

Gerald Reed

On October 3, 1990, 27-year-old Gerald Reed was arrested and questioned regarding the murder two days earlier of Willie Williams and Pamela Powers. He was questioned by Detectives Michael Kill and Victor Breska at Area 3 Homicide, members of the notorious "Midnight Crew" of torturer Jon Burge. On October 4, 1990, Reed was questioned by Kill and Breska. They beat him and kicked him repeatedly and broke a metal rod that was in his right thigh along with the surgical screws that held it in place, causing him excruciating pain. The rod had been surgically placed years before to repair his thigh-bone, which had been shattered by a gunshot.

It was clear to Reed that the beatings would continue until he agreed to confess, and he did. Prior to trial, Reed filed a motion to suppress his confession stating that he had been physically abused. He repudiated the confession at his trial and has proclaimed his innocence ever since. There was no other material evidence against Reed at his trial. Gerald Reed was convicted of both murders and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.

But that did not stop the torture. For 27 years Reed has repeatedly requested medical intervention to fix the horrible and excruciatingly painful damage done by his torturers. He has been unable to walk. Finally, last year, he was taken from Stateville Correctional Center to Dreyer Medical Center in Aurora, where orthopedic surgeon Steven I. Rabin performed the first step required to repair the terrible damage to his thigh bone and ease his suffering. Dr. Rabin made it clear that a second follow-up surgery was necessary to improve his condition and end his pain, along with physical therapy.

Gerald Reed was returned to the hospital at Stateville in January where he waited for the second surgery. Dr. Rabin, however, had a heart attack and was unable to complete the task. Gerald Reed has been in the hospital at Stateville ever since, for over ten months. He has had minimal physical therapy and is still suffering from serious pain in his leg.

The Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission held, in a decision rendered on June 18, 2012 and further amended on March 19, 2014, that there was a "preponderance of evidence" that Reed had been tortured and forced to confess. Yet more than 5 years later Gerald Reed remains in prison and in terrible pain as a result of being tortured by Chicago Police.

Gerald Reed's case is currently being heard by Judge Thomas Gainer. Since the Torture Commission has sent his case back for review, Reed has had an ongoing case for 6 years. Gerald Reed's mother, Armanda Shackelford, hopes to have him home in the next few months.