



Library podcast

Anthony Ray Hinton Discusses 'The Sun Does Shine'

[00:00:05] Welcome to The Seattle Public Library's podcasts of author readings and library events. Library podcasts are brought to you by The Seattle Public Library and Foundation. To learn more about our programs and podcasts, visit our web site at www.spl.org. To learn how you can help the library foundation support The Seattle Public Library go to foundation.spl.org

[00:00:36] Good evening everybody. Welcome to tonight's program with Anthony Ray Hinton who's here with his new book *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*. First I want to thank you all for being here tonight. This is an important book. My name is Terry Tassi only with university bookstore and it's truly an honor for me to be here to introduce Mr. Hinton who will be out here in just a moment.

[00:01:02] A couple of things as we get started including more thank you's to Gary Coonts our author series sponsor carry you here tonight by some chance Oh good then you can't tell whether I mispronounced his name and told the Seattle Times for its generous promotional support of library programs and to the Seattle Public Library Foundation. Private gifts to the foundation from thousands of donors helped the library provide free programs and services that touched the lives of just about everybody in our community.

[00:01:32] So the library foundation donors here with us tonight all of you from all of you thank you for your support this evening. I'm the one who is honored to be able to introduce Anthony Ray Hinton more than 30 years ago in 1985.

[00:01:51] Mr. Hinton was arrested and charged in Alabama with two counts of capital murder.

[00:01:56] He was 29 years old and he was innocent.

[00:02:01] He knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and he believed that the truth would prove his innocence and ultimately set him free. It didn't work that way. The justice system wanted a conviction and it maneuvered and it ignored until it got one. Mr. Hinton was found guilty and sentenced to death by electrocution. And it wasn't until 2015 30 years later with the help of civil rights attorney and award winning author Brian Stevenson that Mr. Hinton won his release. His story his fate his acceptance of that fate and that his determination to survive and find a way to live on death row is incredible. Before I bring him out if you would.

[00:02:55] We're going to have a short video that will show you a bit about what what this story was all about from from that time and we will it'll be a good launch for us to hear from Mr. Hinton tonight. For 30 years Anthony Ray painting was a dead

[00:03:21] Prosecution. Same thing. Take my life from

[00:03:26] 58 years old. He lived more than half his life inside a cage. Holleman correctional facility in southern Alabama. Today he's seeing and experiencing things for the first time in decades. Oh my goodness. Welcome home party in his honor hosted by the Equal Justice Initiative led by attorney Bryan Stevenson and his team of attorneys who fought for decades to win Hinton's freedom. Thank you for

[00:03:55] Giving me my life by just being here as a team. You can say that you got handsome man off there from

[00:04:04] His nightmare began in 1985. Ronald Reagan was president back to the future was a box office hit and under the cover of darkness two Birmingham restaurant managers were shot dead at closing time just months apart. A third victim another man who survived the shooting and helped identify 29 year old Anthony Ray Hinton as the killer. You're free man now. What does it mean to you.

[00:04:28] I mean everything. I mean. You know think about true freedom. Is taken away from you couldn't put a price tag on my at all.

[00:04:40] So much about the world has changed. But the greatest still is a world without his mother. She died while he was locked away.

[00:04:48] It was getting a lot for me. I'm not. A. Shame I'm proud of it. It was the love of my life.

[00:04:57] He goes back to the home they shared together. Now a band and hate to see it in this shape. It's his first time there since the night it was all taken away. This is the room Rohinton mother kept her a 38 caliber revolver. Police said it was the murder weapon. Hinton's court appointed public defender hired I suppose a ballistics expert to dispute the prosecution's claim about the murder weapon a persuasive expert. He was not. So his ballistics expert was blind in one eye.

[00:05:25] Yes that's correct. He had x How to turn on the machine.

[00:05:29] He couldn't see the head x. Somebody please him. So we put him on the stand as my witness. They crucified. I see

[00:05:42] They going to finally get Hinton was sentenced to death.

[00:05:46] He was ordered to spend the remainder of his life in prison living inside a five by seven cell pretty much sleeping in a fetal position because your feet hanging over you only have a bed.

[00:05:58] It is mounted to the wall. And that's what I lived in for 13 years. They. Took my. 30s my 40s my fear of what they couldn't take my joy. I couldn't do it in about two years. But I could control my more.

[00:06:19] Fifty three inmates were executed at Holdeman while Hinton was on death row. My dog was from home. Would be seen so many people that I got to know. Be executed. He languished in prison for years before his case reached appeals court.

[00:06:33] Alice had never been so convinced of someone's innocence than I had him Mr. Hyndes case.

[00:06:38] No one asked Judge Sue Bell Cobb was one of those appellate court judges who believed his story.

[00:06:43] There was no incriminating evidence he didn't have anything from the robbery. There were no fingerprints.

[00:06:48] This is extremely unusual. His appeal was denied but his team kept fighting.

[00:06:53] We'd exhausted every state court appeal and it was the United States Supreme Court that finally intervened.

[00:06:58] The result was a new trial. The Breay Hinton had been waiting for. But just a few weeks ago the state of Alabama dropped the case after a new look at the evidence could not match the bullets to the gun. And Hinton was released. Since I've been locked up 30 years I don't sense any bitterness bitterness kills the soul. Cannot. Hate. Because my Beilby teach me not to

[00:07:35] I've seen hate it is worse. What would it profit me

[00:07:40] To hate. I wanted to know that is years ago. You see it looks like. You will the stronger you will defeat.

[00:07:50] Leave me Anthony Ray Hinton.

[00:08:15] The sun don't shine. The fact that I'm standing here tonight should be an example of that song. Sean before I tell you how I was able by the grace of God to make that sunshine I want you to look over their you're looking at the second best book and it will be red. And if you ever wanted to invest in some that is what you should invest in 30 years 30 years of pure I have tried my best to look and find love the word but there's nothing I'm told worse than I went 30 years of pure hate.

[00:09:15] I wish tonight I could look you in the eye and tell you that the state of Alabama made an honest mistake. No one in this world

[00:09:25] Wants to believe how badly I wish I could take you my home state made a mistake. There's an old saying to Elvis Hume the state of Alabama in Macomb on this sunshine.

[00:09:41] I wish I could look you not at I and tell you that race played no role in me gown to def.

[00:09:49] All you have to do was look up the prosecution name and do some background and you will see that race had everything to do with me going to death row for 30 years I don't know how many of you ever had the privilege of driving through Alabama or being in Alabama in July. But that is one place you do not want to visit in July. It is far too hot. But I never will forget waking up that morning. Like any youngsters thinking about today and as he got up in the evening I went inside to get some of my mother's lemonade and there she was in the kitchen. And as I was pouring his lemonade My mother looked at me and she said are you going to revival tonight. And I said Yes ma'am. In the south we say yes ma'am and No ma'am. Yes sir no sir. Out of pure respectful elder I got this lemonade and I went on outside and sit down for about 15 minutes later I brought the glass back inside and then my mother was again in the kitchen she looked at me and she said What time does revival start tonight. And I said Simcock mom she looked at her watch and she said will you got time to go outside and could their great. I looked at my mother and I gave her that baby look that had worked so many times. But for whatever reason this time it was work. And I looked at my mother and I said Mama I promise you I will. Could that graft more a mother looked at me and she said I'm trying my best to see. How did you get your cut digraph tomorrow.

[00:11:48] Out of me telling you to go cut to great.

[00:11:54] My mother gave me a look and I knew what it meant and she said boy you better get up there and cook their grandson or goes outside and not follow up the old lawnmower and begin to cut the grass in about 25 minutes in the grass. I just happened to look up they are still a white gentleman that I didn't recognize and cut the alarm off and I said can I help you. One of them replied we looking for Anthony Ray Hinton. I said that would be me again. How can I help you. They identified themselves to detective from the Birmingham Police Department. And I said okay how can I help you. They said we have a warrant for your arrest and I said For what. They said we explain it to you later but right now we want you to put your hands behind your back. I complied I put my hands behind my back and they put the handcuffs on me and proceeded to put me in the police car and I said at least allow me the opportunity to go in and tell my mother that I'm being arrested for one of the detective said We can't let you go inside and we argued for about two minutes and finally the other detective said let him go in and tell his mother he'd be on arrest Goldman's inside and not just show my mother the handcuff and like any good mother she began to scream and holler. All of those handcuffed doing all my baby into Texas to take him out while I talked to his mother. A few minutes later he comes out and we proceeded to go to the Birmingham County jail and on our way there to take to see Anthony. Do you only file I say it no.

[00:13:39] He said Do your mother found and I said yes and he said what can and I told them what kind of words and they dropped me off. Now the substation they turn around and go back talk to my

mother and she gone every day. Three years everybody that familiar with this case asks me why did you tell the police about a gun that they had no knowledge of.

[00:14:07] I looks at him and I say all my life. My mother always told me to tell the truth.

[00:14:14] She said if you haven't done anything you have no reason to lie.

[00:14:18] If you haven't done anything you have no reason to want to tell the true friend that I told the truth and as we got to a little farther down the road I actually detected at least for the time. Why am I being arrested.

[00:14:38] Never could get a response and asked a draw look father. As a detective. Wow y'all arresting me.

[00:14:45] Finally does seem to set the text off that was driving. He turned around and looked me in my eyes and he said you want to know while we're arresting I said Yes sir. He said We are charging you with first degree robbery kidnapping first British murder and none of that he said hold up let me tell you something right now. I don't care whether you did or didn't do it but I'm going to make sure that you found guilty. I said for something that I didn't do. He said You must have a hearing problem.

[00:15:19] Did not just tell you I don't care whether you did it or didn't do. He said You don't remember nothing else. Remember that I'm telling you that I am going to make sure that you are found guilty unless we draw just a little for he turns around and he said and by the way there's five things that going to convict you said would you like to know what they are. And I said yes.

[00:15:48] He said number one you blank number two a white man is going to say you shot him whether you shot him or not. Believe me I don't care.

[00:15:57] You say if you don't believe nothing believe me I don't care whether you shot him or not.

[00:16:03] You said Number three you go white. Prosecutor number four. You don't have a white judge. And number five more like you're going to have an all white jury. Hey said Do you know what that spell. And he repeated the word conviction conviction conviction eviction fiction Vick's.

[00:16:27] And as we got to the county jail they put me in this holding cell for about two and a half hours. And finally the detective came in and I said Detective if you don't mind tell me what date and what time this crime took place.

[00:16:43] It goes through as nobody tell me to date in the term. And I said thank you.

[00:16:48] She's I was at work that day in that particular term and I said thank you. My supervisor happened to be white.

[00:17:02] Here's his phone number. Here's to address. You can go out and check it out.

[00:17:06] And they left about four and a half hours later they came back detective looked at me and he said I have good news and bad news. The good news is we are no longer going to charge you with first degree robbery first degree kidnapping and first degree attempted murder. You alibi checks out you will support these. But we have to sign that we're going to now charge you with two counts of first degree capital murder I detect that happen Cuneen is it did you remember him on the way here I told you I didn't care. He said leave me. The same goes for the charge.

[00:17:51] I don't care whether you did that into what I'm going to make sure you found the Tecta looked at me you said and by the way I really don't believe he did.

[00:18:08] He's put all is always taking up one another.

[00:18:12] Take this rap for your homeboy. When he said that tears rolled down my cheeks and looked at him and I said Detective I don't have a home boy and these were that I would take a rap for him like this I sit in jail and finally we went before a judge.

[00:18:37] The judge acts I mean the loudest and what I was being charged with and I told him I did. You asked me did I have to turn and I told him no. He actually called out for an attorney and I told him no. And he looked back in this courtroom and he called his lawyer told his lawyer that he wanted him to represent me on two counts of first degree murder without even action mean my name.

[00:19:04] The lawyer looked at me and he said I did not go to law school.

[00:19:10] To do pro bono work I looked at this law and I said Would it make a difference to you.

[00:19:19] If I told you that I was lawyer you looked at me and he said the problem with that steak is that all of y'all always doing something the insane you didn't do. This is the law. The law had to somehow believe that would represent me on two counts first degree capital murder.

[00:19:45] I sit in jail for a year and a half and they finally had my trial out a year and a half I saw this lawyer twice goes before a jury they find me guilty of capital murder the is proud proudly stand up that day and tell me Anthony Ray Hinton you have been found guilty by a jury of your peers and it is his daughter of called that as soon as you to their and he had dashed say May God have mercy on your soul.

[00:20:20] The prosecution ran out that day and told the media that the state of Alabama got the worst killer that ever walked the streets of Birmingham off the streets. But only it wasn't true.

[00:20:35] And on December 17 1986 I was transported to Holleman correctional facility where they housed death row inmate once I got to the ER for a while.

[00:20:48] They stripped me on my name and they gave me a ladies and gentlemen for the next three years I didn't say a word to another human being.

[00:21:02] I went in this dog home and that's where I found peace because I was so full of hate. I couldn't understand how an innocent man could go from couldn't grasp waking up now finding himself on death row with the threat of being executed for a crime that he didn't do.

[00:21:26] All my life my mother taught me to have faith and as I sit in this dog hole I began to question where are you now.

[00:21:40] Why did you forsake me.

[00:21:43] Why did you allow me to come here all my life. My mother told me that God can do everything but failing.

[00:21:50] Somehow I felt God had failed me in life and me to go to different something that he knew and I knew that I didn't do three years incomplete complete a dark hole going into the fourth year.

[00:22:13] I woke up about 1:00 a.m. to the sound of a grown man crying. A man that I had lived by for three years and never thought to actually put his name where he was from.

[00:22:26] But when I heard this grown man cry.

[00:22:29] My mother had taught me compassion a mother told me no matter what one does in life.

[00:22:36] He or she still need compassion. They still need to feel loved.

[00:22:43] And through this brick wall I hollered in Exton hey there's something wrong over there. Took this man a moment to reply and finally he said I just got word that my mother passed. I told him that I was sorry to hear that and I told him that if anyone would argue his case before God his mother is true. I told him to coin a joke and I laid back down about 6:00 that morning.

[00:23:15] I woke up and I realize that my voice was back along with my sincere state of Alabama was in the process of execution for me and they was going into the third execution.

[00:23:31] And I called his guard up to my cell and I said Officer is there anything you can give me. Keep me from smelling the smell of a human being. Bodies being set on fire. My cell was 30 feet away from the death chamber guard looked at me and he said no there's nothing I can give. What if there's a consolation you will get used to and he said believe me one day somebody will see me. You'll flush with that state. I knew that I had to escape.

[00:24:20] I couldn't escape physically so I decided that I had to escape mentally and I sent the oldest bunk bed.

[00:24:27] That it was too small for me and I looked at my body and I told my body that the mine had to leave.

[00:24:36] And it was as though my body was talking back to me and saying Do you promise to come back. I told my body that I would be back. I had to come back in order to check on this case.

[00:24:50] And as soon as my body gave me permission to leave here I live there. And of all the places in the world to travel for whatever reason I want to go see Queenie's.

[00:25:08] I don't know. While 29 year old black man wanted to go see you queen. But that's why I've only just seen and in my mind desk who I went to see in my mind showed up at the palace.

[00:25:22] I've told the guard to tell the queen that I was there that goes in and they tell the queen that I am there she tell them to bring me in. We sit down and we talk in my mind about Prince Charles Prince William Prince Harry's and of course the tragedy of Prince Di and has become like the queen finally realized that she hadn't offered me anything to drink.

[00:25:47] And finally the queen stopped and she said Mr. would you like to and I told the Queen I would love some tea. And she said well what you're looking to me.

[00:26:01] And I told her some lemon you tell the bubble to go out and get some lemon squeezes in my tea and we began to talk some more in a fairly standard in my mind to tell the queen that I must be leaving now that I realize that I can leave anytime I want.

[00:26:19] I decided that I would do something that I said as a young boy that I would never do. I decided that I would get Mandery and I married the beautiful and talented actress Halle Berry in my Halle Berry and I stayed married in my mind for 15 long beautifully the thing that I loved about hell she never did say anything but yes she did. OK. You're going to be all right. And what I love the most did not spend any money 15 long years in my mind.

[00:26:59] And as the mayor and him. Finally one of the guards was standing there calling me.

[00:27:03] He's Anthony Anthony. And I turned around and I said yeah I've been calling you for ten minutes where been been sobbing. What is it you say you have a legal visit. I said I don't have an attorney. The state of Alabama don't appoint your attorney. Don't post conviction is when somebody is out there pretending to be a lawyer get dressed and go see who it is and get dressed and I go out there to see who it is in there. This

[00:27:34] Lawyer from Bomford I asked his lawyer who sent you where from Boston can you tell me a man by the name of Brian staves and then I say who is Bryant.

[00:27:45] Never heard of him. You tell me about Brian Steves in the work that he does in Montgomery and E.J. continue to tell me how great this Mr. Bryant was and is and I said you keep trying to tell me how good and bright Steve was and he as I said but Brian Steeves and have already made one fundamental mistake. So what would that be. I said Did you not say you from Boston. Yes. I had this great Mr. Bryant Stephenson check with me before he sent you.

[00:28:22] He would have found out that I am my beloved Yankee fan and there's no way a Yankee fan on the Boston fan who ever worked together I said but for Yoshii I'm willing to put my personal feelings aside and let you work on my case for the next three years.

[00:28:42] Did you know you would come back every year and tell me what he was trying to do and what he said.

[00:28:48] And going into the fourth year you came back and he said Anthony I think I can get you a life without parole. And I replied. Get a life without parole. And he said to. I said life without parole will give the people now Eunson.

[00:29:09] I would never stand up and say I did something when I didn't do it.

[00:29:13] I said if the state of Alabama is hell bent on executing me for a crime that I didn't do so be I you know at some point in some time all of us must die.

[00:29:27] I said Believe me I'm not ready to die. And I definitely don't want to die for something that I didn't do.

[00:29:33] But I could never stand up and say I did something when I did. I said I don't know. Would you be able to understand what I'm about to tell you.

[00:29:42] But I know we forget these words I was 12 years old and my mother's sit me down and she said if you know bend down and pick up a rope and if you man enough to hold it right you should be man enough to say you throw that rock I said this is one rock I didn't throw therefore I could never stand up and say I'll throw this rock. When I did I said again if the state of Alabama won't execute me for a crime they know that I didn't commit. So be I looked at the lawyer you're now seeing today. I have no choice but to fire you.

[00:30:32] I say I need a lawyer that believe in me and I need a lawyer that is willing to go to jail for me if necessary. I said the fact that you trying to get me a life without parole tells me that you don't believe in me.

[00:30:46] I said but I really truly thank you for what you done and what you were trying to do. I should point out that today you no longer represent me and as I was going out the back and he was going toward the front.

[00:31:00] Something in my mind saying you got to be the dumbest person in the world. You fight only longer that you had justice.

[00:31:07] That thought came to my mind another thought said Always stand up for press always stand up for what you believe.

[00:31:14] Van and as I got closer to myself God was watching TV and I asked God what was he watching. And he tells me he's watching an attorney out of Montgomery by the name of Brian Stevens. I asked God could I stand there and listen and he said yes. Brad Stevens was talking about why we don't need a death penalty in this country. And as I listened I came explain it but I knew this is the man that I need to represent me. Later that night I wrote Mr. Stevens a letter thanking him for sending the lawyer from Boston. And I asked Mr. Stevenson would he consider becoming my lawyer I said but before you say yes or no. All the actions that you read my transcript and if you find one thing in my transcript that points to my guilt you not worry about becoming my lawyer. Do not send a lawyer I am perfectly willing to die for something that I didn't do. Three months later I get a letter from Mr. Steeves and saying that he would read my transcript five months later.

[00:32:24] I get a letter that he would be coming to see as I shook my hand for the first time. I knew that God had sent me his best.

[00:32:39] We sit down and we talked about our childhood. Finally I looked at Mr. Stevenson and I said Mr. Stevenson if no two goondas like already know that the state of Alabama is lying.

[00:32:53] I said Mr. Stevenson my case deal was listed in ballista only the state of Alabama have already concede that if the bullets don't match in their lives to quote I said Mr. Stevenson I need you to do me a favor.

[00:33:12] Stephen looked at me and he said What is the fate of. I said I need you to hire a ballistics he looked at me and he said will I was going to do that anyway.

[00:33:26] And I looked back at Mr. Stevens and and I said Mr. Stevenson I'm not explaining myself right. I said Mr. Stevenson. I need you to have a need to rehire white me and him need this white man to be from the south I need this white man.

[00:33:58] To be the best of the best I need this white man to believe in the death from but more important. I need this white man to tell the truth Stevens and looked at me and he said Why do he need to be white I said much to Steve and I lived in the south all my life. The South only recognize one of their own I said Mr. Stevenson.

[00:34:31] You can go out and find the best white female in this country.

[00:34:37] But the moment she coom on this Mr. her words no good in the south said Mr. Steeves and it definitely can not be a person of it have to be a white Southern Steeves and left that day in about five months later.

[00:35:02] I get a call to call the attorney a columnist Mr. Stevens and he tells me he found three well the world renowned expert. Two of them live in Texas and one of them live in Virginia. He said I need to tell you. These three men's testified 98 percent of the time for the prosecution.

[00:35:30] They have never testified for the defense are you sure that these are the three men that you will I said Mr. Stevenson did you remember X these men would they tell the truth he saw every one of them have assured me they would tell exactly what the evidence showed.

[00:35:52] They came to Alabama on separate occasion.

[00:35:55] Each one did the testing each one tried to make the gun match but the gun still went. We take this new evidence to the attorney general a man by the name of Bill proud. And he was quoted as saying that it would be a waste of taxpayer money. And it would be a waste of his time. To re-examine those bullets although it would only take one out for not doing his job. George W. Bush appointed him to a federal lifetime appoint goes to the next attorney general by the name of Troy Kane.

[00:36:41] He too refused to take one of he'd lose in the next election and we go to a man by the name of Luther Strange and he to refuse take up I sit on Alabama row for seven team.

[00:37:06] Calls my life didn't matter to them to take one hour and reexamine the bullets.

[00:37:16] They didn't re-examine the bullets because they already knew that those bullets didn't match but there's no law on the books that can force them to re-examine the while since there are these extra years.

[00:37:34] I get the worst news that I could ever possibly get. My life my

[00:37:49] Left this world in 2000.

[00:37:54] And I told Mr. Steves and then I didn't give a damn about that case in the didn't see myself being this or without my and I said I think but I don't care about this case. You know that night as I tried to sleep in his it was as though my mother came in that cell and stayed in my yard all night and I could hear my mother telling me that she didn't bring me up to be a quote. She taught me to fight. When ever there was a fight to be fought all my life my mother had been my biggest cheerleader ever getting more of a school play.

[00:38:43] My mother was there early that morning and I called Mr. Steve's back and apologized.

[00:38:53] And I told him that I wanted him to give the state of Alabama all the hail that he could give sister and I sit there we filed these papers for teenagers in Alabama refused to do the right thing. And finally Mr. Steves and say I need to file your case to the United States Supreme Court what I need to warn you that if the United States Supreme Court ruled Mukesh state of Alabama would execute you into I said Mrs to file the case to the United States Supreme Court two years later the United States Supreme Court did something that it have never done in the history of the courts.

[00:39:42] 0 9 Justice ruled in my favor 0 9 just they sent the case back to Alabama.

[00:39:53] She goes before a trial judge at the state stands up and say Your Honor it is deeply sad that we have to inform this court that we have love to go on and cost the trial judge give the state time to find relocate to go we goes back in the prosecution's stand up and say Your Honor it is with the proud image that we is able to tell you that we found to go but only with sadness to inform dischord.

[00:40:29] Now we have a lot the bullets that goes to the in all of this time I'm still sitting on Def while we were thinking they were looking for the bullets. The prosecution called one of his own expert that testified 30 years ago that the bullets match he called him and asked them to come back and them the bullets. One last he came back and he was posted as saying the bullets do not match the way they did 30 years ago but the bullet matched exactly as it did 30 years ago. The state of Alabama had every intention execution innocently the state of Alabama

[00:41:20] Ran across to saying that they wasn't prepared for the state of Alabama didn't know that had a personal relationship with God in the state of Alabama didn't know that God was going to send me his best attorney when the state of Alabama ran up against a man called Bryan Stevenson.

[00:41:44] They notified the judge that they was dropping charges against the state of Alabama and they intentionally execute me for climate neutral I didn't commit the state of Alabama seeking justice to the house and that was my life.

[00:42:10] I've come to see Allen today you as much justice. Do I get justice SRAW

[00:42:21] For sitting in that sale for 30 years who will give me just because this thing law will reach three years. There have been three no warning and stayed around

[00:42:40] Head to D.C. say we saw. Why do you think that no one in the state of Alabama

[00:42:53] Asks for my Where do I get my chest.

[00:43:03] What is just everyday and this the government kills using your name.

[00:43:14] Do you care enough to know whether they Amosun.

[00:43:18] No we don't. We don't care.

[00:43:23] That's why the state of Alabama did what they the we are so caught up with this news.

[00:43:33] But the news don't tell the whole truth I tell you a Biden for we listen at that bite and we say we deserve to die no man no woman deserves to die. Who died and left central 30 years the state of Alabama and New that they was keeping the fumes from me every day.

[00:44:05] The state of Alabama took a little piece 54 means and one woman walked red press myself all the way to the definition.

[00:44:18] We talk about 12 talk about cruel and unusual what about what the state of Alabama have done.

[00:44:30] Not only help not the state of Alabama offered no apology.

[00:44:34] The state of Alabama have not even asked me Do you need this you know Sacharissa with all the doctors that they have.

[00:44:46] They have not even had the decency say to see an greenhouse that you sold it falling through the ground through June astonished. I was able to rebuild and put the life back into it. And once I got through rebuilding it put into walls I had just enough money left for go out and buy a kingside be I thought I would reward myself out for sleeping in the fetal position for 30 years I thought I would reward myself with a kingside B but I didn't just buy any savvy a bone meal California Keen's

[00:45:44] This California queen sized bed so be it somewhere I stand in the door and I look said and I said What do you think.

[00:45:54] I had a vision.

[00:45:56] Beginning this king sized bed and depression of will be three and a half speed haven't been able to reach that kingside be ever Moli no matter what.

[00:46:16] I'm open to fortify calls for 30 years. They woke me up for breakfast at 3 a.m. then some days I find myself Siobhán just as the warm steel Prizm every other day three years will not do for 30 years every night I go outside and look up and I see the stars and the moon because for 30 I was not allowed to see distortion of the moon every time it rained.

[00:47:00] Somehow I get caught with my little niece and she pops somber. She Songkhla regular Pahner umbrella with me.

[00:47:09] And I said No I'm walking she look up at me and she Sacirbey it's not next. I mean about it to walk in the rain the way you do and I looked back down in real life. For 30 not a raindrop allowed.

[00:47:33] Thirty years of true therefore taught me that either you're going to love or you're going to you are either going to him. Are you going to do notables knows the moment that our life will change.

[00:47:54] I believe it is what we do with a certain makers.

[00:48:04] I opened up a book called want only for old talk to the warden and it took him a moment finally agreed to a book. And I was allowed six means to be in this book.

[00:48:23] And every one of those me stops in the seventh and eighth grade.

[00:48:31] Never been in a high. The first book that I had seen in was about James Ball called tillable and what I find surprising that the old men were so eager to read his book.

[00:48:48] And they all had a different opinions about this. We have failed youth in this kind of we do not put our money will be shoot.

[00:49:01] And I am one that is convinced that if you don't put in money when the you don't spend it when they see you you will spend it when it does. I promise.

[00:49:17] The state of Alabama say they are a conservative state but yet it cost two million dollars to execute a man in their school making thirty five thousand dollars a year. Where is common sense for that. I'm here tonight to tell you that we have a judicial system that is badly badly broken.

[00:49:45] They will have to believe that they will have to believe that justice is blind or she can see she know what race you are.

[00:49:55] You know what Jim that you are. She know what neighborhood you live in. She knows what college she went to college. She will know something that none of you want anybody to know.

[00:50:04] She will know that how much money you have in your bank when you find your suffering.

[00:50:14] She have already put all of those things together.

[00:50:18] And it has already determined whether or not you will go to jail or whether you will go back home. We have two sets of justice in this world. But those of you who can afford it. And those of us who was broke don't have the money.

[00:50:35] We are the one that is filling up prisons says I won't stand here and tell you that every man is jealous of what you will be surprised at how many Ansun Nuray hit the scene.

[00:50:49] Prison and on Def it is time that we. It is time that we made the judicial system the way it should be.

[00:51:02] It truly should be Culebra because for 30 years the real perpetrator was still out there doing whatever he or she or whatever they want.

[00:51:11] In the police department would never take that they got it wrong because then they know you question. If you got them wrong how many more weeks will case margin in the streets of Mogis burning down building well I am for Origin into that booth.

[00:51:37] Involved in the way that you should vote. That's how you get reform.

[00:51:43] Take those rascals out all and you do leak in just talks about how KKK no local mosh in the same the KKK took off a white robe and put on a black robe and now they are killing you more now than ever. And it is all legal.

[00:52:11] We have a justice system that is bad the intifada that is for the death penalty.

[00:52:18] You have a God given right and you have the Constitution right.

[00:52:22] Well what about innocent means and women have had look at me and say Mr. Hitan isn't that the price we pay for law or no casualty of war.

[00:52:37] I look at that person and I say now you have a right to their opinion but I want you to be true to mean.

[00:52:45] How would you feel if I had been your father your brother the uncle your cousin someone that you love.

[00:52:53] Would you still have them.

[00:52:55] That is the price we pay. Edit To I have yet to have one push. Tell me. Yes they said Mr. Hinton I didn't think about it like that. You see I hold them till people here lately. President of the United States have declared open to be an epidemic.

[00:53:18] Drug is all of the sudden now an epidemic.

[00:53:22] Well tell me where was this epidemic when it was all we hear in this neighborhood but the moment he came over here in this neighborhood and start killing the meth songs and some of the songs and daughter of a certain of them in equity I was the one hundred and fifty second person that had been on uranium.

[00:53:46] How many men and women need to be exonerated before your real life.

[00:53:51] We don't need a tape from a serve no purpose justice to shoulder states that don't have a death permit the murder rate is far less than state that does have a I had the privilege of talking to

guys and finding out why and what led them where they are now. There's a pay graph in this young man was a Tu cows Clarence I didn't realize and no I was talking to. I mean him had became free. He didn't know we was all but this transmen had to order.

[00:54:40] His father went out in home the first black meal that he saw and they didn't just hang him in a way to hug him in the middle of the streets in Mobile Alabama. A 19 year old black man I actually where was side when this young man being taught to hate werewolves or take a village to raise a child. And this young man was being taught to hate with what I love about the story. Now you were reading as his father told him to hate all his life and once he came to there for a long with all the blacks starting with little and on the night of the execution he asks you to think what do you want for your last meal.

[00:55:35] And do you have anything you want to say.

[00:55:39] That particular night when the execution was quoted as saying all of my life my mother my father my community taught me to hate.

[00:55:51] I was taught to hate the very it taught me and showed me what love really tonight Ali. This word no one to love field in the state of Alabama. Ladies and gentlemen as you go home tonight I actually do meal for you go in your bathroom and stay for 30 minutes if you can sit in there for 30 minutes.

[00:56:22] Imagine sitting in there for 30 and if you can imagine sitting in there for 30 years try to imagine being in there for 30 years.

[00:56:36] Or something you'd do. Then you tell me or you for the marriage and sending them I leave you with 14 what would you do. If they came for you what would you do.

[00:57:02] You would charge with a crime he didn't commit. What would you do if you didn't have the money. High decent defense what would you do. What would you do. If desist seeing you more for the color of your skin in the mayor's case what would you do if you took a polygraph test and passed hit. No one believed. What would you do if you as soon as today. What would you do if you had to spend the rest of your life in a cell no bigger than your Baff. What would you do. If you waited all your life to die. How would you buy what would you do. And what would you do after 30 years. They finally set you free.

[00:57:58] Who would you be and would you be thank you so much. This

[00:58:20] We have we have time for some questions. Great. I'm can let you handle this. Viena won't have a question and I will try my best to answer. This is the best part. I like I only charge ten of proportion

[00:58:35] And I'm hoping all of it will cost ten dollars. Oh he will know. How is that they finally set me free and that they find the right man. The state of Alabama it's not looking for the right law enforcement helpfully policy. They don't want the citizens to know that they make a mistake. And they make a mistake every day. The state of Alabama as I told you I haven't even had the decency to apologize. The state of Alabama had every intention of executing me.

[00:59:14] Well Kliman you did not commit I'm not the only one everyday in this country. Innocent men and women go to jail prison because they can do it and get away with it do it because they want you to believe that they're being tough on crime.

[00:59:35] They would never tell you that they have executed innocent people.

[00:59:38] They would never take you that deal with innocent people reading in this justice system should not be about who have money who don't have money. Because for 30 years the real perpetrator was still out there killing perhaps robbing and we should encourage the police and the district attorney to not arrest people if they can't prove that they got but we don't say enough.

[01:00:09] We don't do anything.

[01:00:12] The state of Alabama. Yes. I'm going to go out and speak in everybody seemingly salary they hate happen.

[01:00:18] And I asked them what are you going to do about it and they asks me what can we do apart. My only suggestion that we need to start putting people in office that really take the justice system when it is. I want you to know that what happened in Sacramento a week and two weeks ago happened all the time. I often told Tracy that the day that I am afraid that we are on the brink of a race war and just kind of you only can keep on kicking people for so long. They don't want to start kicking back. And I truly believe if you have a heart and you know that people was being mistreated you should stand up to no one in this room.

[01:01:12] Explain to me how a man was shot six times in his back.

[01:01:16] What was he being a threat to them.

[01:01:20] But everyday in this country they take me and you they trounced in the regular courts let's call it what it is a spade a spade.

[01:01:33] And when a white police officer kill a black you they take him out in the Surber and he is found not guilty. I didn't make that up. Those are facts.

[01:01:48] No one tonight asks me how did I become a. Bob no one asked me What's the hidden whether it was that they led them to you well I'm going to they were looking for a light skinned black male what a fool black beard.

[01:02:11] Yes at one time these with jet black and that's all they needed to come to my mother home.

[01:02:20] No eyewitness no fingerprint nothing. But the employee knew mean from playing baseball and he overheard him say looking for the light skinned black male and he gave mining and that's what they came arrest calls calls truly was short for being black to light skin. Don't take my word for it. Go on the computer Google it and read the case for yourself. Justice Steve Brown said this is a case that should be taught in the law because of all of his years on the bench.

[01:03:02] Never seen a case that cries out for the death penalty even in my case.

[01:03:12] Every day I wake up I thank God for bringing Bryan Stevenson in my life because had it not been for a man that truly care I would be gone.

[01:03:25] No more spend money to prove my innocence than 170 as long as you're alive you have the right to try and prove your innocence but once you did the original coming back and you're looking to have someone who is also against crime but I will never be I could never be what had happened to me. I could never be a victim. What happened to me should scare everyone. I want you to know there is some white mean Alabama different. I want you to know that you're not Zimm on being put on def not in the south. I can't speak for you. What you should be worried about the justice system no matter where you live. Concern about it because all of us is in danger of being called up one day.

[01:04:36] And that's just it you care nothing about thank you for your cost every day in this country.

[01:04:50] Many of the cases that goes before judges is plea if plea bargain because we have a system that if you are innocent they treat you as though you're guilty. Well rich man can be guilty. They treat him better as though he is least plea bargaining is something that you really don't have a choice. You don't have the money from the beginning for an attorney. And when the state gives you know attorney his job is to get you in and out as quick as he can.

[01:05:30] I have to believe that you have to one day stand up what you truly believe in as I recall I told you all that lawyer you had actually mean about life without parole. Everybody's not Anthony Hinton everybody's not willing to die for something that they didn't do. I was willing to die for something that I didn't do. I would never lie if I did it my mom taught me to stand up and say I did it take the punishment and never do it again I'm sorry for your loss.

[01:06:10] But 98 96 percent of all cases this plea bargain because still Attorney do not get paid to take your case and prove and just not you. What is everybody. But I would actually just continue to keep fighting and keep doing your research and hopefully someone might hear your story and try to help you. Yes sir.

[01:06:40] I still live in the great state of Alabama. And people ask me why did you live in Alabama where they took 30 years of my life. And I feel like if I was to leave then I'm allowing him to run me off. I refused. And I

[01:06:58] Think and I wanted to rebuild the house that my mother worked so hard for all of her life and that it stayed in her memories. And yes I have had the pleasure of being with a lot of the men and women that was exonerated and those men and women that I've met I don't care if you stayed on there for a while. One day is one day you should never have stayed.

[01:07:31] I really need everyone in here to go home and think about what you really are saying that you are for if you forget because human lives are touch human beings are being killed. And I wish that we could find a better way but that is the only way that we will make sure that no innocent person is executed.

[01:07:57] It's the fact that we don't have a often people try to imagine your daughter. You also. And you don't have the mean to how long you I really believe you will think twice because you come down to find this in the justice system should be about fairness.

[01:08:23] It should be about innocence and guilt but it's not like that.

[01:08:27] And I often say the South is perhaps the worse the self-esteem mad because they lost the civil war. And so they are still fighting a war. And so I for one just believe that we need to send a strong message to the politician that we want you to stop wasting our time with the death penalty to stop using this money for nonsense and put away the most needy in schools and pay teachers a decent salary and police officers a decent salary they to hire more police to protect its citizens. We are a wasteful country but yet when it comes to senior citizens they cut out money for them as well. And so now Alabama is one of the leading state that always don't have money for anything but they have that money.

[01:09:17] But at execution I can't say thank you enough for being with us tonight.

[01:09:24] Thank you so much.

[01:09:25] Thank you.

[01:09:36] This podcast was presented by The Seattle Public Library and Foundation and made possible by your contributions to The Seattle Public Library Foundation. Thanks for listening.