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March 17, 1976 Joint Statement re: Court's Decisions on Gag Orders

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JOINT STATEMENT 3/17/76

By Myron Beldock and
Ronald Busch,
Attorneys for Rubin Carter;
and Lewis Steel and
Jeffrey Fogel,
Attorneys for John Artis

We are extremely pleased by the Court's decision, which found that suppression of promises of leniency to identification witnesses and of other evidence favorable to Carter and Artis deprived them of a fair trial in 1967.

Counsel take this opportunity to make several comments. Overzealous prosecution distorted the evidence at Carter and Artis' trial to suit the State's theories and secreted proof that would have helped their defense enormously. Community passions and prejudice infected the process from beginning to end. Because of this, Rubin and John have had to spend nine and a half years in jail fighting to establish their innocence and reverse their unjust convictions. They will still be in jail until bail is established and met. They will still be in jeopardy until the jury says "not guilty" or the charges are dismissed.

We hope that through exposure to Rubin and John's case the public will become more insistent that prosecutors and investigators act more fairly and will realize that there are other Rubin Carters and John Artises in jail who need their support.

The most significant question now for Rubin and John is what will the State of New Jersey and the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office do next? Will the prosecution insist on bail before Rubin

and John can be released? Will the prosecution insist on pursuing this case? No matter how much longer it takes we will continue to fight to gain the freedom and establish the innocence of Rubin and John with the firm belief that they will be exonerated.