

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

RODNEY ARAIZA,)	
)	
Petitioner-Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	Docket No. 51046
)	
STATE OF IDAHO,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

Appeal from the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District of the State of Idaho, Ada County. Samuel A. Hoagland, District Judge.

Eric D. Fredericksen, State Appellate Public Defender, Boise, attorneys for Appellant.

Raúl R. Labrador, Attorney General, Boise, attorneys for Respondent.

This appeal comes to the Idaho Supreme Court on a petition for review from the Idaho Court of Appeals. After he was convicted of first-degree murder and participating in a riot, Rodney Araiza filed a post-conviction petition alleging actual innocence with a confession from a third-party and requesting DNA and fingerprint testing. The district court summarily dismissed Araiza’s petition, finding that DNA testing would not make it more likely than not that Araiza is innocent, and Araiza’s actual innocence claim was barred under res judicata. The district court entered a final judgment on September 11, 2020. Following a stipulation to re-enter judgment to address a Rule 60(b) motion Araiza filed, Araiza appealed to the Idaho Court of Appeals, which affirmed, concluding Araiza’s petition was untimely. On appeal, Araiza argues the district court erred in summarily dismissing his petition for post-conviction relief and erred by denying his request to allow DNA testing.