



**Chicago Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression**  
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For a pdf copy of this release click here. For a copy of the complete letter to Gov. Pritzker click here.

**Broad group of people urge Gov. Pritzker to free Gerald Reed**

Two dozen prominent organizations and individuals have urged Gov. J. B. Pritzker in a letter to use “the powers of [his] office to provide long overdue justice to Gerald Reed.” Reed’s deteriorating health puts him at extreme risk due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has heart failure, and late last year while awaiting a new trial at Cook County jail he had a heart attack.

Reed was wrongfully convicted 29 years ago based on a confession extracted through torture by subordinates of Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge. His conviction was vacated on December 18, 2019 by Judge Thomas V. Gainer, who ordered that he be given a new trial and that his tortured confession be suppressed.

The case was assigned to Judge Thomas J. Hennelly, who for 14 months entertained arguments over whether to retry or release Reed. On February 14 of this year Judge Hennelly grossly exceeded his authority and reversed Judge Gainer’s order, directing that Reed be returned to the prison for life without possibility of parole. He is now in the Illinois Department of Corrections Northern Reception and Classification center in Joliet, Illinois.

In their letter the community leaders say, “We are appealing to you in your unique capacity as Governor to immediately release Gerald Reed because recent judicial decisions in his case have been conducted outside the rule of law and in denial of his rights to due process, leaving him and his family with no other recourse.” The Governor has the power to pardon Reed or commute his sentence.

Many organizations have called on the Governor to use this power to release elderly prisoners and others at risk for the COVID-19 virus infection. The Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is urging the Governor to use his power to free all survivors of police torture in Illinois.

(more)

◆ **Executive Committee**

Frank Chapman  
Regina Russell  
Jazmine Salas  
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Joe Iosbaker  
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Ted Pearson  
*Co-Chairperson Emeritus*  
In Memoriam:  
Josephine Wyatt 1921-2017  
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◆ **Steering Committee**

Hatem Abudayyeh  
*Arab-American  
Action Network*  
Nerissa Allegretti  
*Fellowship for  
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*Chicago Committee to  
Defend the Bill of Rights*  
Joe Iosbaker  
*Committee To Stop  
FBI Repression*  
Miykael Mohammad  
*Reclaim Our  
Community*  
Crista Noël  
*Women’s All-Points  
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Aislinn Pulley  
*Black Lives Matter*  
Larry Redmond  
*Attorney at Law,  
General Counsel*  
Judith Stuart  
*Prison Medical Project  
Coordinator*  
Johnnie Veal  
*United Minds Program  
Hill Correctional Center*

The groups and individuals signing the letter to Gov. Pritzker are:

Frank Chapman

Jazmine Salas

Regina Russell

Souzan Naser

Nadine Naber, Mamas Activating  
Movements for Abolition and Solidarity

Community Renewal Society

Chicago Torture Justice Center

Black Lives Matter, Chicago

Diane Palmer, President SEIU Local 73

Andy Clarno, Associate Professor of  
Sociology and African American Studies and  
Coordinator of the Policing in Chicago  
Research Group at UIC

Sheila A. Bedi, Clinical Professor of Law,  
Director, Community Justice & Civil Rights  
Clinic, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Carolos Ramirez-Rosa, Alderman, 35th  
Ward

Southsiders Organized for Unity and  
Liberation

Stacey Krueger, Graduate Student, UIC

Jenine Wehbeh, Chicago Teacher

Stacey Austin, Esq.

Maryam Kashani, Lead Coordinator,  
Believers Bail Out,  
[www.believersbailout.org](http://www.believersbailout.org), Assistant  
Professor, Gender and Women's Studies &  
Asian American Studies, University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign

A. Naomi Paik, Associate Professor at  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Indivisible Chicago-South Side

Chicago Community Bond Fund

Arab American Action Network (AAAN)

U.S. Palestinian Community Network  
(USPCN)-Chicago chapter

Byron Lopez, Alderman, 25th Ward, Chicago

Jeanette Taylor, Alderman, 20<sup>th</sup> Ward,  
Chicago