

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ABDUR NADHEERUL-ISLAM**

**(FORMERLY KNOWN AS PAUL GUILD)**

**W46510**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** July 10, 2018

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 7, 2019

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On May 18, 1989, in Suffolk Superior Court, Abdur Nadheerul-Islam<sup>1</sup> pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of Anthony Johnson and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He also pleaded guilty to several other crimes and received sentences of 4 to 5 years each for possession of a firearm, unarmed burglary, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and receiving stolen property. In addition, on September 7, 1990, in

<sup>1</sup> On January 6, 1999, the inmate changed his name from Paul Lawrence Guild to Abdur Nadheerul-Islam. Mr. Nadeerul-Islam has other aliases including Eric Arthur, Daniel Gibb, and Lizard Guild.

Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam pleaded guilty to manslaughter for the shooting death of Joseph Sargent and was sentenced to a concurrent term of 10 to 12 years.

On June 30, 1986, Abdur Nadheerul-Islam, age 18, went to his aunt's house, forced open the door to the bedroom of his cousin, a Boston police officer, and stole his .38 caliber revolver. At approximately 10:40 p.m. that evening, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, who was armed with the stolen gun, joined two or three of his friends, who were also armed, to "squash one particular beef." Mr. Nadeerul-Islam then decided to rob "some unsuspecting drug dealers," and came upon Joseph Sargent, age 29. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam robbed Mr. Sargent and then shot him in the abdomen. He was transported to Boston City Hospital, where he died later that evening. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam was subsequently arrested and charged with breaking and entering the officer's home and unlawfully carrying a stolen revolver. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam defaulted on both charges.

While on default, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, then 20, stabbed a man during a fight on Eustis Street in Boston on May 27, 1988. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam inflicted serious injuries, which included slicing his face.<sup>2</sup> Then, on June 17, 1988, approximately three weeks after the stabbing, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam shot and killed Anthony Johnson, age 21, in front of his home on Everton Street in Dorchester. At approximately 8:00 p.m., Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, armed with a shotgun, walked up to the gate of Mr. Johnson's driveway and fired two shots. One shot penetrated Mr. Johnson's right thigh. The second shot struck Mr. Johnson's left jaw and penetrated his neck, larynx, and carotid artery. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam then entered a waiting vehicle, operated by co-defendant William Samuels, and fled the area. Mr. Johnson was moved to Boston City Hospital, where he was pronounced dead later that evening. On August 20, 1988, Boston police arrested Mr. Nadheerul-Islam for the murder of Mr. Johnson and recovered a .357 Ruger magnum revolver and eight bags of heroin.

Following his plea of guilty for the second degree murder of Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam filed a motion to withdraw his guilty plea. After the Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court both denied this request in 2003, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam filed a petition for writ of *habeas corpus* in the United States District Court, which was dismissed in 2004.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 10, 2018**

Abdur Nadheerul-Islam, now 50-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for his review hearing on July 10, 2018. He was not represented by counsel. He had been denied parole after his initial hearing in 2003, and after his review hearings in 2008 and 2013. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam expressed remorse for his actions. He did not dispute the facts of the case of the governing offense. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam described himself as an angry young man with a troubled upbringing, wrought with verbal, emotional, and physical abuse from a young age. After his release from the Department of Youth Services, he gravitated toward life in the street; he was hanging out with the wrong crowd and began using drugs. The drug use, specifically heroin, only fueled his repressed anger. Mr. Nadeerul-Islam maintains, however, that he has remained sober during this commitment.

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<sup>2</sup> On May 19, 1989, Nadheerul-Islam pleaded guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in Suffolk Superior Court.

The Board discussed Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's institutional adjustment since his last hearing. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam is currently incarcerated at Old Colony Correctional Center, where he is employed by the chapel. He has incurred four disciplinary infractions since his last hearing. He has successfully participated in programs covering a variety of topics, including those recommended by the Department of Correction in his risk reduction plans. Since his last hearing, he has completed programming to include, but not limited to: Graduate Maintenance Program (GMP), Alternatives to Violence (AVP) (all phases), Violence Reduction, Anger Management, and Relapse Prevention. Additionally, he has become a facilitator for the AVP. Through his participation in GMP, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam has gained insight into the correlation of his addiction and criminal history. Mr. Nadeerul-Islam also explained how his participation in the Nation of Islam has provided him with values, such that he now recognizes life is sacred.

Several members of Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's family were present during the hearing, and his aunt and brother spoke in support of parole. Mr. Sargent's wife and son spoke in strong opposition to parole. A member of the Victim's Service Unit read a statement from the family of Mr. Johnson. Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni spoke in opposition to parole and submitted a letter of opposition, as well. The Boston Police Department also submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

### **III. DECISION**

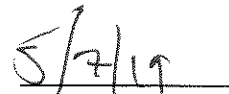
The Board is of the opinion that Abdur Nadheerul-Islam has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. His record establishes a serious level of danger and risk. Although he has done positive things in prison, there is a clear indication that he is not rehabilitated. A longer period of positive adjustment and compliance with his mental health and medication regime is necessary.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's risk of recidivism. The Board considered Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Nadheerul-Islam's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Abdur Nadheerul-Islam is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Nadheerul-Islam to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.*

  
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Shara Benedetti, Acting General Counsel

  
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Date