February 9, 2026

CONTACT:
Mike Truppa
(312) 286-5077 (voice/text)
mtruppa@miketruppa.com

LEGAL RULING REMOVES DEPORTATION ORDER FOR WRONGFULLY CONVICTED PENNSYLVANIA MAN; CITES "EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION" IN ORDERING COURT TO RE-OPEN CASE

BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS RULES IN SUBU VEDAM'S FAVOR; CASE TO BE TRANSFERRED BACK TO IMMIGRATION COURT

A new ruling by a legal oversight panel has put a moratorium on a bid by federal authorities to deport a Pennsylvania man who served 43 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.

The decision issued this week by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals re-opens the case of Subramanyam "Subu" Vedam, a 64-year-old resident of State College, PA who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1983; exonerated last October; and then seized by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as he was on the brink of his release from prison. ICE subsequently sent Vedam to a detention facility in Philipsburg, PA where he is currently confined.

In its opinion explaining why the Board determined the case should be re-opened, BIA Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge Paul A. McCloskey wrote, "Given the facts and circumstances in this particular case, we conclude that the record before us presents an exceptional situation."

The board's ruling follows the collapse of the wrongful murder case against Vedam after documents surfaced showing that the prosecutor who tried to scapegoat him for the 1980 death of a Pennsylvania resident had unlawfully concealed evidence that could have proved he was innocent. In the wake of that discovery, a Pennsylvania court voided Vedam's wrongful conviction last August, prompting local prosecutors to officially withdraw charges against him on October 2nd.

But before Vedam could physically cross the threshold into freedom for the first time in more than four decades, ICE agents took him into custody under a deportation order that had been entered against him more than 25 years before he was exonerated.

In contesting the antiquated deportation order, Vedam's attorneys argued that his vindication in the murder case, combined with his sterling record of conduct during more than four decades of

wrongful imprisonment, should entitle him to a new hearing where he can seek relief. With this week's decision, the BIA agreed, transferring the case to an immigration judge for a new review.

The BIA's ruling vacates Vedam's removal order and restores his permanent residency while he contests deportation. By vacating the previous decision, ICE no longer has grounds on which to oust Vedam from the country -- including relocating him to India, where he has no immediate family and few resources to assimilate into a society that is largely foreign to him.

Vedam has lived in Pennsylvania continuously since he was nine-months-old. He was a legal permanent U.S. resident – and on the cusp of obtaining citizenship – when he was arrested and began his ongoing struggle to withstand a catastrophic series of injustices.

Despite the staggering hardships he has incurred, Vedam's character and integrity have remained unbowed. During his wrongful imprisonment, he designed and led a prison literacy training program; raised money for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program; tutored and mentored hundreds of inmates to help them earn educational diplomas; and earned three university degrees with high honors, himself. He also became the first person in the nearly 150 years of his correctional institution to earn a master's degree while behind bars.

The jurisdiction where Vedam's re-opened deportation case will be heard has not yet been confirmed. His attorneys plan to seek his release from detention on bond.