

HERMAN WALLACE SUPPORTERS SEEK RULING

On September 19, 2006, Court Commissioner Rachel Morgan declared that Herman Wallace did not get a fair trial and recommended that his conviction be overturned. Commissioner Morgan's ruling confirms our belief that Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox were wrongly convicted of the 1972 murder of prison guard Brent Miller. It was revealed at an evidentiary hearing that prison officials withheld information from the jury that they had paid off the chief witness in the case. Hezekiah Brown was paid a carton of cigarettes a week, used as prison currency, and eventually rewarded with a pardon and release from prison. Herman Wallace has spent over 35 years in solitary confinement.

Herman Wallace's lawyers argued that the warden had essentially bribed the witness and kept that information from the jury. This violated his right to a fair trial. Furthermore, there was no physical evidence connecting him to the murder. Commissioner Morgan ruled that it is reasonable to assume that a jury would not have convicted Mr. Wallace knowing that the main prosecution witness was paid off.

Despite the moral fortitude exercised by Commissioner Morgan, it has been over a year since the hearing. Mr. Wallace remains in limbo, waiting for Judge Michael Irwin to adopt this recommendation. We, the friends, family and supporters of Herman Wallace, ask Judge Irwin to exercise the same moral fortitude and reverse this wrongful conviction.

More than enough time has elapsed for Judge Irwin to review the case and to make his ruling. Is this another example of Louisiana injustice or will Judge Irwin adopt his commissioner's recommendation and correct this gross miscarriage of justice?

As concerned citizens, we want it to be known that we will not go away until there is a resolution on this matter. Herman often says, "The louder my voice, the deeper they bury me." We say, "the deeper they bury Herman Wallace, the louder our voices will become."