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CONCEALED EVIDENCE BACKS INNOCENCE OF WRONGFULLY CONVICTED STATE COLLEGE MAN, AS CASE OF 'SUBU' VEDAM RETURNS TO COURT

Centre County Court to Hear Arguments Monday on Long-Hidden FBI Report Finding Crucial Inconsistency Between Fatal Wound and Gun Purportedly Linked to Vedam, Now In His 42nd Year of Wrongful Imprisonment

Bellefonte, PA – Long-concealed documents in a case scheduled for a hearing in Centre County Court Monday show that a State College man was wrongfully convicted of a murder in 1983 and should be released from prison where he has been languishing for four decades on a sentence of life without parole, his lawyers say.

The prosecutor who charged Subramanyam "Subu" Vedam in the 1980 murder of Thomas Kinser in State College withheld an FBI analysis that could have exonerated Vedam of the crime, if it been disclosed to defense attorneys and the jury that convicted him – a glaring violation of his constitutional rights that renders the case against him untenable, according to legal filings pending before Centre County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jonathan D. Grine.

Vedam has requested an evidentiary hearing regarding the long-concealed evidence. Judge Grine will evaluate that request during a hearing at 10 AM Monday, July 22nd, in the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte, PA.

At the forefront of the case is an FBI report finding that the size of the bullet wound sustained by the victim didn't match the caliber of the gun purportedly linked to Vedam, a discrepancy that causes the case against the 62-year-old former Penn State student to collapse. The FBI report was part of a litany of evidence establishing Vedam's innocence contained in more than 3,000 pages of documents that former Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar concealed during his original prosecution of the case.

"By withholding this evidence, it's clear that the former District Attorney deprived Subu of a fair trial resulting in his wrongful conviction," said Gopal Balachandran, the lead attorney representing Vedam. "Prosecutors have a constitutional obligation to share all evidence they've compiled with the defense, and yet in Subu's case, the District Attorney hid critical evidence that demonstrated his innocence. That tramples over one of the most sacred tenets of our legal

system: That everyone is entitled to a fair trial. After more than 40 years of wrongful imprisonment, Subu deserves a fair trial where he can present the evidence exonerating him. We have faith the court will agree."

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.

"As a victim of gross injustice, my uncle has refused to dwell on his own plight and has instead dedicated himself unstintingly over the past 40 years to contributing to the education and welfare of others, while bettering himself through learning, as well," Vedam's niece, Zoë Miller-Vedam said. "That's not only a reflection of his fundamental goodness and humanity, but it's part of his unstinting belief that through learning and understanding we can form a more just and equitable society. It's time society reciprocates by rectifying the injustice he suffered, voiding his wrongful conviction, and freeing him from prison so he can continue to do good works."