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Keeping U.S. government and media honest.

CLICK HERE FOR THE [THE OP-NAT EYE BLOG](#).

--Help End Eleventh Amendment Immunity For Rogue Prosecutors, Judges, Cops and Sheriffs--

"I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery." President Thomas Jefferson

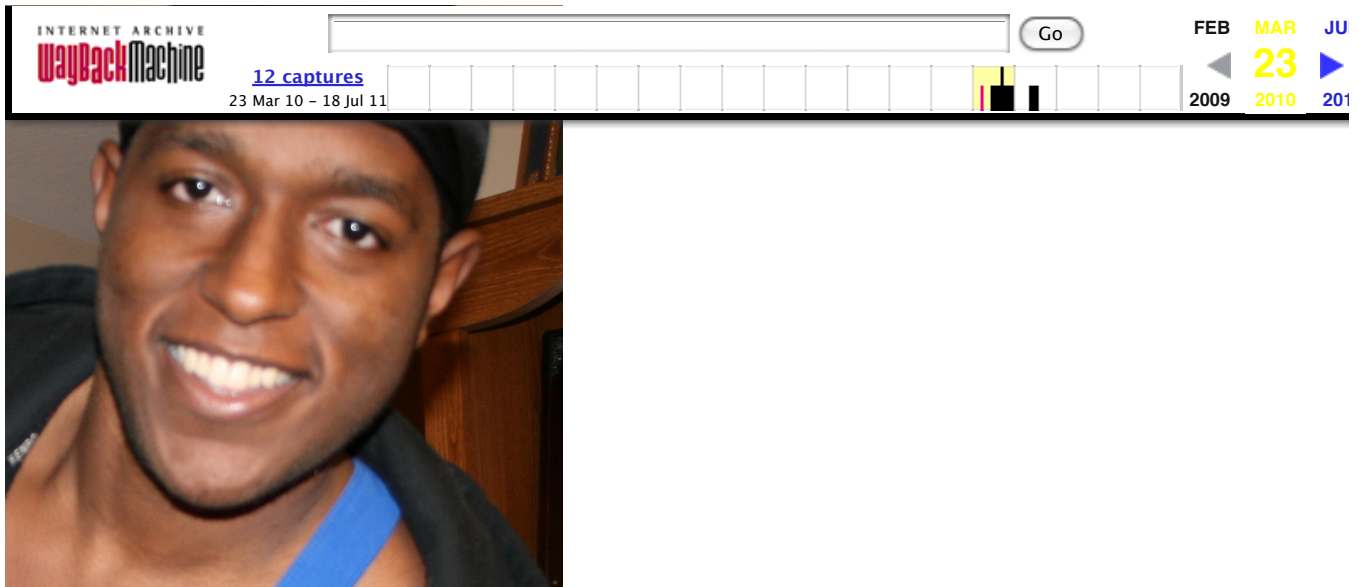
"Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death." Revolutionary War Icon Patrick Henry

"An oppressed class which does not strive to learn to use arms, to acquire arms, only deserves to be treated like slaves. We cannot forget, unless we become bourgeois pacifists or opportunists, that we are living in a class society, that there is no way out of this society, and there can be none, except by means of the class struggle." Vladimir Lenin, First Soviet Head of State.

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JUSTICE FOR RODNEY SMITH



This page is dedicated to Rodney Smith, Jr., the young man who was [forced to protect himself from attackers](#) the State of Arizona freed from serving any jail time, after the same men had previously assaulted Mr. Smith eight months prior.

Click on the dates the following entries were published to read them in their entirety.

Rodney Smith Case: "South Mountain Shooter" Continues Waiting For Trial

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [1/21/2010 2:52 PM](#)
Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

In case you're wondering why Operation Nation has not given an update on the case of Rodney Smith, Jr. - the alleged "South Mountain Shooter" who was forced to defend himself with his pistol at South Mountain Community College in South Phoenix back on July 24, 2008 - it's because...there is no update.

Mr. Smith, now 24-years-old, has been on house arrest with an ankle-monitor since late October 2008, waiting for his constitutional right to a public trial by jury. And according to several sources, Mr. Smith is frequently harrassed by a Maricopa County "pre-trial officer" named James Morones, who shows up at the residence Mr. Smith stays at almost weekly to boost his own ego.

According to court records, Mr. Smith was supposed to attend a settlement conference last Friday, January 15. But in the spirit of the Maricopa County court's clown persona, the judge who was to conduct the case said there were "scheduling conflicts," and vacated the settlement conference without re-scheduling another one. Plus, the prosecutor in the case, Heather Wicht, never returned for the conference anyway after the judge took a recess.

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Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

If only Rodney E. Smith Jr., the alleged "South Mountain Shooter" who Euro-American media was obsessed with for about three days after [the July 24 incident last year](#), had millions of dollars or was a former thug cop.

Mr. Smith has been entangled in the Maricopa County justice system since that day he was forced to protect himself from the same attackers who jumped him and broke his jaw eight months prior. Not only does Maricopa County prosecutor Heather Wicht continue to arrogantly and comfortably [violate Arizona's conflict of interest statute](#) (a class 6 felony) in prosecuting this case, but she also requested and was granted a change of trial judge in the case back in August of 2008. (View [page 1](#) and [page 2](#) of the motion here), while Mr. Smith did not have a public defender assigned to him.

Yesterday the attorney for Drew Peterson, the former Bolingbrook (IL) Police thug charged with murdering two of his ex-wives, responded to the State of Illinois' motion to change judges in that case. Here is his response.

Charges Dropped Against Rodney Smith, Sr.

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [6/9/2009 1:09 PM](#)

Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

In yet another blow to Maricopa County prosecutor Heather Wicht's quest to destroy the lives of the entire Smith family, Rodney Smith, Sr., the father of alleged "South Mountain Shooter" Rodney Smith Jr., had all charges dropped against him in connection with the July 24, 2008 incident. Michelle Denise Smith, Smith Jr. mother, was acquitted at trial in April on charges of "interfering with police." Smith Sr. had been on house arrest since being released in September from the Maricopa County Jail in connection with the charges.

Wicht, along with her boss, Andrew Thomas, continually tried to convict Smith, Sr. of any charges they possibly could to cover their malfeasance. Wicht offered Smith, Sr. a plea agreement which he would spend two years in prison. It was rejected immediately. Smith, Sr.'s trial was supposed to take place this week on charges of "intimidating a witness" after Phoenix police said he "made a threatening gesture" at the crime scene. Today, Wicht offered a second plea agreement, which Smith Sr. would be sentenced to probation, which he also rejected. Wicht, who is illegally prosecuting Smith Jr.'s case as well, finally conceded defeat and dropped all charges this afternoon, knowing the case was frivolous from the start.

Smith Sr. will have the ankle monitor Maricopa County forced him to wear for the past 10 months, removed this afternoon. Meanwhile, Smith Jr. will not be back in court until late July.

Maricopa County Attorney Is Violating Conflict of Interest Statutes

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [1/26/2009 3:46 PM](#)

Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

FACT: Maricopa County prosecutor Heather Wicht has been on the Rodney Smith (alleged "South Mountain Shooter") case since the supervening indictment was issued in early August 2008.

FACT: Wicht was also the prosecutor for Rashad McQuin, Isaac Smith, and Leander Louis, the three men who were given plea bargains - BY WIGHT - after viciously attacking Rodney Smith back in December of 2007.

FACT: Wicht and Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas are in violation of [A.R.S. § 38-503](#), a class 6 felony.

There has to be a reason, other than obvious adversarial ones, that Maricopa County prosecutor Heather Wicht looks at Mr. Rodney Smith in such a sinister way...and it may be to cover her own negligence. Wicht was the prosecutor assigned to the three thugs who jumped Mr. Smith and broke his

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"South Mountain Shooter" trial may not happen until late 2010

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [1/26/2009 2:26 PM](#)

Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

Rodney Smith, 23, appeared in Maricopa County Superior Court today. The State accuses Smith of [recklessly opening fire](#) at South Mountain Community College, in south Phoenix, on July 24, 2008.



Rodney Smith

Defense attorney Marci Kratter argued before Superior Court Justice Cari Harrison, to modify Smith's release conditions further. Smith was originally being held in Maricopa County Jail on a \$200,000 cash bond before Kratter successfully argued the bond was excessive back on October 22. The bond was lowered to \$16,000 and Smith has been on house arrest with an ankle monitor since his release in late October. He spent more than three months in Maricopa County Jail.

Harrison - who was absent from the October hearing - was not pleased with Commissioner Phemonia Miller's decision to lower the bond at all, and neither was the prosecution.

From Barbara Miller to Lynn Krabbe; Prosecutor Change Came At Peculiar Time

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [12/21/2008 11:32 AM](#)

Categories: [55 Days In Maricopa County Jail](#)

This is a tie-in to the "55 Days..." blog. If you've missed any entries, to view them all in descending order, [click here](#). This entry not only highlights the peculiar prosecutor change in my case, but the highly unusual and malicious judge change in the Rodney Smith case.

On October 1, for the first time since all this mess started, I finally had an opportunity to meet with the trial attorney (via the public defender's office) who would be handling my case. This is when he showed me that [latest plea agreement](#) of probation and community service if I plead guilty to possession of paraphernalia and disorderly conduct, both "unclassified" offenses (not a felony or misdemeanor). Again, I would gladly and willingly plead guilty to possession, but will NEVER plead guilty to anything victimizing that criminal alleged "victim." This would also be the first time someone actually sat and listened to me, hearing the facts as to what happened the night of July 21. Because too much time has passed between that night and this day, there would likely be no way I could prove that alleged "victim" held me at knife-point in my apartment.

BREAKING NEWS: Rodney Smith's Bond Lowered

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [10/22/2008 2:09 PM](#)

Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

Smith's family will post bond tonight.

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"I could tell the judge had sympathy for my case," Smith said. "In my heart of hearts I know I did the wrong thing, but I was forced to defend myself because my life was threatened."

Smith's bond was lowered from \$200,000 cash to \$16,000 secured, and he must comply with pre-trial service stipulations, including an ankle monitor and house arrest.

The Rodney Smith Profile

Posted by Brian Wilkins at [10/5/2008 11:16 PM](#)

Categories: [Tempe and Maricopa County Arizona News](#)

This is a supplement to Rodney's interview posted at [Operation-Nation.com](#). Rodney, the media-proclaimed "South Mountain Shooter," will be writing letters to the Op-Nat Eye once every week, updating everyone, especially his family and friends, on how he's holding up while awaiting trial and/or his bond to be raised. Again, please visit [Operation-Nation.com](#) to donate.

-born January 13, 1986 in Phoenix, Arizona at Thunderbird Hospital.

-attended Whittier Elementary School in Mesa from kindergarten through sixth grade.



Rodney Smith in an undated photo. Operation Nation.

OPERATION NATION EXCLUSIVE:

HOW IS RODNEY SMITH DOING?

By Brian A. Wilkins
10/6/2008

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Rodney Smith, in an undated photo.

OP-NAT: It's now been over two months since you've been in jail. How are you holding up?

RODNEY: I'm getting by. It's hard to remain patient, especially when I have no idea what's going to happen; whether or not I'm going to be able to continue my life. It's difficult. My heart goes out to the innocent victims, Chris Taylor and Otisha Williams, and their families. Not sure how they're feeling right now and there's no way of knowing how they've been affected. I really want to apologize from the bottom of my heart to them and their families.



Associated Press story, incorrectly stating Rodney and the gangsters "fought," instead of correctly stating Rodney was jumped by the three men.

OP-NAT: Media have portrayed you as "The South Mountain Shooter." How do you respond to that?

RODNEY: I'm not a criminal; not a violent person; never have been. I was actually the top peer mediator in junior high school in the Resolving Conflicts Creatively program. I've always been against violence. I just did not want to be a victim again.

OP-NAT: So what exactly happened back in December of 2007 when you were victimized?

RODNEY: At a Circle K, I was approached by Isaac Smith, Leander Luis, and Rashad McCuin. I had never seen any of them in my life to that point. First, they started provoking me, calling me all kinds of names. Next thing I knew, Luis attacked me, knocked me to the ground, then all three of them began stomping me, punching me, kicking me. They even punched Alexis, the girl I was with, when she tried to pull them off me. They broke my jaw in two places. I was in the hospital for 3 days.

OP-NAT: I've never had a broken jaw...but I've heard its not pleasant?

RODNEY: It was seven weeks of pure agony. There was pain everyday. I couldn't eat any solid foods at all. I lost over 25 pounds. It was really depressing because you're hungry all the time and have no energy. And worst of all, I could barely talk.

OP-NAT: Common sense would dictate the three individuals who attacked you would be in jail for a long time. What happened with them?

RODNEY: They were never incarcerated. I had agreed to testify, but it took the police a month to arrest them, even though my family and I constantly called them with more information. And when the 3 finally were arrested, they were released that same night, except for McCuin because he was already on probation. When trial arrived, I gave a victim's statement, and the other two, Luis and Smith, were given probation. McCuin received a year-and-a-half sentence, despite the fact all of them have gang ties; a gang called "Flipside."

OP-NAT: You are aware, then, of Arizona's "gang laws," ([A.R.S. 13-2321](#)) which I personally think is just another convenient way to lock up hundreds-of-thousands of young Nubian American men and Latino men. Regardless, I wasn't aware the men were part of a gang. How do you feel, then, about their sentences, when virtually all "gangsters" generally get 5-plus-year sentences for simply standing on street corners in this state?

RODNEY: I'm disappointed in the state of Arizona for failing to incarcerate these men. My life was put in danger because these men were not jailed. They were undeterred by the probation and no-contact order. They wanted revenge on me for getting them put on probation and because of the State's negligence, they got their chance to seek that revenge.

OP-NAT: I'd comment on that, but I'll save it for another time!

RODNEY: (*Laughing*). Knowing you, I have a good feeling what's on your mind anyway!

OP-NAT: Let's go back to the afternoon of July 24, 2008. What were you doing at South Mountain Community College that day?

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OP-NAT: How long were you there before the gangsters showed up?

RODNEY: I was there for at least two hours before they showed up.

OP-NAT: How did they know you were there? Did someone tip them off or was it just a coincidence?

RODNEY: It's possible someone tipped them off. They're members of a pretty big gang. I don't know who is all in the gang or how many members they have. I was in constant fear because, apparently, a lot of people had animosity towards me because of what happened to these guys.

OP-NAT: The Phoenix Police have even acknowledged [you were attacked FIRST](#).

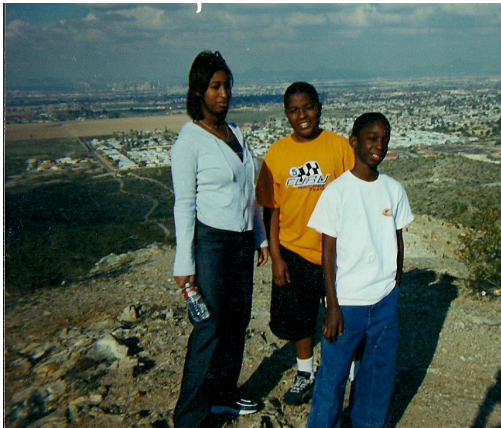
RODNEY: Definitely. First I was threatened by Smith and Luis. I tried to just walk away; leave the computer lab. But they followed me towards the exit. When I turned around, Smith was right behind me and he punched me in my face.

OP-NAT: What went through your mind at that point?

RODNEY: I thought about the last experience; and all the pain and suffering I went through. It was the most traumatizing experience of my life and I didn't want it to happen again. The outcome would have likely been a lot worse this time.

OP-NAT: You went home after the incident. What happened from there?

RODNEY: I got home and told my mom and sister what happened. They told me I should call the police. I went outside to talk to my dad, and the police were already there. They told me to get down on my knees; I did. They put me in the back of the car. There were news helicopters and reporters everywhere. Next thing you know, my whole family is being cuffed and arrested. My dad approached the police car I was in to talk to me, so they put him in cuffs. They also arrested my mom, my auntie, my cousin, and my brother.



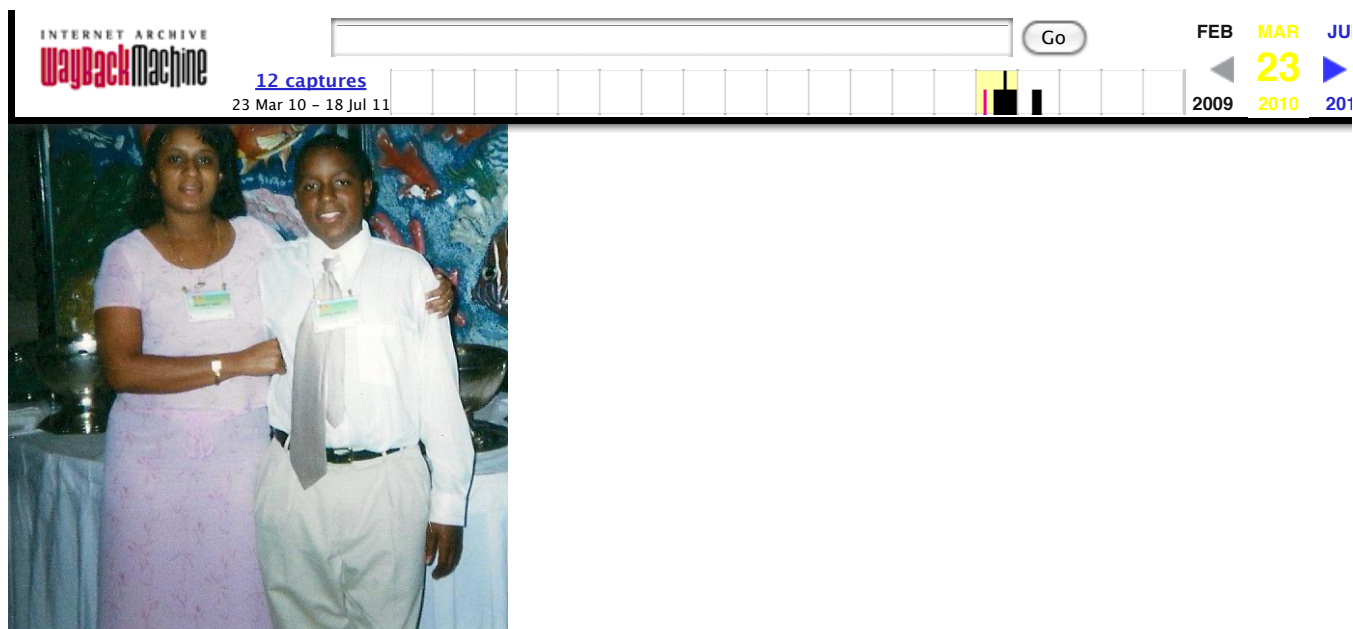
From left to right, Rodney's sister, Nicole, Rodney, and Randy, Rodney's little brother.

OP-NAT: Ok I'm having a hard time with this. Why was your family arrested?

RODNEY: For no reason at all. I think the police saw all the cameras and reporters and wanted to put on a show.

OP-NAT: Are members of your family facing charges from the events that took place?

RODNEY: Yes. They somehow charged my whole family with interfering with a police investigation, even though there was no interference. They were all just standing in front of my house. I couldn't believe it when they cuffed my mom.



Rodney and his mother, Michelle, in an undated photo.

OP-NAT: There are many people supporting you through this hard time. Lots of visitors in jail; your pastor, friends, family; you're receiving lots of letters, etc.

RODNEY: Oh yeah. Everybody knows I'm not a violent guy; a violent person. I'm not the type of guy to do something like this; never been the type to hurt anyone. I've never hurt anyone in my life. Everyone who knows me was shocked by the whole situation.

OP-NAT: Is there anything else you want to say?

RODNEY: I just wish the state would have protected me by doing their jobs and incarcerating these violent gang members so I wasn't forced into this situation. Nobody should have to live in fear because the State is selective in whom they prosecute lightly and whom they throw the book at. But most importantly, I again want to apologize to Chris and Otisha (the two innocent victims). I hope they are both doing well and I'll do whatever I can to make sure their lives and dreams are undeterred by this situation.

Go to the [Op-Nat Eye Blog](#) for more on Rodney Smith.

[DISCUSSION FORUM](#)

[\(note: click on "General" once you're at the Forum Link.\)](#)

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