

**BEFORE THE ILLINOIS TORTURE INQUIRY AND RELIEF COMMISSION**

In re:

Claim of Christopher Peoples

TIRC No. 2014.208-S

**SUMMARY DISMISSAL**

Pursuant to section 40(a) of the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Act ("TIRC Act," 7 ILCS 40/40(a)), the Commission summarily dismisses this Claim.

1. In a claim form dated July 3, 2013, Christopher Peoples alleged that after continuing to deny any involvement in the murder of Brian Campbell, "Detective Halloran put a statement on [him]." Peoples asserted that he did not confess to the offense of which he was convicted.
2. The statement Detective Halloran allegedly fabricated was introduced at trial and used to convict Peoples. Peoples was convicted of first degree murder, personal discharge of a firearm, and home invasion. As a result, he received an 85 year prison sentence.
3. On July 17, 2013, Commission staff wrote to Peoples about his claim form: "There is no allegation that you were physically or mentally abused in any way: it appears that you are claiming that the police simply maintained that you made a statement, even though you allege that you did not. Is this correct?"
4. On July 22, 2013, Peoples responded in writing, "You are correct, the police (Detective Halloran) said I made a statement in his car...after myself being in the station for four (4) days..."<sup>1</sup> Peoples' letter contained no allegations that police hit or threatened him or anyone else.

<sup>1</sup> Police reports state that Peoples was arrested on September 5, 2002 at 10:30 p.m. and confessed late on September 8, 2002.

Peoples waived his Miranda rights and talked to Detectives McNally and Aguirre shortly after noon on September 6, 2002, denying all involvement in the murder and providing an alibi. The same day at 7:05 p.m., he was identified in a lineup as the shooter in the murder by an eyewitness. The evening of the lineup, Detective McNally confronted Peoples with the eyewitness' lineup identification and with another alibi witnesses' statements that were somewhat inconsistent with Peoples' alibi. Peoples could provide no explanation for the identification or inconsistencies, but did not admit to the murder or being present at the murder scene.

On September 7, 2002, another alibi witnesses was interviewed, On September 7, 2002, at 3:05 p.m., Peoples was again interviewed by McNally and Aguirre, but Peoples made no response.

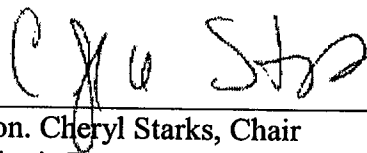
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5. On March 16, 2015 Commission staff wrote to Peoples and advised him that his claim did not appear to fall within the Commission's jurisdiction because he alleged no torture and that, absent further information that might confer jurisdiction, the staff would submit his claim to the Commission for dismissal. The Commission received no response from Peoples.
6. Section 5(1) of the TIRC Act states that "Claim of torture' means a claim on behalf of a living person convicted of a felony in Illinois asserting that he was tortured into confessing to the crime for which the person was convicted and the tortured confession was used to obtain the conviction and for which there is some credible evidence related to allegations of torture committed by Commander Jon Burge or any officer under the supervision of Jon Burge."
7. Section 40(a) of the TIRC Act provides that the "Commission may informally screen and dismiss a case summarily at its discretion."

The Commission finds that the acts alleged do not constitute a "[c]laim of torture" as defined by TIRC Rules and Section 5(1) of the TIRC Act. The Commission is thus without jurisdiction to consider this claim.

The Commission summarily dismisses Peoples' claim and instructs its Executive Director to notify Peoples of the dismissal and his right to judicial review under the Illinois Administrative Review Law.

Dated: May 20, 2015



Hon. Cheryl Starks, Chair  
Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission

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Detective McNally again interviewed Peoples at 3:30 p.m. on September 8, 2002, at which time Peoples allegedly said he would buy off witnesses in the case. (Peoples denies this.) Peoples did not admit at that time to committing the murder or being present at the scene.

After an Assistant State's Attorney approved murder charges, Detectives Halloran and Nolan drove Peoples to District 24. During that car ride, Peoples was said to have admitted to being at the murder scene with the shooter, while denying that he was the triggerman or knowing that his companion intended to shoot Campbell. Peoples claims not to have made that statement.