

Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, Subcommittee on Corrections, Public Safety and the Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 2059
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Skinner,

Justice delayed is justice denied.

I am writing on behalf of Jarvis Jay Masters, an innocent man who has been living on California's Death Row for twenty-eight years. He does not wish to die there. He seeks justice and freedom. He spent 22 of those years in solitary confinement and the entire time has been waiting for the opportunity to prove his innocence.

I am writing to bring awareness to his case. Jarvis' Writ of Habeas Corpus was filed in 2005 and has been fully briefed and ready to be heard since 2012.

In November, Jarvis began a hunger strike to bring awareness to his and other cases of innocent people on death row, many of whom die before they have the opportunity to have their full appeals heard. He has been hospitalized twice and lost over 60 pounds. For now, he has ended his hunger strike.

Jarvis explained the motivation for his hunger strike:

"I cannot describe the horror of being kept on death row for year after year while waiting for the opportunity to prove my innocence. I'm tired, depressed and sometimes tempted to give up. I am sustained by my Buddhist meditation practice, and the love and support of my friends. However, I'm getting old and sicker and afraid of becoming one of the many people on death row who die of natural causes without ever having their appeals heard."

Jarvis is almost 56 years old. He has been in San Quentin since he was 19, waiting for decades for the opportunity to prove his innocence. We ask that you do all you can to move this case forward and have the Supreme Court set a day for the Habeas Corpus hearing.

You can learn more about Jarvis and his case at www.freejarvis.org.

The well-known Buddhist author and teacher, Pema Chodron says this about Jarvis:

"Jarvis is an easy man to respect and an easy man to love. What I learn from him all the time is what it really means to keep one's vows of not harming and of helping other people in whatever ways one can. I always think, 'If Jarvis can do it in those most challenging and difficult situations, I can do it too.' It is a continual aspiration from my heart that Jarvis Masters not be killed and that I have the pleasure of knowing him as a free man; a free man who I know will benefit all of the people he encounters."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,