

Justice Denied's Website Visited By Cities Around The World

Justice Denied reports on wrongful conviction cases and issues in countries on all the world's continents because there is worldwide interest in wrongful convictions. That widespread interest is reflected in the visitors to Justice Denied's website. In 2012 the fifteen cities where the most visitors to Justice Denied came from are:

1. New York City
2. Toronto, Canada
3. Chicago
4. Los Angeles
5. London, England
6. Sydney, Australia
7. Melbourne, Australia
8. Houston
9. Perth, Australia
10. Dallas
11. San Francisco
12. Las Vegas
13. Seattle
14. Brisbane, Australia
15. Ottawa, Canada

Seven of those cities are outside the U.S. The diversity of visitors to Justice Denied's website is also shown by the fact that English is the primary language in only six of the top fifteen countries where the most visitors originated from in 2012:

1. United States
2. Canada
3. United Kingdom
4. Australia
5. Germany
6. France
7. New Zealand
8. Ireland
9. Netherlands
10. India
11. Japan
12. Philippines
13. Brazil
14. Sweden
15. Norway

Reflecting that wrongful convictions are a world-wide problem, *Justice Denied* Issues in 2012 (Issues 49-52) included articles concerning the U.S. and 14 other countries: Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, the United Kingdom (England), the Bahamas, Germany, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Japan, the Czech Republic, Taiwan, and Zimbabwe.

Some of the innocence related organizations outside the U.S. are:

Canada — Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted, <http://www.aidwyc.org>

United Kingdom — Innocence Network UK, <http://www.innocencenetwork.org.uk>

MOJUK — Miscarriages of Justice UK, <http://www.mojuk.org.uk>

Australia — Innocence Project Western Australia, <http://www.innocenceprojectwa.org.au>

Griffith University Innocence Project, <http://www.griffith.edu.au/criminology-law/innocence-project>

Japan — Japan Innocence and Death Penalty Information Center, <http://www.jiadep.org>

Norway — Norwegian Criminal Case Review Commission, <http://www.gjenopptakelse.no/index.php?id=30>

(Note. While Justice Denied is able to obtain information where visitors to its website originate from, information about individual visitors is not available.)

Rivera cont. from p. 5

...

We are left with defendant's confession to the police. When an individual has been charged with a crime and confesses to that crime, the "corroboration rule requires that the corpus delicti be proved by some evidence aliunde admission of a defendant." *People v. Dalton*, 91 Ill. 2d 22, 29 (1982). That is, the State must introduce evidence, outside of the confession, that tends to prove that the offense occurred. The basis for this requirement stems from a long-standing mistrust of extrajudicial confessions. The Dalton court cited two reasons for this mistrust: "confessions are unreliable if coerced; and, for various psychological reasons persons 'confess' to crimes that either have never occurred or for which they are not legally responsible." *Dalton*, 91 Ill. 2d at 29. Innocent people do confess to crimes they did not commit. Some people confess from fatigue, stress, and being worn down through relentless questioning and sleep deprivation; some people confess out of fear; some people confess with the expectation of future exoneration; some people confess due to coercive or sug-

gestive methods of interrogation. ¶40

...

Because defendant's confession was the only remaining evidence connecting him to the victim's sexual assault and murder, the State was required to present evidence aliunde the confession to prove the offense. The State failed to provide sufficient independent evidence to corroborate defendant's confession, especially in light of the DNA evidence. ... The only evidence of defendant's commission of the offense came from the statements that the police prepared for defendant to sign. Because the State failed to establish the offense aliunde the confession, defendant's conviction was unjustified and cannot stand. ¶45

After viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, we hold that no rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt. Because the State's evidence was insufficient to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, we must reverse the conviction of Juan A. Rivera, Jr. ¶46

...Throughout the years, the Stakers have invariably suffered unspeakable

anguish and frustration resulting from Holly's tragic murder and the legal proceedings that followed. Mr. Rivera, too, has suffered the nightmare of wrongful incarceration. ¶47

A month after the Court's ruling the State announced its decision not to retry Rivera and he [was released](#) after 19 years and 3 months of wrongful imprisonment.

[Click here to read](#) the appeals courts ruling in *People v Rivera*, 2011 IL App (2d) 091060 (12-9-11).

You can read Rivera's interview with the Chicago Tribune a week after his release by [clicking here](#).

Juan Rivera's wife, Melissa Sanders-Rivera, was a Justice Denied volunteer for a number of years.

Sources:

[People v Rivera](#), 2011 IL App (2d) 091060 (12-9-11)
[Juan Rivera](#): 'A new beginning for me', *Daily Herald* (Waukegan, IL), January 7, 2012

"[Freed after 20 years](#), Juan Rivera adjusts to life outside prison," *Chicago Tribune*, January 13, 2012
[Leader of Waukegan murder investigation](#) defends police work, *Daily Herald*, January 8, 2012