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Strange Justice in Virginia

Stephen Jones
Reason Online

August 1997

THE VIRGINIA attorney general ordered the extension the murder investigation of Vincent Fuller, a black man who died in a state prison in Virginia, notorious all-white city jail in Virginia. Whether Fuller died as a victim of racial violence or of a drug overdose, the state's failure to conduct a thorough investigation of his death is a disgrace. Fuller was found dead in his cell on Christmas Eve. Prison officials claimed he had overdosed on heroin and died alone. But Fuller's family and friends say he was a victim of racial violence. Fuller's family and friends say he was beaten to death by a mob of white inmates. Fuller's family and friends say that the state's failure to conduct a thorough investigation of his death is evidence of a cover-up. Fuller's family and friends say that the state's failure to conduct a thorough investigation of his death is evidence of racial violence.

The incident took place after the release of evidence in the Crown Jewel case, a racial scandal involving the Virginia Department of Corrections. The Crown Jewel scandal involved racial violence and racial cover-up involving guards and inmates at the state's Southampton Correctional Center

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New Evidence Overturns Virginia Murder Conviction

By Brooke A. Masters
Washington Post

A federal court said yesterday that a Richmond man has been wrongly imprisoned for the murder of a woman he was dating because prosecutors withheld the agent's interview of the maids disputed the stranging and intercourse with the victim. The court said the prosecutors violated the defendant's rights to receive exculpatory evidence from the evidence discovered after the trial.

Richmond Circuit Court Judge William N. Nunn's longhand 2-page opinion yesterday ordered the prosecutor to dismiss the charges against Lenwood Lewis Jones, Jones's attorney, Jones's wife and supporters. Jones, 38, was released from the Greensville Correctional Center.

Nunn ordered the state prison system to bring him to court this morning for Jones's release, but he said he will not rule on the request for a new trial until after the state's attorney has had a chance to respond. The Virginia Attorney General's office declined to comment.

Attorney General Mark R. Herring said in a statement that his staff "continues to have confidence in the jury's verdict and the conviction of Jones."

Nunn's order recognizes that the prosecutor did hide testing and results of the DNA of the victim's boyfriend, who was the last person known to have seen the victim. The Virginia attorney general's office has argued in the past that the boyfriend was a suspect in the case, but Nunn said the state's own witnesses said the boyfriend was not a suspect, and the boyfriend's DNA was not found on the victim's clothes.

"The approach before trial always stated, 'Evidence of innocence? Hide it in the boyfriend,' " Jones's attorney Brian J. Gordon said in a phone interview. Gordon, who worked on Jones's appeal, Nunn said that he ordered the "strange" order with prosecutors in his office. Nunn said that he ordered the "strange" order with prosecutors in his office.

Jones, 38, was sentenced to life plus 40 years for the Aug. 15, 1998, stabbing and strangulation of Tonya Lynette Hamilton, a Richmond woman he was dating. Hamilton's body was found under her car and charged by the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's office, which was then headed by Nunn.

Jones, an air conditioning repairman from New Kent, maintained his innocence throughout the investigation and trial, saying that he had left the Hamilton's home and driving home when he was stopped by the police. Jones's wife testified that he was home when he arrived, and he was not wearing the clothes he had. Jones's wife testified that he was home when he arrived, and he was not wearing the clothes he had.

Nunn said that a second prosecutor had been delegated to the case, a Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's office, which was then headed by Nunn's successor, charged neither man. Hamilton's friend, Jeff Hamilton, said that Hamilton was dating two men at the time of her death, and that she had told her friends that she was afraid of one of them. Hamilton's friend said that she was afraid of one of them. Hamilton's friend said that she was afraid of one of them. Hamilton's friend said that she was afraid of one of them.

Attorneys for Jones said Barbara Ann, who was present when, at the request of the prosecutor, gave a statement, which was not given to the defense. The statement was not given to the defense.

Jones said recounting evidence that something had gone wrong, the prosecutor had hidden the evidence and had not given it to the defense. Attorney Gordon, Jones's attorney, said that Jones's wife testified that Jones was home when he arrived, and that he was not wearing the clothes he had. Jones's wife testified that Jones was home when he arrived, and that he was not wearing the clothes he had. Jones's wife testified that Jones was home when he arrived, and that he was not wearing the clothes he had.

Gordon said the prosecutor, Mary Lynne Hutchinson, said that she had no knowledge of the testimony of the maids, and that she had never seen the maids. Gordon said that Hutchinson said that she had never seen the maids. Gordon said that Hutchinson said that she had never seen the maids

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

Present: Judges Fitzsimmons, Clifton and Senior Judge Hodges
Argued at Richmond, Virginia

STEPHEN LAMOY WALKER
v. Record No. 0400-99-4
Opinion by Judge Rudolph A. Hodges, Jr. (Senior Judge) (December 21, 2000)
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
Thomas V. Mann, Judge

Kenon F. Bowler for appellant.

Karen C. Crowley, Assistant Attorney General (Jerry W. Kilgore, Attorney General) for appellee.

Stephen Lamoy Walker appealed appeals from the bench trial convicts for first degree murder in violation of Code § 18.2-32 and felony use of a firearm in violation of Code § 18.2-53.1. He argues that the trial court erred in ruling that the Commonwealth's evidence was sufficient to prove the premeditation and deliberation of the first degree murder, and in overruling his motion to strike the evidence. Finding no error, we affirm the convictions.

BACKGROUND

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 30, 1999, a drinker named Horace Cooper frequented the Bamboo Club, a Richmond, Virginia, tavern. Cooper was a regular at the Bamboo Club. On Friday, Cooper was found dead in the tavern or in a parking lot adjacent to the tavern. Cooper had been shot twice in the head, once in the chest, and once in the shoulder. Cooper was last seen alive at approximately 2:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, 1999. Cooper was last seen in the company of appellant and Tyrone Hill. Cooper was last seen in the company of appellant and Hill. Contemporaneously with the last sighting of Cooper, appellant and Hill were observed in the tavern. Appellant was observed with a gun. Appellant was observed with a gun in his pocket. Appellant was observed with a gun in his pocket. Appellant was observed with a gun in his pocket

Sophisticated Inquiry: Rules and Responsibilities of Science Counsel: Cover Counsel and Cover Up

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