

# A man of conviction

A book made Tore Sandberg almost bankrupt, and revealed at least seven miscarriages of justice.



By William Graham

It all began with a book freelance writer Tore Sandberg received in 1991. Written by Sten Ekroth, the book described a miscarriage of justice in a murder trial. Per Liland was sentenced to lifetime back in 1970 for the murder of two men. Through the book, Ekroth argued in favour of Liland's innocence.

"I thought that this couldn't be right, and decided to spend some days collecting evidence confirming that the book was wrong," Sandberg explains.

But it turned out that Ekroth was right.

Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into years. Sandberg had been working on the case for three years when Liland was found not guilty and the Norwegian courts admitted that they had convicted an innocent man. As a freelancer Sandberg had to be creative to cover his own expenses, as no one was willing to cover them. A grateful Per Liland gave him some of his reparation funds.

## More miscarriages

Closing the Liland-case, Sandberg received requests to investigate other possible miscarriages of justice. He realised he had to change his business model, and began as a private investigator. In 1998 the largest Norwegian weekly magazine,

Se & Hør, hired Sandberg to investigate possible wrong convictions. Sandberg's company worked fulltime for the magazine a couple of years. Then started working for a broader scope of publications trying to demask wrongful convictions. "I'm convinced that there are more miscarriages of justice than those which have been uncovered", Sandberg says.

Working in this field means working with things that could have happened several decades ago, challenging Sandberg as he is collecting sources.

"I must collect as much original information as possible. In all the cases I've been working on, I have had access to the original documents relating to the case, but most importantly I need more paths to follow."

Even with some support from Se & Hør, the main problem is fund raising.

"My biggest problem working with these cases has been that they are huge projects that are financially demanding. But it's very exciting working with these cases," he says.

Above: Tore Sandberg and Fritz Moen 7th of October, right after Moen has been found not guilty for one of the murders he had served in prison for. Moen died in April 2005. In August 2006, after his death, Moen was acquitted for a second murder. PHOTO: SCANPIX

## Tore Sandberg

- Born in 1944 in Asker, Norway.
- Former journalist at The Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, NRK
- Private investigator.
- Has uncovered seven miscarriages of justice in Norway and worked with several others.
- Two of his most famous cases are the Liland-case and the Fritz Moen-case. Both men was accused of murder but later acquitted. Moen post-mortem.
- The Liland-case and the Moen-case has both been investigated after proven wrong. Norwegian media has afterwards been criticized for their lack of examination in the two cases. The Moen-case was not finalised until May this year, when the Storting, the Norwegian parliament, decided not to go through with an impeachment against high court-judges involved in the case.
- Tore Sandberg has received a number of prizes for his work. In 2007 a scholarship for investigative journalism was created in Sandberg's name by The Norwegian foundation for investigative journalism (SKUP).