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The Honorable Dr. Yusef Salaam, Member of the New York City Council
Korey Wise, Activist
Raymond Santana, Activist
Kevin Richardson, Activist
Democratic National Convention
Thursday, August 22, 2024
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Korey Wise: My name is Korey Wise. Thirty-five years ago, my friends and I were imprisoned for a crime we did not commit. Our youth was stolen from us. Every day, as we walked into the courtroom, people screamed at us and threatened us—because of Donald Trump. He spent \$85,000 on a full-page ad in the *New York Times* calling for our execution. We were innocent kids. But, we served a total of 41 years in prison.

Reverend Sharpton stood with us. Now, I'm proud to stand with him. Kamala Harris has also worked to make things fairer. I know she will do the same as president.

Yusef Salaam: I am Yusef Salaam, New York City Council Member representing my hometown of Harlem. And, as my friend Korey just said, Trump wanted us dead. Today, we are exonerated because the actual perpetrator confessed. DNA proved it.

Trump says he still stands by the original guilty verdict. He dismisses the scientific evidence rather than admit he is wrong. He's never changed. He never will.

That man thinks that hate is the animating force in America. It is not. We have the constitutional right to vote. So, let's use it. Walk with us. March with us. Vote with us.

And together, on November 5th, we will sweep Kamala Harris and Tim Walz into the White House. When we do, America will finally say goodbye to the hateful Donald Trump. We will say what I said after seven long years of wrongful incarceration: "Free at last."

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