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*Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law*

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## Three Former Virginia Attorneys General Add Their Voices to Those Calling on Gov. McAuliffe to Halt Execution of Ivan Teleguz

**Former AGs say justice cannot be served by an execution in a  
case filled with doubt**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Three former Attorneys General of the Commonwealth of Virginia--a Republican and two Democrats--called on Governor Terry McAuliffe to commute the sentence of Ivan Teleguz, who is scheduled to be executed by Virginia on April 25th.

The former Attorneys General--Mark Earley, Mary Sue Terry, and William Broaddus, who collectively oversaw the execution of over 50 prisoners in Virginia while they were in office--note that they "are

familiar with the difficult decision" before a governor when "asked to spare the life of a death-sentenced prisoner." They explain, however, that "justice cannot be served by executing a prisoner in a case replete with unreliable investigative techniques, coercive tactics by both law enforcement and the prosecution, recantations of key trial witnesses, and consideration of false testimony in support of a death sentence." The case, in their view, is "precisely the kind of case that calls out for executive clemency."

Teleguz was sentenced to death in 2006 for the 2001 killing of his ex-girlfriend, Stephanie Sipe. The prosecution relied on the testimony of three witnesses, two of whom have now recanted their statements. The remaining witness, Michael Hetrick--whose DNA was found at the murder scene--named Teleguz only after a prolonged interrogation in which the prosecutor in the case told Hetrick that he must agree to testify against Teleguz or face the death penalty himself. After the jury convicted Teleguz, the prosecution then alleged that Teleguz had also been involved in arranging another murder in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Relying on that testimony, the jury sentenced him to death. It has since been revealed that not only was Teleguz not involved with any such murder, but that the alleged murder in Pennsylvania never took place.

The former Attorneys General also expressed concern that executing a prisoner when new evidence discovered after trial creates profound doubts about the validity and fairness of his conviction and death sentence "casts into doubt the very integrity of the system that came to that result."

The full letter in support of commutation can be found

HERE: <http://www.constitutionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Letter-from-Former-Attorneys-General-re-Ivan-Teleguz.pdf>

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