

Delve Deeper into *Presumed Guilty*

A film by Roberto Hernandez and Geoffrey Smith

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul A. Bareño of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming POV documentary *Presumed Guilty*.

*Imagine being picked up off the street, told you have committed a murder you know nothing about and then finding yourself sentenced to 20 years in jail. In December 2005 this happened to Toño Zúñiga in Mexico City and, like thousands of other innocent people, he was wrongfully imprisoned. The award-winning **Presumed Guilty** is the story of two young lawyers and their struggle to free Zúñiga. With no background in film, Roberto Hernández and Layda Negrete set about recording the injustices they were witnessing, enlisting acclaimed director Geoffrey Smith (The English Surgeon, *POV* 2009) to tell this dramatic story. A co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting.*

ADULT NONFICTION

Mexico

Dawson, Alexander S. *First World Dreams: Mexico since 1989*. New York: Zed Books, 2006. A look at Mexico's history over the last two decades with its transformed economy, but noting the ever-widening gap between the "haves" and the "have nots," continuing human rights abuses, and violent rebellion.

Meyer, Michael C. *The Course of Mexican History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2010. Ninth edition, fully updated, that features more coverage of women and gender, particularly in Mexico's modern area, as well as new chapters on 20th century Mexico.

Oster, Patrick. *The Mexicans: A Personal Portrait of a People*. New York: Rayo, 2002. Short biographies of a cross-section of Mexicans, interspersed with an analysis of political, economic, and social issues.

Ross, John, *El Monstruo: Dread and Redemption in Mexico City*. New York: Nation Books, 2009. The author, a journalist, covers Mexico and the region of the capital from the bottom up.

Judicial Justice in Mexico

Cartwright, William. *Mexico: Facing the Challenges of Human Rights and Crime*. Ardsley, NY: Transnational Publishers, 2000. This publication is the culmination of an intensive two-year investigation initiated by the International Human Rights Law Institute of the DePaul University College of Law on crime, drugs, and the human rights situation in Mexico.

Cornelius, Wayne A. and David A Shirk, (eds.) *Reforming the Administration of Justice in Mexico*. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007. Cornelius and Shirk explore the status and reform potentialities of the Mexican judicial system.

Donnelly, Robert A. and David A. Shirk (eds.) *Police and Public Security in Mexico*. San Diego, CA: University Readers, 2009. This compilation provides an assessment of Mexico's principal domestic security challenges. Includes articles by Guillermo Zepeda Lecuona: "Mexican Police and the Criminal Justice System."; and, María Eugenia Suárez de Garay: "Mexican Law Enforcement Culture: Testimonies from Police Behind Bars."

Finkel, Jodi S. *Judicial Reform as Political Insurance: Argentina, Peru, and Mexico in the 1990s*. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2008. Using the examples of Argentina, Peru and Mexico, this book suggests that while ruling parties can be induced to initiate judicial reforms, they often prove unwilling to implement these changes by enacting required legislation.

Uildriks, Niels A. *Mexico's Unrule of Law: Implementing Human Rights in Police and Judicial Reform Under Democratization*. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2010. New title to be published May, 2010. Uildriks explores the realities of Mexico's criminal justice reforms in this book, also available as an e-book.

Wrongful Conviction

Dwyer, Jim, Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck. *Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution and Other Dispatches from the Wrongly Convicted*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2000. Scheck and Neufeld run the Innocence Project which seeks to exonerate the wrongly convicted through DNA evidence. This book, written with journalist Dwyer, takes a look at ten of the cases the Innocence Project has freed.

Eggers, Dave and Lola Vollen, (eds.) *Surviving Justice: America's Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated*. New York, NY: McSweeney's, 2005. This compilation of stories about wrongfully convicted Americans illustrates the alarming number of innocent Americans currently behind bars.

Humphrys, John and Sandra Westervelt, (eds.) *Wrongly Convicted: Perspectives on Failed Justice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2001. Highly respected experts in the field of criminal justice have written essays, featured in this book, about wrongful conviction and the systemic causes of it.

ARTICLES

Justice in Mexico

Archibold, Randal C. "Mexican Prosecutors Train in U.S. for Changes in Their Legal System." *The New York Times*, 25 April 2009, p. A12. Mexico is gradually abandoning its centuries-old Napoleonic system of closed-door, written inquisitions. For the first time, defendants will be presumed innocent until proved guilty and courtroom doors will be thrown open to the public for oral trials.

Taylor, Michael C. "Why No Rule of Law in Mexico? Explaining the Weakness of Mexico's Judicial Branch." *New Mexico Law Review*, 10 April 2010, pp. 141-166. A recently published article about the current state of Mexico's judiciary system.



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About Presumed Guilty

Luhnow, David. "Presumption of Guilt." *Wall Street Journal*, 17 October 2009, p. W1.

Lengthy article about lawyers/filmmakers Negrete and Hernandez and the subject of their documentary, **Presumed Guilty**.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

12 Angry Men. A film by Sidney Lumet. Orion-Nova, 1957. TRT: 96 min.

This classic film portrays a poignant drama where a dissenting juror in a murder trial slowly manages to convince the others that the case is not as obviously clear as it seemed in court.

www.amazon.com

Juan Melendez – 6446. A film by Luis Rosario Albert. 2009.

Juan Meléndez - 6446 tells the incredible, true story of Juan Meléndez, who was sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. A Puerto Rican migrant farmer raised in New York City, Meléndez was accused of murder in the state of Florida.

***Mi Vida Dentro (My Life Inside)*. A film by Lucia Gaja. IMCINE, 2007. TRT: 120 min.**

This documentary profiles Rosa Jimenez, a teenage Mexican immigrant who is accused of committing murder in Texas.

<http://www.mividadentro.com/>

***Presumed Innocent*. A film by Alan Pakula. Mirage, 1990.**

TRT: 127 min. After his former girlfriend is killed and he becomes the prime suspect, D.A. Rusty Sabich (played by Harrison Ford) goes on a search to find the real killer.

www.amazon.com

