Portraits of Injustice
A Campaign for Justice from the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms

Shahawar Matin Siraj
Devoted son; resident of Queens, NY

Targeted and convicted for his vulnerability.

Why do we target the most vulnerable people for entrapment?

Shahawar Matin Siraj is a young man with an IQ of 78 who worked in a bookstore. He was kind and loving, but also naive, simple, and easily manipulated. The New York Police Department paid its agent, Osama Eldawoody, $100,000 to entrap Shahawar in a bomb plot, which was entirely concocted by the NYPD. Eldawoody claimed Shahawar to be his “son,” drove him to work, and manipulated him to say hateful things, all the while secretly recording their conversations. Shahawar tried to withdraw from the plot several times, saying he needed his mother’s permission to participate. He refused to plant a bomb because he didn’t want to kill anyone, and let a second co-conspirator, James Elshafay, do it instead. Elshafay was so schizophrenic that the Court released him after his testimony against Shahawar. But Shahawar was sentenced to thirty years in prison.

How can you help?
Write to Attorney General Eric Holder, U.S. Dept. of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, call 202-514-2000, or e-mail AskDOJ@usdoj.gov.
Tell the Attorney General to review the case and to protect the most vulnerable, not entrap them.

For more information: National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms • Portraits of Injustice www.civilfreedoms.org • Email: info@civilfreedoms.org • Toll Free: (855) CIV-FREE