

Attorney Isaac Wright Jr. Secures the Release of Wayne “Akbar” Pray After Serving 36 Years in Prison on a Life Sentence

Wayne “Akbar” Pray to Launch Foundation supporting formerly incarcerated men and underserved children



Newark, New Jersey Oct 17, 2024 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Newark, New Jersey– Wayne “Akbar” Pray was released from FCI Butner Federal Prison in North Carolina on September 30, 2024, after serving more than 36 years of a life sentence without the possibility of parole for a non-violent drug offense, thanks to the determined efforts of attorney Isaac Wright Jr and Peter Goldberger. On March 22, 2023, during the Newark, NJ premiere of the docuseries “[848: The Criminalization of America](#)”, which documented Pray’s story of wrongful conviction and is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. Isaac Wright Jr. boldly stated at the screening, “I’m going to bring Wayne home,” a promise that has now been fulfilled.

Pray, was sentenced to natural life plus 50 years in prison on a CCE (Continuing Criminal Enterprise) for being a super drug kingpin of “The Family” a 300-member drug organization headquartered in Newark, NJ during the 1970’s and 1980’s. The conviction was widely marked as one of New Jersey’s most disproportionate and draconian drug offense sentences of all time. Pray, who had petitioned the judge over three and a half years ago to review his case, had his motion for compassionate release previously denied. However, with Wright Jr.’s legal acumen and dedication, the legal obstacles that once seemed insurmountable were overturned. This release marks the end of an arduous journey for Wayne, who has steadfastly prayed for a second chance.

Ironically, Wright Jr. first met Pray 36 years ago when he was given a life sentence plus 70 years at the age of twenty-eight and then sent to a maximum-security state penitentiary to life in prison. “If I didn’t get life in prison Wayne Pray would have died in prison” stated Isaac Wright Jr. “Wayne Pray’s perseverance and faith led him to find Wright Jr. whom he believed would overturn his life sentence despite the setbacks, it is an honor to see him finally reclaim his freedom after all these years.” Stated Wright Jr.

Pray, now free, is set to join the “I Am You Tour” this fall as one of the featured speakers, alongside keynote speaker Isaac Wright. The tour aims to raise awareness of criminal justice reform, social justice, and the power of redemption. As part of his journey, Pray, an author, columnist, and thought leader will share his personal experience and the lessons he has learned from his time behind bars.

In addition to his speaking engagements, Wayne “Akbar” Pray founded a non-profit foundation during his incarceration called The Akbar Pray Foundation for Change (APFFC) which focuses on supporting formerly incarcerated men and underserved children. The APFFC offers initiatives for drug prevention and intervention, mentorship to underserved children, re-entry programs for ex-cons, and advocacy for change in the criminal justice system.

“Thirty-six years ago, I was on the wrong side of history. Back then, I was a part of the problem. I have returned to our city to be a part of the solution,” Pray said upon his return to Newark, NJ.

About Wayne Akbar Pray

Wayne Pray also known as Akbar, is an American author, writer, producer, and leader who has become an inspiration to underserved youth, men, and women across the country. Pray is the author of “Death of The Game”, “Last of A Dying Breed”, and the soon-to-be-released “The Incident”. Pray Co-produced the docuseries “848: The Criminalization of America” and is currently writing films to be soon released. Pray has turned his life around and is an example of hope and redemption making a positive social impact on the world.

About Isaac Wright Jr.

Isaac Wright Jr. is a criminal defense attorney and advocate dedicated to challenging wrongful convictions and reforming the criminal justice system. Wright is also an author, speaker, and television producer. His memoir “Marked for Life” is a must-read and the television series “For Life” which was Co-produced with 50 Cent is a must-see. Isaac Wright is the Keynote speaker for the “I Am You Collegiate Speaker’s Tour, launching this Fall at Howard University. Isaac aims to inspire and educate students about the power of self-education, the importance of advocating for the marginalized, and the resilience of the human spirit. His firsthand experience of overcoming insurmountable obstacles and achieving justice offers a powerful message that resonates with audiences of all ages.

His inspiring personal story and career achievements have been widely recognized, and his work continues to resonate as a beacon of hope for those seeking justice.

For media inquiries, interviews, or further information about the “I Am You Tour” or Wayne Pray’s foundation, please contact:

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