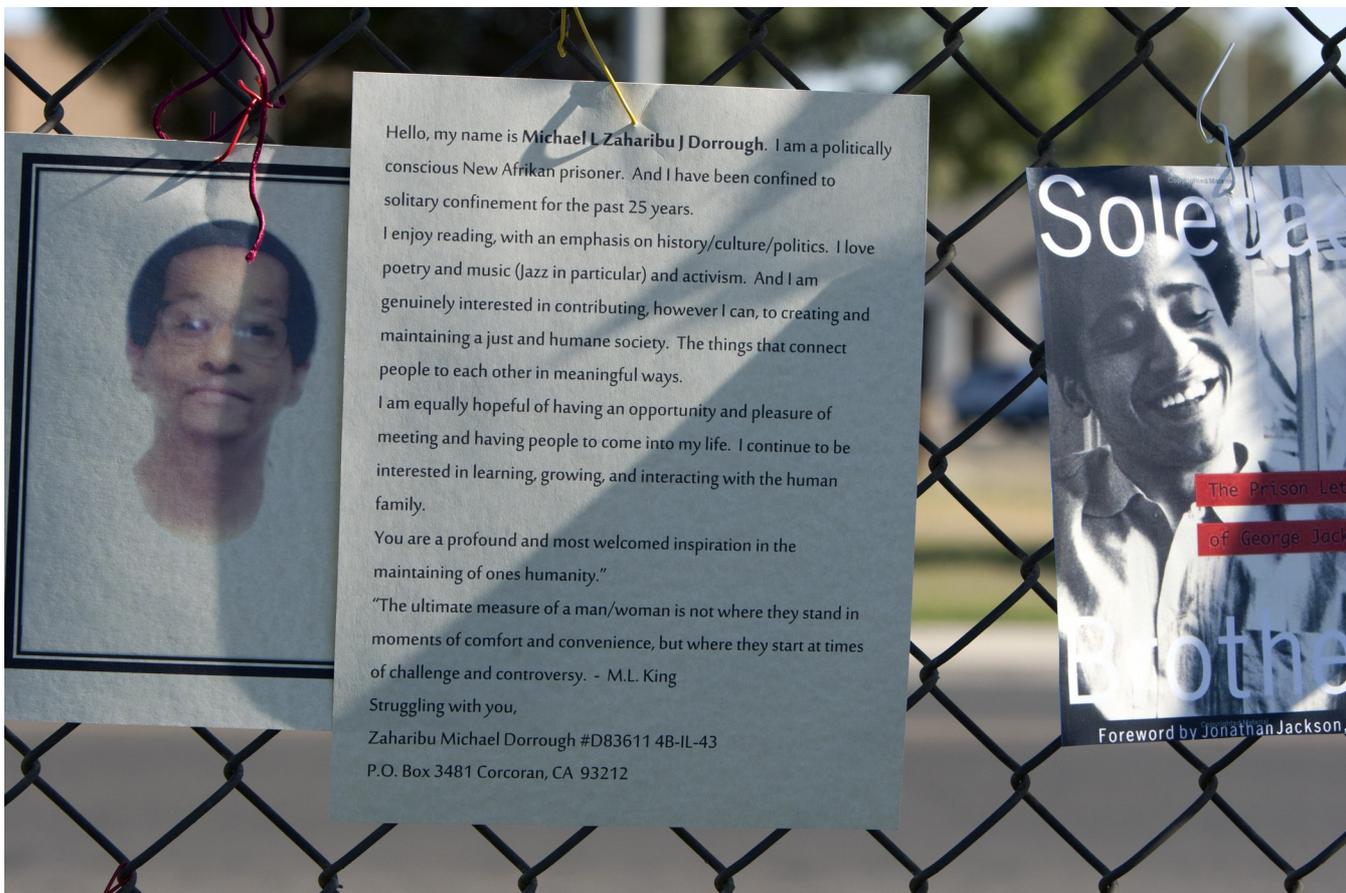


Michael Reed Dorrrough is Innocent – in a California prison since 1985!

Your support is needed!



➤ Zaharibu.org



Hello, my name is **Michael L. Zaharibu J. Dorrrough**. I am a politically conscious New Afrikan prisoner. And I have been confined to solitary confinement for the past 25 years.

I enjoy reading, with an emphasis on history/culture/politics. I love poetry and music (jazz in particular) and activism. And I am genuinely interested in contributing, however I can, to creating and maintaining a just and humane society. The things that connect people to each other in meaningful ways.

I am equally hopeful of having an opportunity and pleasure of meeting and having people to come into my life. I continue to be interested in learning, growing, and interacting with the human family.

You are a profound and most welcomed inspiration in the maintaining of ones humanity."

"The ultimate measure of a man/woman is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they start at times of challenge and controversy. - M.L. King

Struggling with you,

Zaharibu Michael Dorrrough #D83611 4B-IL-43

P.O. Box 3481 Corcoran, CA 93212



Michael Reed Dorrough is Innocent – 31 years!

My name is Michael Reed Dorrough (Sr) (chosen name: Zaharibu). I have been incarcerated for the past 31 years for a crime that I did not commit.

In April 1985 I was arrested, along with two other citizens, Andre Matthews and Herman Coleman, and charged with the shooting death of Elbert (J.R.) Robinson, in the Nickerson Gardens Housing Projects, in Los Angeles.

- My co-defendants and I were charged with being armed with three different caliber weapons, and firing 15 rounds into J.R. Robinson's body.
- There was no physical evidence. No guns; no bullets; no bloodstained clothes; no fingerprints.
- There were several witnesses, including my alibi witness, who were willing to testify to my innocence.
- All of the jurors disbelieved both witnesses for the prosecution.
- Because the State of California was trying to execute me, I was tried separately from my co-defendants.

Michael Reed Dorrough, D-83611
CSP Solano-Level iii B7-131
P.O. Box 4000
Vacaville, CA 9696-4000
U.S.A.

Details:

There were two witnesses for the prosecution: Linda Toliver, who claimed that on March 6th, 1985, Matthews and I were at her apartment in the Nickerson Gardens Housing Projects and we were supposed to have admitted to her that we committed this crime. I had known Toliver for no more than *two weeks* in my life. Toliver and *I had no such conversation*. The only conversation that Matthews had with Toliver was his saying to her that we had nothing to do with the shooting.

On March 6th, 1985, I was in San Diego, CA, visiting friends, and I had been in San Diego for a couple of days. There were several there who were willing to testify on my behalf to this. March 6th is also the birthday of my youngest son. And March 6th, 1985 was my son's one-year birthday. I was not able to be with him on his birthday because I was in San Diego. My son's mother was willing to testify to this also.

Linda Toliver was also seen in the women's restroom of the court building on the day that she testified, **smoking drugs**. The court stenographer made my trial attorneys aware of this, after her daughter witnessed Toliver doing this. My trial attorneys did make the trial judge aware of this, but he did nothing.

Linda Toliver was absolutely positive that it was on March 6th, 1985, that she had this conversation with Matthews and me. There was both substantial and credible evidence that this was simply not true.

- There were several witnesses, including my alibi witness, who were willing to testify to my innocence.

Thomas Vandiver was the prosecution's second witness. Vandiver claims to have witnessed the shooting. *Vandiver gave at least three different versions* of what he claims to have seen, including that he did not see anything. And someone told him about the shooting.

One version of what Vandiver claims to have seen was that he witnessed J.R. Robinson and someone fighting; at that point, Vandiver says that he became scared and ran home, jumped in the bed and threw the covers over his head. And, he heard gunshots coming from the direction that he had just ran from. He did not see the shooting. And, he did not see any guns.

It was not the first time that Vandiver had stated that he did not see the shooting. And that he did not see any weapons.

- **Both prosecution witnesses Vandiver and Toliver had been arrested about two weeks after the shooting on narcotics charges, and both admitted that they only agreed to cooperate with the police to avoid being charged for that.**

Both admitted that they had been told by the police that they could receive five years in prison, that they were afraid, and, that they would do anything to get out of the trouble that they were in. Vandiver testified repeatedly, that I was arrested with him on those narcotics charges, and that he was positive, just as sure about this as he was that he witnessed the shooting, and saw me shoot J.R. Robinson. It was proven that I was never arrested for or in connection with the drug charges.

At my first preliminary hearing, Vandiver's testimony was considered so weak that the judge referred to it as barely a scintilla of evidence.

And at my second penalty trial, the judge commented on Toliver's demeanor after seeing that she appeared under the influence while testifying at trial, and the trial expressed confusion at who Toliver was referring to in her testimony about what she was supposedly told by Matthews and I. According to Toliver, we said "What they did was messed up." (not: what we did).

There was substantial and credible evidence that, unfortunately, because J.R. Robinson was a heavy drug user, there were several other people who had motive opportunity to want to harm him on the night of the shooting.

There are several strong issues that I have:

- 1) My trial attorneys failed to call any witnesses to testify on my behalf;
- 2) The trial judge refused to allow defense counsel to impeach Vandiver on crucial testimony, that the jury was not allowed to hear, and that contradicted his trial testimony;
- 3) The trial judge allowed other crimes' evidence to be introduced, that had nothing to do with me or this crime;
- 4) The trial judge improperly instructed the jury on aiding and abetting (none of these issues were raised on appeal).

As I mentioned previously, the prosecution's only theory was that I, and my co-defendants, were each armed with three different caliber weapons, and that each one of us fired bullets into the body of J.R. Robinson.

The jury did find me guilty of first degree murder, but they found that I did not use a weapon in the commission of the crime.

- They found me guilty of murder, but they found that I did not shoot J.R. Robinson.

I was sentenced to Life in prison without possibility for Parole!

There were alternate jurors who were later chosen to deliberate as to what my penalty should be, they did express to the judge that *they did not believe that I was guilty*. And, during my second penalty trial, *all of the jurors disbelieved both witnesses for the prosecution Toliver and Vandiver*.

Because the trial jury found the personal use of the weapons allegation to be *not true*, they rejected both Toliver and Vandiver's testimony, as well as the prosecution's only theory of the case.

What You Can Do to Help

Visit these websites containing the details of my case listed, as well as affidavits from witnesses who had agreed to testify on my behalf:

- **Zaharibu.org**
- **Michaelreedorrough.org (goes to above)**
- **www.iippi.org (California)**

- Volunteer your experience
- Request flyers to distribute
- Alert an attorney to my case of innocence
- Contribute to Defense Fund (Please contact us to know how!)

- There was no interest in the part of law enforcement to find out what really happened. Once they had my co-defendants in custody, they considered the case to be closed.

- My co-defendants and I have families, loved ones, friends, and communities that we come from who love and care about us as well.

My support team and I ask that you visit the main website Zaharibu.org, and, if it is possible, if you believe that a serious injustice has occurred, as all wrongful convictions are, we ask that you contribute whatever you can to help in trying to obtain counsel to assist my family and myself in fighting this.

We welcome your questions and look forward to answering them. Thank You and God Bless.

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Email: Zaharibu@gmail.com

All maintained by Zaharibu's support team. He has no access to the internet.



➤ **Zaharibu.org**