

Ms. Mary Lou Graham
5010 Courtney Lane
Joplin, Missouri 64804
March 13, 2005

Board of Prison Terms
1550 "K" Street, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95814

To the Attention of: *Mr. Alfred R. Angeles*

What an awesome responsibility this is: to decide if a person shall have his life once again and for those of us who write letters to urge you to help a person to regain freedom!

My plea for the freedom of Mr. P. F. Lazor. He is listed as one of the innocent person in prison by the website, www.TruthinJustice.org and I ask all members of this group to visit this website as an excellent source of information concerning innocent persons in our prisons today. Additional websites on this topic are www.Innocentsinprison.org and www.JusticeDenied.org, and the large database collected by Dr. Edmund Higgins, M.D.; <http://www.dredmundhiggins.com/home.htm>

For legal study on this subject of "Self-Defense", I found two articles in the *Criminal Law Bulletin*, Nov.-Dec. 2003, "Defending the Self-Defense Case" by Lisa Steele and the *Criminal Law Bulletin*, January-February, 2004; *The Challenge of Explaining "Reasonable Doubt"* by Hisham M. Ramadan.

The jury may have been confused by the omission of information such as the meat cleaver which the attacker was swinging as he moved toward Mr. Lazor. That "weapon" was never exhibited for the jury. The prosecution used faulty information from the autopsy done by Coroner Dr. Angelo K. Ozoa who was ruled as incompetent by the Medical Board of California. This is revealed in Galbraith vs. City and County of Santa Clara. The body was cremated before another autopsy could be performed. This jury may have believed that the attacker had been shot in the back. Police often face this problem in gunfire cases. These facts are discussed in *Defending the Self-Defense Case* which describes how the split-second turn of a body can allow the bullet to enter from the side or the back.

P. F. Lazor had no choice but to protect his life at that moment of the attack.

When is it a Self-defense Case? (p. 660-661; *Defending the Self-defense case*) Lisa Steele gives us the qualifying facts which must be satisfied to be certain that this is "self-defense". There are five criteria:

- (1) The person being attacked had reasonable grounds to believe that he was in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm.
- (2) This selected victim (Mr. Lazor) actually believed that he was in such imminent danger.

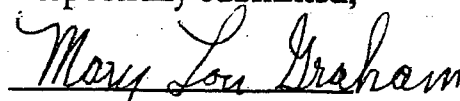
- (3) The danger had to be such that the person being attacked could only save himself by the use of deadly force.
- (4) The person being attacked had availed himself of all proper means to avoid physical combat before resorting to deadly force. Retreat was no longer a choice.
- (5) Finally, the one under attack had to use no more force than was necessary.

In the article, "*Reasonable Doubt*", p. 29, Ramadan tells us that it is important to enumerate the elements of the crime. "This procedure compels the prosecutor to establish the necessary facts: otherwise, he fails to prove his case. Some states adopted this strategy of spelling out the elements of the offense to the jury. See Wisconsin Jury Instructions."

Recreating details of the attack is important for the jury. These things appear to have been neglected in Mr. Lazor's defense.

Most self-defense cases that I have known did not require an arrest of the defending person. P.F. Lazor had no criminal record and in those circumstances, he was not a criminal. I respectfully ask that each of you charged with this responsibility, do grant parole for this man who deserves to regain his life in our society.

Respectfully submitted,


Mary Lou Graham