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THE NATIONAL REGISTRY
OF EXONERATIONS

21 Exonerations Posted in May



Ignacio Ixta Jr. was wrongfully incarcerated for 11 years before being exonerated in April 2021 based on newly-disclosed evidence casting doubt on a witness testimony. (Kimberly Rivers/Ventura County Reporter)

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In 2009, [Ashley Debelbot](#) and [Albert Debelbot](#) were sentenced to life in prison for murder in the death of their infant daughter. Their convictions were vacated in 2020 after the Georgia Supreme Court said that their attorneys had provided inadequate representation, and the state dismissed their charges in 2021, citing new evidence that supported their claim that the death was an accident.

[Lawrence Martin](#) was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison in 1998 for a single

[Austin Rozdilski](#) of Campbell County, Virginia, was convicted in 2019 of malicious wounding in a shooting that killed one man and injured another. Rozdilski claimed self-defense, and he was exonerated in 2021 after new evidence suggested that the surviving victim had testified falsely about the events leading up to the shooting.

In 1996, [Santos Sanchez](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was

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that determined the knife he was carrying didn't meet the definition of a dirk or dagger.

In 2010, [Michael Woolfolk](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in Fulton County, Georgia. He was exonerated in 2021 based on evidence that he was acting in self-defense.

In 2005, [Kimberly Long](#) was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for the murder of her boyfriend. She was exonerated in 2021 based on testimony from pathologists that the victim was killed before Long returned to their shared home.

In 2019, [Forrest Hobson](#) was sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to possession of methamphetamine in Bowie County, Texas. He was exonerated in 2021 after the results of a crime lab test came back negative for the presence of any controlled substance.

In 2010, [Ignacio Ixta Jr.](#) was sentenced to 35 years to life in prison for attempted murder in Oxnard, California. He was exonerated in 2021 based on newly-disclosed evidence casting doubt on the victim's testimony.

[Devon Little](#) of Baltimore, Maryland, was sentenced to life in prison in 2017 for murder. His conviction was vacated in 2019, and he was acquitted at a retrial later that year after his attorneys were able to show an eyewitness was untruthful about what she said she saw.

In 2010, [Mario Stinchcomb](#) was sentenced to life in prison for a murder in Fulton County, Georgia. He was exonerated in 2021 based on evidence

In 2015, [Michael Carver](#) of Kalamazoo, Michigan, was sentenced to between 25 years and 50 years in prison for criminal sexual conduct with a five-year-old girl. He was exonerated in 2020 after courts determined that his attorney failed to present evidence that would have explained to jurors how children incorporate suggestions from adults into their accounts of events.

[Ralph Nolan](#) of Gloversville, New York, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for attempted armed robbery and other crimes in 2015. He was exonerated in 2021 after an appellate court ruled that his trial attorney had failed to present evidence that could have explained how eyewitnesses make mistakes in identifications.

In 2017, Queens, New York City Councilman [Ruben Wills](#) was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in prison, fined \$5,000 and ordered to make restitution of more than \$30,000 after being convicted of misusing grant funds. The prosecution dismissed the case after Wills was granted a new trial because the trial judge had improperly refused to allow him to present evidence that he was acting in good faith.

In 2016, [Jamal Walker](#) was sentenced to eight years and six months in prison for illegal possession of two boxes of bullets in Chicago, Illinois. In 2019, an appeals court vacated his conviction and dismissed the case for insufficient evidence. Walker was awarded a certificate of innocence in 2020.

[Gerald Peters](#) pled guilty to drug possession in 1996 and was sentenced to two years in prison. He was exonerated in 2000 after an officer involved in his arrest

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[Donte Westmoreland](#) was sentenced in 2017 to seven years and eight months in prison for drug trafficking in Manhattan, Kansas. He was exonerated in 2021 after a judge ruled that prosecutors had failed to disclose an arrangement with the state's key witness to avoid prosecution.

In 2010, [Shawn Brown](#) was sentenced to 8 years and 4 months to 30 years in prison after he was convicted of manslaughter in the death of his five-month-old son in Battle Creek, Michigan. He was exonerated in 2021 based on testimony that a previous injury could have caused the boy's seizure and death.

[Francis Madeus](#) of Guam was sentenced to 10 years in prison after a 2015 conviction for sexual assault and kidnapping. He was exonerated in 2021 after an appellate court ruled that prosecutors had failed to turn over evidence that potentially undermined the credibility of the victim in the assault.

Rampart division undermined the credibility of the conviction.

In 2020, [Amany Raya](#) was convicted of federal charges in Virginia including smuggling a cell phone to her boyfriend in the Roanoke County Jail. Her conviction was vacated and dismissed in 2021 based on evidence withheld by the prosecution that pointed to another suspect.

[Tony Smith](#) of Los Angeles, California, was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison for second-degree murder in 2017. He was exonerated in 2020 after new evidence emerged that supported Smith's claim of self-defense by his co-defendant.

[Obina Onyiah](#) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to life in prison for murder in 2013. He was exonerated in 2021 after an examination of surveillance video showed he was too tall to be one of the suspects.

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