



Illinois Innocence Project

September 2020

In His Own Words – A Note from Our Client Amanuel

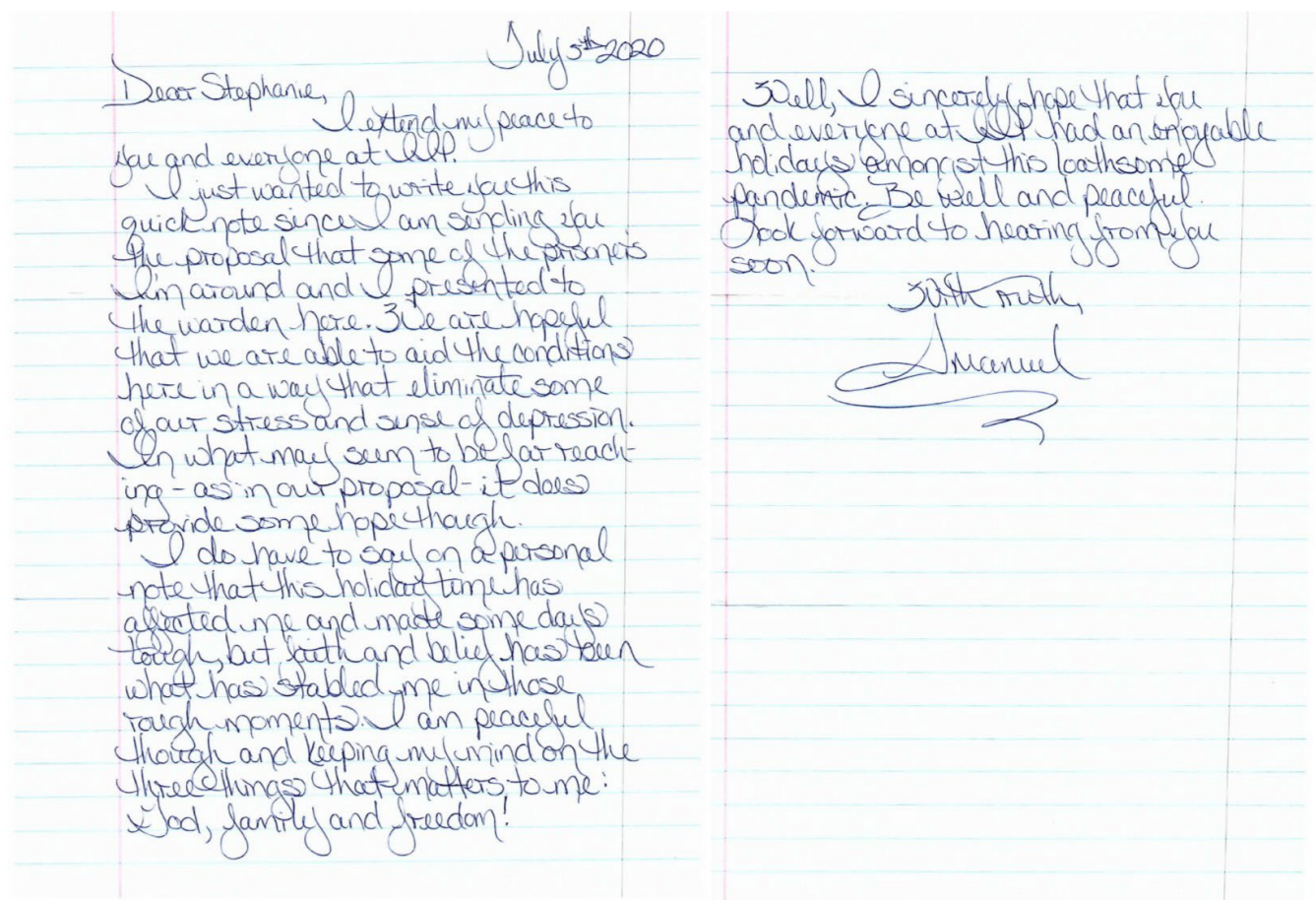
Wrongful convictions silence the voices of the innocent.

Our client Amanuel gave us permission to share with you a note he wrote to IIP Staff Attorney Stephanie Kamel over the July 4th holiday. He is so pleased for you to hear his voice in this way.

Amanuel has been fighting for 19 years to prove his innocence. He was home with his family when an attempted robbery and murder took place.

Months after the crime, a 14-year-old mentioned Amanuel's name while police interrogated him without a parent or attorney present. Amanuel, just 19 at the time, ultimately falsely "confessed" to participating in the crime when law enforcement threatened him with the death penalty.

We are currently conducting DNA testing along with video restoration of the parking lot where the crime occurred in our efforts to prove his innocence.



Student Spotlight – Vika Mujumdar



Hometown: Pune, India

UIS Majors: English and History

IIP project: Social Media

Graduation Date: May 2021

What brought you to the Illinois Innocence Project?

I was interested in the work that IIP does as a not-for-profit working to bring justice to the wrongfully convicted, especially after having heard my roommate Kyrianna and my friend Joseph talk about the amazing work the Project does! When I realized that despite being an English and History major, I could volunteer in an area other than casework, I was really excited to join IIP!

What inspired you to help build IIP's social media presence?

As an English major, in my internships which involved working with literary magazines, as well in classes taught by Dr. Hedge in English, I was really able to understand the crucial work digital spaces and social media do in sharing information and in engagement. Since I was interested in this specific area of work, I thought it would be interesting to volunteer to help out with redoing IIP's social media and using that space to educate and inform viewers of the Project's work!

Where are you studying this semester?

I am attending UIS remotely from Connecticut.