**The Kalif Browder Story**

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation

Course Name and Number

Instructor's Name

Date

**The Kalif Browder Story**

Kalief Browder was an African-American teenager who served three years in prison because the justice system failed to listen to his case for that duration. He was denied all alternative routes to freedom, such as bail, as he awaits his case because of an apparent probation violation. After serving the three years, the justice system heard his case, and he was released. However, the mental harm caused by his time in prison was so significant that he ended up taking his own life. The case of Kalief Browder displays the flaws of the justice system in the United States.

**How do the proposed functions of the criminal justice system compare to how the system functions in reality?**

The notion of innocent until proven guilty does not appear to be functional in real life. The justice system works by assuming that everyone is evident; therefore, it is the plaintiff's role to prove that the defendant is guilty so that the court can make a ruling. Before such a time comes, a suspect must be granted the full rights of a citizen. In Browder's case, he was assumed guilty when he was first arrested, and he remained within the corrections facility until the courts finally heard his case. The assumption that he was guilty also denied him the right to bail. A suspect pays bail, and then they can be free until such a point when their case would be heard. Because Browder was assumed guilty, the rules surrounding probation denied him bail. In doing so, he was presumed guilty when in reality, he was not.

**In what ways, if any, is the system "broken"?**

First, the bail that the court set was not realistic. Bail is supposed to be an amount that a defendant can quickly pay, but it is significant enough to return for their cases. In Browder's case, the rules surrounding bail were broken. The set bail was far higher than what the family could afford, and this was not just. The District Attorney's office has significantly more power than what is justifiable. The officer should not have enough power to keep a defendant in prison for such a prolonged duration. A court's ruling should have such ability. Because of this, the system can be termed as broken.

**Did the system fail Browder and if so who do you believe should be held accountable?**

The system failed Browder and as such, the entire justice system should be held accountable. First, the court accepted far too many postponements from the District Attorney's office, and this ended up denying Browder his right to due process. Therefore, they should be held accountable for failing to progress with the case. Second, the District Attorney's office should be held responsible for postponing a simple case when they probably knew that they lacked sufficient evidence to progress with the matter.

**Would I Face A Similar Experience?**

If I were in such a situation in modern times, the experience would be different. Courts typically make use of past decisions to make rulings. Therefore, they would analyze Browder's case and make a different decision. I would likely be granted bail, and the District Attorney's office would be forced by the court to hasten the case. After a few days or weeks, I would be released due to a lack of sufficient evidence.

In conclusion, Kalief Browder was an African-American teenager who served three years in prison because the justice system failed to listen to his case for that duration. An analysis on his case reveals the failures of the justice system in the United States. Based on the analysis of his case, every member of the judicial system should be held accountable.

**References**

*Time: The Kalief Browder Story*. 2017. [video] Directed by J. Furst. Washington D.C.: Spike and BET.