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The Third Round in 19 Years Sets Hurricane Carter Free

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WORLD NEWS**The third round in 19 years sets Hurricane Carter free**

By DAVE ANDERSON

NEW YORK, Sunday: Outside, in the dazzle of the sun on a steamy June day in 1974, the temperature sizzled in the 90s. Inside, two visitors were being screened by a prison officer at the Vroom building, the top-security New Jersey state psychiatric prison in Trenton.

"We're here," one of the visitors said, "to see Rubin Carter."

While walking down a long empty corridor toward the cell blocks, one of the visitors realised the radiators were hissing heat.

Moments later, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter appeared, glowering, a prison officer close on each side.

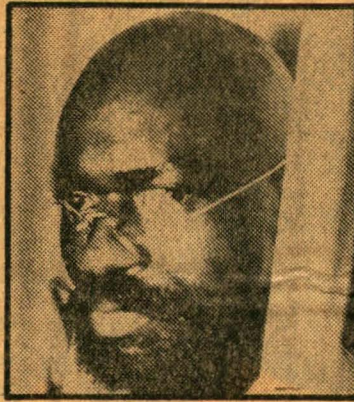
The one-time middleweight boxer sentenced to life imprisonment for the 1966 murder of three patrons of a New Jersey bar, was brought into a small windowless room. As they spoke, perspiration glowed on their faces and soaked their shirts.

"Out of curiosity," one of the visitors finally said, "why do they have the heat on?"

"In the winter," Carter said, "they turn it off."

For anyone hoping to define what prison is like, let those words hiss like steam heat.

For most of 19 years, Carter was in prison for a crime that he always insisted he did not commit.



Rubin Carter... a victory.

And in Newark on Thursday, a federal judge, Justice Sarokin, overturned the 1976 conviction at a retrial on the same points Carter had always asserted — the prosecution's suggestion of racial revenge and its withholding of evidence from the defence.

On Friday the same judge ordered that Carter, 48, be released in his own recognizance without bail, pending an appeal by the Passaic County prosecutors that could go to the US Supreme Court and a possible third trial.

At the Friday bail hearing in Newark, the prosecution argued that Carter was dangerous and violent, that if he was released he would be a threat to the commu-

nity, but Mr Sarokin disagreed.

He said that Carter's second conviction had been "so constitutionally flawed", that he did not deserve to spend "another day, or even another hour, in prison", and that "human decency mandates that he be released immediately".

Carter typed his autobiography, *The 16th Round, No. 1 contender to No. 45472*, published in 1974, in his Rahway prison cell.

The case was re-opened that year after the two principal prosecution witnesses recanted, saying they had been coerced by detectives.

Carter suddenly was a jailhouse celebrity. Muhammad Ali came around. Bob Dylan wrote a song about him, and sang it at a Madison Square Garden benefit for The Hurricane Fund.

Late in 1976, at his second trial, Carter was convicted again. So was the other accused murderer, John Artis, now 39, also black, who has been on parole since 1981. Carter had to go back to jail, ineligible for parole until 1997.

To put Carter on trial a third time after 19 years, his lawyer, Mr Lewis Steel, said, would be a mockery of the Constitution.

Carter might be forced into a rematch, but for now he is ahead on points, after 19 years.

The New York Times

Whoopie! Congrats!

From your Sydney Aunt.

Neweljissin vevise!

(+ no one wants a mocher! - !!!) Love + hugs, Aunt