

# SWORN STATEMENT NO.44

## FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY JAIL

**We do not have cell phone footage of abuses inside prisons and jails. I am reading the following sworn testimony from a person held in the Prince George's County Jail to lift this veil of secrecy and hold our justice system accountable.**

I am 24 years old. From October 2019 until May 2020, I was detained at the Prince George's County Jail in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Before I got sick, we didn't have access to masks. At that time, if you wanted soap to wash your hands, you had to buy it from commissary. They didn't allow us to protect ourselves from COVID-19. In March or April, the nurses at the jail started to come around twice a day to check our temperatures, but they didn't ask anybody if they had any other symptoms. All they cared about was your temperature.

I sometimes have seizures. One day in early April, I had a seizure on my housing unit. I was taken to the medical unit and they took my temperature. I had a high temperature, and the nurses told me I would have to go in an isolation cell. There was a Caucasian lady there who told me "don't go in there baby." Another guy also told me not to, that the last person in the isolation cell had COVID-19.

I refused to go, and the jail had to send the ERT to force me in. There was spit and snot on the walls that turned the walls a different color. The whole cell smelled like urine. I had nothing to clean it with.

In isolation, I couldn't call my family or my lawyer. I didn't have access to clean clothes or showers. I do not know exactly how long I was in isolation and on the medical unit, but I think almost a month. I went the whole time without showers or clean clothes.

I do not remember being tested for COVID-19, but the nurses told me that I had tested positive. It's possible I got tested while I was still out of it after the seizure, but I never got a copy of my test results. After I tested positive, I was treated like I was in the hole. I couldn't get commissary, couldn't call my family, couldn't shower, and had to live in a filthy cell. They punished me for being sick.

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I was in isolation for about five days before they moved me into a large cell with around six or seven other people in it. I was throwing up blood and I felt like I had a slight fever. I was sweating. I completely lost my sense of smell and taste.

Most of the time, the COs and nurses didn't even come around. They just ignored us. They would come around to give us our medicine and trays, and to take our temperatures through the door of the cell and then they would just leave.

I was begging my family to call up to the jail because I was not getting the proper healthcare I needed. I thought I was about to die. I only had about a month left on my sentence. I saw on the news people were dying. I didn't want to be one of them.