

# Media Advisory

Safe & Just  
Michigan

---

## ***Former juvenile lifers to share their stories, talk about their return home at event in Grand Rapids on Thursday***

GRAND RAPIDS — A panel of speakers who — while still children — were sentenced to die in prison will instead be sharing their stories of redemption and coming home at an event to be held at Calvin College in Grand Rapids Thursday. “**Life Beyond Life: Stories of Hope and Healing**” will be held at **7 p.m. at the Recital Hall in the Covenant Fine Arts Center at Calvin College, 1795 Knollcrest Circle SE in Grand Rapids on Thursday, Aug. 1**. This is a free event, but people interested in attending are asked to register at [bit.ly/Aug1LBL](https://bit.ly/Aug1LBL). This event will combine excerpts from videos from our storytelling project, located at [www.safeandjustmi.org/life-beyond-life/](http://www.safeandjustmi.org/life-beyond-life/), followed by a panel discussion. Panelists will include former juvenile lifers Safe & Just Michigan Community Engagement Specialist **Ronnie Waters, Ahmed Williams, Richard Griffin** and **Saulo Montalvo**. Former juvenile lifer **Jose Burgos**, who now serves as the Michigan campaign coordinator for the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, will act as moderator. CFSY and the Calvin Prison Initiative are co-sponsoring this event.

**WHO:** **Jose Burgos:** Michigan campaign coordinator for Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth and former juvenile lifer  
**Ronnie Waters:** community engagement specialist for Safe & Just Michigan and former juvenile lifer  
**Ahmed Williams, Richard Griffin** and **Saulo Montalvo:** former juvenile lifers

**WHAT:** Life Beyond Life: Stories of Hope & Healing

**WHERE:** Recital Hall – Covenant Fine Arts Center  
Calvin College  
1795 Knollcrest Circle SE  
Grand Rapids

**WHEN:** **Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024**

###

Safe & Just Michigan ([www.safeandjustmi.org](http://www.safeandjustmi.org)) works to advance policies that end Michigan’s over-use of incarceration and promote community safety and healing. We partner with Michigan organizations and leaders from across the political spectrum, including business and community leaders, faith communities, crime survivor organizations, formerly incarcerated individuals, prisoners and their families, as well as Michigan taxpayers statewide.