
SIRIUS BLACK: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE VICTIM OF JUDICIAL STRIPPING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN A HARRY POTTER NOVEL AND THAT OF A JUDICIAL VERDICT IN 1994 WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the researcher attempts an analysis of the judicial stripping of human rights in respect of the character of Sirius Black, who features from the third book onwards as quite an important character through J.K.Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, but occupies the central part of the plot in the third book of series - *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. In fact, it is Sirius who is the "Prisoner of Azkaban" mentioned in the title of the third book. Operating under the state of exception during the First Wizarding War, in J.K.Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, the Ministry of Magic often bypasses the fundamental legal protections, including the right to fair trial. By analyzing the intersection of political expediency, institutional corruption and dehumanizing effects of carceral punishment, this paper highlights how Sirius Black embodies the systematic failures of authoritarian legal measures and by implications, helps us to reassess our recent history.

The Role of Barty Crouch Sr as the Head of the Department of Magical Law Enforcement in the novel will be expounded in the paper. Crouch, in order to boost his own career, uses draconian measures to project toughness on dealing with crime and is not at all concerned with the fact whether the one punished has actually committed the crime at all. Apparently, Sirius's "crime" was that he had revealed the whereabouts of baby Harry Potter and his parents to the dictator Voldemort, which, as we would expound in our paper, he had not. Even then, he was, without a trial, indefinitely put behind bars for the leaking of vital information and the murder of a wizard Peter Pettigrew, who, the readers come to know thirteen years later, was still alive and had faked his death.

This paper would also focus on the horrible conditions of the wizard prison guarded by creatures called Dementors who constantly drain peace, hope, and happiness, forcing prisoners to relive their absolute worst memories. Therefore, this paper would also focus on the rights of prisoners and theorize in terms of discipline of law what should happen within legal provisions.

Moreover, after the death of Lily and James, Sirius who was the Godfather of Harry has the right to be his magical guardian. However, illegally the custody of his godson is taken away from him, to which no legal reason can be attributed, as both the godparent and the child are male. The researchers would try to prove that the “rarest of rarest punishment” was given to Sirius based merely on circumstantial evidence, reminding one of the landmark judgement passed by the Supreme Court of India delivered in *Dhananjay vs State of West Bengal*, on 11th January 1994, much before the first book of *Harry Potter* had made its first appearance. A comparative study between the two cases, one fictional, one real, but both very similar in the laxity of investigation would also be attempted in this paper.

MAIN PAPER

In the discussion of Law and Law related disciplines, in legal as well as ethical terms, Sirius Black, a character of the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling becomes a quintessential fictional example of the victim of judicial persecution, illustrating how a justice system can succumb to political pressure, wartime panic and in the absence of eye-witnesses to the crime, the prosecution can rest its case purely on circumstantial evidence and win it too. This narrative would expose deeper systematic failures depicted in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. This narrative has several crossovers with the curtailing of institutional justice under a mostly authoritarian state (but can take place in democratic set-ups as well), as we would show in the case of the landmark judgment passed by the Honorable Supreme Court of India in *Dhananjay vs State of West Bengal* passed on 11th January 1994 (as mentioned earlier it would be wrong, in the later case of *Dhananjay*, it would be wrong to call the State authoritarian as it was a democratically elected state).

However, what links the fictional character of Sirius Black to the hanged *Dhananjay Chatterjee* is the role of the apex politician who bows to public sentiments and thereby overrules the role of the judiciary. In Sirius' case, the said political role is performed by Barty Crouch Sr, who was the then Head of the Department of Magical Law Enforcement and was in charge of punishing those who had sided with the dictator Voldemort during the first Wizarding War and had committed war crimes. Crouch, in order to boost his image of zero tolerance to perpetrators of war crimes, plays to the gallery as far as punishing followers of the now fallen dictator is concerned and had earned immense praise and support from the public. As the series proceeds, we find that he was never concerned with who the actual perpetrator of a crime was and who wasn't. No doubt, he ordered Sirius Black to be indefinitely thrown behind the bars without a

trial. As the researcher would expound later in the paper, silencing Sirius minimised the risk of a public legal defence which could have exposed deeper systematic legal failures, especially if the truth, which only Sirius knew, came out in the open. It might have even led Barty Crouch Sr to have risked having lost his chair. In Sirius' case, reasonable doubts can be raised on the investigating agencies as well as the prosecution as they could not establish the chain of events beyond reasonable doubt.

To recollect the events that lead to his arrest and conviction without trial, Sirius Black was wrongfully accused and sent to Azkaban for the remainder of his biological life and remains there for the next twelve years till he escapes and remains a fugitive of the law till his unfortunate martyrdom. The charges under which he had been convicted consisted of numerous serious charges like being the dictator's spy and betraying the whereabouts of Lily and James Potter to the now fallen dictator Voldemort and ruthlessly murdering twelve Muggles (non-Magical people) as well as a wizard Peter Pettigrew in order to remove witnesses (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 151). The *Harry Potter* universe has a complex charm of concealing a secret called the Fidelius Charm which is an immensely complex and ancient spell (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 153). In both the First and Second Wizarding Wars, this charm is seen to be used extensively by the ones fighting the dictatorial regime to hide the location of their Headquarters and safe houses. In this spell a secret—such as a location or identity of a person is hidden inside a single, living person's soul known as the Secret Keeper. The information becomes completely undiscoverable to anyone unless the Secret Keeper voluntarily chooses to reveal it. When used to hide the address of a building or location, it renders the place invisible, unplotable and soundproof to anyone to whom the Secret Keeper has not revealed the address. Even if someone stands directly outside the house, they would not be able to find it. And what is interesting about the charm is that it cannot be forced or tortured or extracted out of the Secret Keeper using magic like Legilimency and has to be shared out of his own free will. Legilimency is the magical practice in the *Harry Potter* universe of entering, navigating, and interpreting the layers of another person's mind, which in simple words can be called mind-reading. In other words, the one and only access to the information hidden through the Fidelous charm is voluntary sharing.

Since Sirius Black was the best friend of James Potter, his best man at his wedding and the Godfather of little Harry Potter, James made him the Secret Keeper to their whereabouts. In fact, Dumbledore himself offered to be their Secret Keeper, but James trusted Sirius so much

that he preferred Sirius to Dumbledore. As we find out later, Dumbledore remained worried because he was sure that somebody close to the Potters had been acting as a mole for Voldemort, but James insisted on using Black as a secret keeper.

James Potter told Dumbledore that Black would die rather than tell where they were, that Black was planning to go into hiding himself... and yet, Dumbledore remained worried. I remember him offering to be the Potters' Secret-Keeper himself."

— *Prisoner of Azkaban* (153)

But in what Sirius considered a perfect decoy, he convinced James and Lily to change to Peter Pettigrew at the last moment, believing that Voldemort would never imagine Peter to be the Secret Keeper of the Potters, whereas Sirius was much more obvious and was under Voldemort's radar. Sirius plan had been that Voldemort would chase Sirius and that would keep the real secret keeper, Peter Pettigrew safe. They decided to keep this changing of the Secret-Keeper at the last moment a secret among just the four of them - James Potter, Lily Potter, Sirius Black and Peter Pettigrew (leaving out, for reasons known to them, even Dumbledore). But Sirius' plan backfired, as Peter Pettigrew turned out to be the very mole that Dumbledore was suspecting. Even thirteen years after the blunder, having rotten in prison for twelve years and when his life had practically been finished, Sirius could still not forgive himself:

Lily and James made you Secret-Keeper because I [Sirius] suggested it...it must have been the finest moment of your miserable life, telling Voldemort you could hand them the Potters. (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 271)

The story did not end there. When confronted by Sirius in the street after Potter's deaths, Pettigrew blew up the street, cut off his own finger to fake his death and transformed into his Animagus form (some wizards can transform into a particular animal. Peter Pettigrew could transform in to a rat) to escape, leaving Sirius to take all the blame (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 267). Reminding one of legal theorist Giorgio Agamben's concept of the "state of exception", which took place in India under the name of Emergency, the Ministry of Magic used wartime emergency powers to strip citizens of their legal rights, prioritizing political optics over truth. Therefore, Sirius was thrown into prison without a trial and never got a chance to state before the court what actually happened. Conclusions regarding who had committed war crimes was

decided by public opinion and not by thorough investigation. Sirius was no history-sheeter, had fought against Voldemort, came from one of the best Wizarding families and had a clean record. Yet, it is a gross violation of human right that during the long period of thirteen years, no bail application was moved for him.

Although, most circumstantial evidence pointed to Sirius, if entitled to a proper defence, there was sufficient scope of proving his innocence, as most of the charges against him are weak and circumstantial and most likely to be dismantled under slight investigation. Bethany Barratt in her essay “Azkaban: Discipline, Punishment and Human Rights” points out that a witness who sees evidence that such an act, as a murder has been committed, without witnessing the act itself, can only give circumstantial evidence. For instance, as Barratt explains if witness A sees person B threatening to kill person C, goes away for some time and comes back to find person C dead, it would be circumstantial evidence for Witness A to claim that person B has killed person C, because the witness A has not seen the crime being committed with his own eyes. This demonstrates, according to Barratt, why circumstantial evidence should not be accorded the same weight in legal proceedings as direct evidence (39). Therefore, it would not be very difficult to create reasonable doubt regarding the events leading of Sirius’ crime of selling out the Potters to Voldemort.

The first work of any investigator or lawyer working to defend Sirius would be to dismantle the prosecution’s foundational assumption that Black was the Potter’s Secret-Keeper and had thereby leaked their location. It would not be easy task, as an eminent Magician like Professor Dumbledore had himself testified to the Ministry that Sirius had been the Potter’s Secret Keeper (We must remember that Dumbledore gave evidence based on what he knew then. He had no idea that at the last moment the Secret-Keeper had been changed to Peter Pettigrew from Sirius Black). The Magical world is not a world of telephonic conversations and most communication takes place by letters. There is a chance that a proper combing of the crime scene (where Harry’s parents were murdered) would most likely reveal a letter from Sirius or diary evidence of Lily or James or Sirius himself might possess a letter from the deceased James which would absolve him of the charge of being the Secret-Keeper and which mentions the change of the Secret Keeper at the right moment. If nothing is found, even then, the magical world has two more processes to verify that Sirius was speaking the truth. First, he could be given the option, to prove his truth, to drink *Veritaserum* (a magical potion which incapacitates a person from lying for a certain period after drinking it). Secondly, the magical world has a

device known as the penseive. It is like a dish in which a part of one's memory can be placed and can be entered into by other. Sirius could have been made to submit his authentic memory of the change of the Secret-Keeper and that would clearly prove that it was Peter Pettigrew, and not Sirius who had been the Secret Keeper and in that case, the question of leaking of information and being an accomplice of Voldemort in the murder of the Potters does not arise.

Once absolved of the first charge, the second charge of the murder of Peter Pettigrew and twelve Muggles becomes irrelevant, as Sirius has no motive to do it. Rather, the ball now lies in the court of the defence which will be able to introduce the verifiable existence of Peter Pettigrew. The witness of the two Marauders, Sirius and Lupin and a checking of the fact that Sirius was actually an unregistered animagus (a wizard who could turn into an animal) makes the story of Peter Pettigrew also being an animagus (a rat) credible as well. After all, if the then Hogwarts authorities had no clue about one of their students illegally becoming an animagus (one has to register to become an animagus and obtain license for it), there is no reason for the school authorities to know about existence of the other two illegal animagi as well. This raises reasonable doubt on the circulated theory that the maximum part of Peter Pettigrew that had survived in the blast had been his little finger. Rather, it builds up on Sirius' claim that Peter had himself cut off his finger to fake his death and escaped by becoming a rat (his animagus form). The magical world, which is a much more advanced world than the Muggle world, will definitely have a forensic department to determine whether the finger in question had been cut off in an ante-mortem or post-mortem state. This raises doubt on the very fact that Peter Pettigrew had at all been murdered and if no murder had taken place, Sirius cannot be a murderer. This leaves us with the last part of the charge, Sirius' blowing up of the street and thereby killing twelve Muggles (non-magical persons). But if that had been done by Sirius, the core residue of his wand (akin to a fingerprint) would be found at the site. But as Peter Pettigrew had done it himself (and though not mentioned in the text, his criminal psychology indicates he would have destroyed the wand), it would not be conclusive evidence that it was Pettigrew's wand that had done the misdeed. Moreover, since the records of the elements of wands sold to each witch or wizard is preserved, proving that the blowing up of the street was the act of a wand that did not belong to Sirius and had elements matching that of the one issued to Peter Pettigrew would not be difficult to prove. Even if it does not prove that Peter had executed the blast and the murders, it definitely proves Sirius' innocence in the matter. After all, the burden of proving a defendant's guilt lies on the prosecution, not the defendant. However, the researcher gets a feeling that the investigative agencies (Aurors) in

the magical world were more interested in incarcerating Sirius rather than find out the actual truth by joining together the clues. Moreover, the magical world has a spell *Priori Incantetum* (*Goblet of Fire*, 665-668) which allows one to find out the exact magical spell last performed by each wand. This would again prove that the last magic performed by Sirius's wand was neither blowing up of a street nor the murder of a human being. The cross-examination of Cornelius Fudge and Professor Dumbledore by the Defence Counsel would further help build up Sirius' case. Even if the Prosecution, with the cross-examination of Cornelius Fudge tries to build on the fact that eye-witnesses had claimed that Sirius was laughing hysterically at the scene of the Potter's death, it can be attributed to acute psychological; shock and hysteria following the loss of his closest friend and his wife and realizing that they had been betrayed by their closest friend and the fact that it was his plan that had backfired.

In her essay "Azkaban: Discipline, Punishment, and Human Rights" Bethany Barratt points out an important point which would be worth noting in this context. It is true that the evidence against Sirius had been circumstantial and proving him innocent would not have been difficult, provided he had been allowed a trial. The primary legal violation that Sirius has faced is that of the stripping him of his right to petition for a writ of *Habeus Corpus*. As Bethany Barratt points out *Habeus Corpus* is the oldest common law and can be dated as far back as the Magna Carta (36). And Sirius' being thrown behind bars indefinitely without a trial cannot be let off as a war-time emergency, because Barratt in her essay has talked about many such incidents in the magical world including the case of Morfin, (Voldemort's maternal uncle) who, as is mentioned earlier, is framed for the murders of the Riddles (Voldemort's father and paternal father) (*Half Blood Prince* 342-343). These murders had actually been committed by Voldemort himself (when he was still a school student) and a house-elf Hooch, who is framed for a murder of a witch Hebzibah Smith committed again, by Voldemort (*Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* 420-421) The fact that *Habeus Corpus* functions in a limited way in the magical world results in, according to Barratt "miscarriages of justice" (36). Morfin, no doubt, had a history of hate crimes against Muggles and received a three-year sentence for attacking a Muggle and resisting Ministry officials (*Half Blood Prince* 210-211), but the murder for which he was thrown behind bars had not been committed by him. Voldemort had committed the murder of his paternal family and a witch called Hebzibah Smith while still quite young in his career, and possessing from the beginning an astute criminal bent of mind, always found someone on whom the blame can be pinned - be it a person known for attack on Muggles or a house-elf. Moreover, as Barratt points out, we are, in the *Harry Potter* world dealing with a

world where identity can be changed at will and circumstantial evidence and mistaken identities can wreck havoc. As Barratt sums up the incident of Sirius Black, mistaken identity remains at the centre of the case and Pettigrew cleverly manages to create circumstantial evidence that will convict Sirius and clear his own name in not only the Potter murders but the subsequent Muggle murders. No one actually sees what happens, but the fact that Sirius is left standing in a blasted street, very near to the crime scene, creates powerful circumstantial evidence of Sirius' guilt (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 207-209). In fact, the circumstantial evidence is so convincing that it starts to shape other people's subsequent interpretation of events. For instance, Hagrid is probably the first person to meet Sirius at the Potters just after the murders of the Potters and was convinced that he must have been there because he was responsible, not because he was in mourning. As Hagrid recollects:

'I met him! Growled Hagrid. It was me what rescued Harry from Lily an' James house after they got killed...an' Sirius Black turns up, on that flyin' motorbike he used ter ride. Never occurred ter me what he was doin' there. I didn't know he'd bin Lily James' Secret-Keeper. Thought he'd jus heard the news o' You Know's attack an' come ter see what he could do. White an' shakin', he was. (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 153)

It never occurred to Hagrid that Sirius was at Godric's Hollow (the Potter's home where the murder took place) for the same reason Hagrid was there—in mourning and to rescue the injured child (especially because Sirius was the Godfather of the child.)

This somewhat reminds one of the most controversial death sentences of the history of post-Independence India—the judgment against **Dhananjay Chatterjee**—who was convicted and executed in August 2004 for the 1990 rape and murder of 18-year-old Hetal Parekh in Kolkata. While the judiciary proceeded with the case as “the rarest of rare case”; with the passing years, subsequent analytical studies and legal experts flagged severe investigation anomalies and systemic biases. The article “How India Might Have Hanged an Innocent Person” points out that the conviction was given entirely on the basis of circumstantial evidence and there were no direct eye-witnesses to the crime. Shantanu Mishra, then a 2nd year BA LLB Honours student at the National Law School of India University argues in a blog that the prosecution had failed to prove Dhananjay's guilty "beyond reasonable doubt," and there were circumstantial gaps in the time-line and the logical gaps are such that they cannot be over-looked even by a lay-man. Akash Krishnan, an alumni of ICFAI Law School Hyderabad lists

numerous anomalies in the investigation of the case. For example, as Krishnan points out, according to the testimonies of the security guard and the victim's mother, she had left the apartment at 05:20 PM. However, the liftman gave a contradictory statement that he had escorted her at around 04:10 PM. This contradiction was also ignored by the Honorable Courts. The exact time of the commission of offence could not be exactly matched with the autopsy report. According to the witness testimonies, Dhananjay entered the building around 5:25 PM and left around 5:45 PM. At this time, he also appeared on the balcony and spoke to the security guard. Thus, he only had less than 20 minutes to enter the apartment, overpower the victim and commit the offence, steal the said wristwatch, tidy himself and leave without a scratch. Poulami Dasgupta in her essay "Dhananjay Chatterjee - the Most Controversial Death Penalty" writes that the eyewitness's account of having seen Dhananjay on the victim's balcony could not be sustained during reanalyzing the facts because it was found that the balcony of the victim was not visible from the position at which the witnesses were standing at that time. As Ms Dasgupta further claims, when Mrs Parekh came back to her home from the temple and the deceased did not open the door, she immediately arranged for the door to be broken down, instead of trying to contact her daughter through the telephone or intercom.

Coming back to the main theme of the paper which focuses on the judicial violation of human rights of Sirius Black in the *Harry Potter* series, the narrative might make appear Barty Crouch Sr appear as a villain or a dictator, but it is not that simplistic. He took charge immediately after the fall of a one of the most ruthless dictators that children's literature had ever seen and was simply trying to take a hard line. At most, he can be called over-ambitious and power-hungry. Lord Voldemort had not only taken lives and broken families, but he had also broken hearts and the entire Magical Community wanted revenge. In order to deliver to his promise, Barty Crouch Sr forgot the difference between revenge and justice. As Sirius himself explains to Harry:

Well, times like that bring out the best in some people, and the worst in others. Crouch's principles might've been good in the beginning – I wouldn't know. He rose quickly through the Ministry, and he started ordering very harsh measures against Voldemort's supporters. The Aurors [the magical investigative agencies] were given new powers – powers to kill rather than capture, for instance. And I [Sirius] wasn't the only one who was handed straight to the Dementors without trial. Crouch fought violence with violence. (*The Goblet of Fire*, 457)

Barty Crouch Sr was not an evil man nor did he have personal grievance against Sirius. In fact, he had to his list of accomplishments the arrest and suppression of many ruthless supporters of dictators, like Bellatrix Lestrange, Rodolphus and astonishingly, his own son Barty Crouch Jr. In fact, he refused to show any kind of mercy even when the person accused was his only son and threw Barty Crouch Jr behind the bars as well, without a trial. All the three mentioned above were criminals of the highest order, but the question arises why he destroyed the life of Sirius Black without a proper investigation. The researcher in this case is comparing two very different cases - one fictional, one real, One English, another Indian, one taking place in 1981 (approximately if the timeline of all the seven books is combined) another in 1994. But what joins the two cases, apart from the fact that both relied heavily on circumstantial evidence is that both cases were heavily driven by media sensationalism and political pressure. In Dhananjay's case newspaper headlines and public rallies demanded his hanging even before the judicial process concluded. This intense societal pressure created a hostile environment, heavily biasing the lower courts and leading to a rush to judgment based on emotion rather than hard facts. In an article published in the Hindustan Times on 30th June 2004, the wife of the then Chief Minister of West Bengal and noted woman's right activist Ms Mira Bhattacharya considered the offence a "fit case" for capital punishment (Hindustan Times). In the same article, the then CM Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharya clearly expressed the state government's opinion in saying "In this case I am in favour of death sentence. I mean death by hanging. Yes, the message should go." The Telegraph on 22nd June 2004 carried news of Jyoti Babu expressing reservations over capital punishment. The Hindustan Times reports when questioned about Mr Basu's reservation about capital punishment, Mrs Bhattacharya said "I can't comment on what Jyoti Babu has observed. But, I am strongly in favour of execution particularly in this case of Hetal Parekh rape-cum-murder case." (*Hindustan Times*)

The case of the death of the Potters and a near fatal attack on their infant son had also touched a raw nerve in the magical society. The Potters had bravely fought against Voldemort and only Voldemort had disappeared while his followers were still wrecking havoc. Therefore, Barty Crouch Jr had no option to save his chair but to bow down to media sensationalism and find a scapegoat, and he found a ready-made one in Sirius. To expand on this, the researcher again goes back to what happened in the Dhananjay case as well and is what will keep happening when justice succumbs to political pressure, media and public sentiments. Be it fiction or the real world, law needs to take its own course. In countries where the judicial system is very slow, the slogan of "Do it Now" is definitely a welcome move. Justice needs to be speeded

up, because as we all know, in any country of the world, justice delayed is justice denied. The name of Sirius Black was cleared posthumously in the sixth book of the series, which is shameful for any judiciary (*Half-Blood Prince*). But at the same time, for justice to be delivered, legitimate time has to be given to investigative agencies so as to place a water-tight charge-sheet before the judicial system, so that justice can be delivered, not revenge. Judges should not be influenced by public opinion and let the law take its own course, rather than bow down to public opinion. Otherwise, cases like Sirius Black and Dhananjay Chattopadhyay would continue to be to scape-goats of the judicial taking away of human rights.

Another violation of human rights is the use of dementors as state tools of guarding the wizard prison. The use of Dementors- creatures that drain human happiness and sanity (in short are depression personified)—violates the fundamental human rights principle against cruel, in human or degrading treatment. As Professor Lupin explains to Harry:

Dementors are among the foulest creatures that walk this earth. They infest the darkest, filthiest places, they glory in decay and despair, they drain peace, hope and happiness out of the air around them...Get too near of Dementor and every good feeling, every happy memory, will be sucked out of you. If it can, the Dementor will feed on you long enough to reduce you to something like itself-soulless and evil. You'll be left with nothing but the worst experiences of your life. (*Prisoner of Azkaban* 140)

Dementors not only guard the wizard's prison, but also unleash immense psychological torture which is unbecoming of any judicial custody. Dementors are an absolute violation of human rights and prisoners' rights under in any country or any society if seen within real-world legal frameworks. The Ministry of Magic historically justified using Dementors because it kept the creatures satisfied (preventing them from breeding or migrating to Muggle areas) and made Azkaban (the wizard prison) impossible to escape. However, characters like Albus Dumbledore always maintained that relying on such foul creatures was a grave mistake—a sentiment that perfectly mirrors real-world human rights advocacy. Even after escaping, Sirius cannot clear his name because the legal apparatus is rigged against him. Even after escaping, as long as he lived, Sirius count not kill his name. The Ministry issues a “kiss on sight” (the procedure by which a Dementor sucks out the soul of a person) order (extrajudicial execution via a Dementor), effectively eliminating any opportunity for a retrial.

Sirius is forced into hiding, living in his despised childhood home (Grimmauld Place). He

remains trapped by the law even when physically free, demonstrating how a wrongful conviction inflicts a social death. Sirius Black's martyrdom is not merely a product of Peter Pettigrew's betrayal of a legal system that abandoned his principles for convenience and deprived a child of communication with his only magical legal guardian. Since both Sirius and Harry are of the same gender, therefore, passing an order of fortnightly supervised meeting or censured letters was Harry's rights. Sirius Black was posthumously cleared of all charges after he has killed during the battle of the Department of Mysteries in *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix*. While his name was cleared and acknowledged by high ranking officials, the exoneration came too late for Sirius to ever experience life as a free man. After all, Justice delayed is Justice denied.

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