie *In the Name of My Father* starring Daniel Day-Lewis), and the Maguire Seven (1991) were the driving force behind creation of England's Criminal Case Review Commission in 1995. Since it began operating in 1997 England's CCRC has assisted in the exoneration of 302 people.

The Birmingham Six were financially compensated, but the British government refused to provide specialized psychological counseling required by an innocent person traumatized by many years of wrongful imprisonment. Dr. Adrian Grounds, the lead-



Paddy Hill

ing researcher on the psychological effects of wrongful imprisonment on an exonerated person, has described it as a form of post-traumatic stress disorder similar to that experienced by combat soldiers after they return home. In 2007 Dr. Grounds reported the Birmingham Six's mistreatment had been so severe that they had suffered "irreversible psychological damage."

Lawyer Gareth Peirce represented the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four, and after many years of effort she was able to get the British government to agree to provide special trauma counseling to Paddy Hill. Peirce told reporters, "There simply is not any treatment available in the National Health Service for victims like Paddy, who have experienced such extreme torture and false imprisonment at the hands of their own government."

Sources:

Paddy Hill wins trauma counselling for Birmingham Six ordeal, *Guardian* (London), October 19, 2010.

British justice's shaky history, *New Statesman* (London), November 15, 2007.

Criminal Case Review Commission, www.ccr.gov.uk

21 Defendants Freed In Tulsa Police Corruption Scandal -- Convicted Police Officers Will Collect Pensions

A police corruption scandal in Tulsa, Oklahoma has resulted in the overturning of 21 state and federal convictions. The defendants were framed on drug and/or weapons charges by a variety of police tactics. The most recent overturned conviction was on October 27, 2010, when Demario T. Harris was freed from a life sentence for a federal drug conviction.

Six current and former law enforcement officers have been indicted on federal charges that include allegations the officers stole drug money, falsified reports, planted drugs, tampered with witnesses, and committed perjury and civil rights violations.

There has been testimony in federal court by Tulsa Deputy Police Chief Mark McCrory that at least one of the officers, John K. Gray, is also implicated in a multi-state burglary ring that may be linked to several homicides. Gray has pled guilty to stealing money during an FBI sting.

Sheila Devereux is serving a life sentence for a state drug conviction. She may have her conviction overturned because the officers involved were two of those indicted in the cases already overturned. Devereux turned down a plea deal of 7 years, claiming she was innocent, and she was sentenced to life in prison after her conviction by a jury.

One thing the indicted officers won't have to worry about if they are convicted and sent to prison, is receiving their pension payments. Under the rules of the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System pension payments are not affected by a conviction for engaging in criminal activity while a police officer, unless the officer was convicted of stealing from the OK Retirement System.

A spokesman for the Oklahoma Police Pension and Retirement System said that if convicted and imprisoned the officer's pension benefits of about \$30,000 per year would be deposited directly into an account of the holder's choosing.

Sources:

Tulsa man's life sentence vacated, *Tulsa World*, October 28, 2010.

Norfolk Four Detective Convicted Of Extortion And Lying To The FBI

Robert Glenn Ford is the retired Norfolk, Virginia homicide detective who extracted the false confessions of four young navy men convicted of the rape and murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko in July 1997. Those four men became known as the Norfolk Four. During the post-conviction investigation of their case by supporters, it was discovered there were numerous allegations made against Det. Ford during his career that he had extracted a false confession from a suspect.

False confession expert Dr. Richard Leo co-wrote *The Wrong Guys* (The New Press, 2008) about the Norfolk Four case.

All of the Norfolk Four have been released. Eric Wilson was released after 8-1/2 years in prison in 2005 when he completed his sentence. On August 6, 2009, the other three defendants were released when they were conditionally pardoned by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine. Derek Tice, Danial Williams, and Joseph Dick, Jr. were wrong-



Robert Glenn Ford

ly imprisoned for more than 11 years.

On September 14, 2009, a federal judge granted Tice's federal habeas petition and overturned his conviction.

On October 27 Ford was convicted by a federal court jury in Norfolk of two extortion counts and one count of lying to the FBI.

During the trial numerous witnesses testified that Ford accepted bribes in exchange for favors. In 2003 he took a \$19,000 bribe to stop a drug raid. There was testimony that most of Ford's bribes were for between \$3,500 and \$4,500.

Ford retired in 2007, and he is free on bail pending his sentencing scheduled for February 25, 2011. He could be sentenced to between 5 and 10 years in prison.

Sources:

Witness: Norfolk detective took \$19,000 bribe, *The Virginian-Pilot*, October 21, 2010.

Former Norfolk detective guilty of 2 extortion charges, *The Virginian-Pilot*, October 27, 2010.