

Re: Repay the wrongfully accused, 19 January 2010

The final line of this editorial said, “Meaningful compensation should be mandatory for those incorrectly imprisoned.” I wonder if we shouldn’t go one step further.

When a crime is committed, the State (citizens) takes great care and expense to protect the rights of the (alleged) criminal. The victim is essentially forgotten in the process; nothing is done to ameliorate that person’s loss.

We are all ultimately responsible for the proper administration of justice—and the results of injustice and crime—and we should compensate those in our society who suffer from crimes committed against them. As society’s representative in charge of keeping the peace (we are cautioned by the police to avoid trying to protect ourselves) the State should act as more than the protector of criminals’ rights; it should be an insurance agent for victims and reimburse them.

Furthermore, if all taxpayers were involved in the monetary administration of justice in this way we might take a more active role in preventing crime and in assisting the police with relevant information before and after a crime has been committed.

Ted Scott