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NEW FORENSIC ANALYSIS DEBUNKS CASE AGAINST SUBU VEDAM, AMPLIFIES CALL TO REVERSE WRONGFUL CONVICTION

LEADING FORENSIC EXPERT SUBMITS REPORT CONCLUDING THAT GUN PURPORTEDLY LINKED TO VEDAM DID NOT CAUSE FATAL WOUND

Evidence that former State College resident Subu Vedam was wrongfully convicted of a murder in 1983 continues to mount after one of the nation's leading forensic experts concluded that the prosecution's account of Vedam's alleged involvement in the crime was implausible.

In a recent report that Vedam's attorneys filed in Centre County Court, Dr. Ann H. Ross, Ph.D, a forensic expert who has consulted extensively with law enforcement agencies across the country, found that the victim's death was most likely caused by a .22-caliber bullet shot from a rifle – not by a .25-caliber bullet fired by a handgun supposedly linked to Vedam, as prosecutors had purported during the trial that led to his wrongful conviction.

Vedam was a 20-year-old Penn State University student and State College resident in 1982 when prosecutors falsely charged him in the death of Thomas Kinser, even though they never produced a weapon, eyewitness testimony, or credible motive to support their case.

In ruling out the correlation between the fatal wound and the gun that prosecutors had attributed to Vedam, Dr. Ross examined extensive records from an FBI investigation into the case that prosecutors concealed for more than four decades. Former Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar withheld those records from Vedam's lawyer at trial, depriving him of an opportunity to introduce key evidence corroborating his client's innocence and dooming him to a wrongful conviction. In fact, Vedam's legal team did not obtain the FBI records until earlier this year.

Meanwhile, Ross's previous work has included contributions to the Pennsylvania State Police, the same agency that played a role in the criminal investigation involving Vedam.

"We are thrilled to have retained Dr. Ross to testify on behalf of Subu," Gopal Balachandran, the lead attorney representing Vedam, said. "She normally testifies on behalf of the state and has helped solve some high profile murder cases in her work with the North Carolina Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. She's also done consulting work for the Pennsylvania State Police and

numerous other law enforcement agencies. She only rarely testifies on behalf of criminal defendants," Balachandran added, "but does get involved when she sees forensic science distorted in harmful, egregious ways, as happened in this case. Most important, her testimony will show what our filings have indicated all along—Subu is innocent because a .25 caliber handgun could not have been the murder weapon."

With access to the full FBI records, autopsy report, crime scene materials, and other documents, Dr. Ross concluded that the configuration and measurements of the fatal wound indicate that it was more likely to have been inflicted by a .22-caliber bullet that fragmented on impact. She determined that the .25-caliber bullet that the prosecution claimed Vedam fired "was intact and thus could not have produced the gunshot wound entrance site observed on Mr. Kinser."

Moreover, Ross' report also rejected the FBI expert's explanation for the discrepancy between the characteristics of the wound and a .25 caliber bullet. In the suppressed FBI report, the FBI analyst claimed that "shrinkage," a physical effect where the dimensions of the wound contract following impact, could account for any incompatibility with a .25 caliber bullet. Referring to this concept, Ross simply notes that "Bone does not undergo shrinkage."

Ross' analysis is the latest glaring sign that the prosecution's case against Vedam collapses under the weight of the evidence that prosecutors concealed for four decades. Vedam's petition for a new hearing on the evidence that exonerates him is now pending before Centre County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jonathan D. Grine.

Beyond the FBI analysis of the bullet wound, the District Attorney also withheld details that could have diminished the credibility of a key prosecution witness – someone with a chronic and ongoing pattern of criminal misconduct that wasn't fully disclosed to the defense or the jury. Other information that remained concealed for four decades shows the investigators didn't rigorously look into other suspects who could have been tied to the case, suggesting possible discriminatory intent toward Vedam.

Meanwhile, Vedam has remained wrongfully incarcerated for 42 years, starting when he was charged and held in jail in 1982 and continuing through his trial and subsequent sentence to life without parole the following year. Since 1983, he has been imprisoned at SCI Huntingdon, where he has earned distinctions for his charitable service and academic achievement.

At Huntingdon, Vedam designed and led a prison literacy training program; organized and participated every year in a Prison Runathon to raise money for Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and tutored and mentored hundreds of inmates to earn educational diplomas. Despite lack of access to the internet or libraries, he also earned three university degrees of his own and became the first inmate in Huntingdon's 135-year history to earn a graduate degree.

The quest to attain justice for Vedam by voiding his wrongful conviction has generated an outpouring of support in Centre County and beyond. More than 200 people advocating for his exoneration and release from prison descended on the Centre County courthouse in July for a recent hearing in the case, filling the courtroom to standing-room-only capacity. Meanwhile, yard signs espousing support for Vedam have multiplied in front of homes throughout the area.