



COVID-19 Behind the Walls

Prisoner Report Dated May 17, 2020

5/17/20 JP WERDCC:

Ms. Harden, thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to share a little bit about what's happening here. Since I have written you, we have been issued another mask. We are still on modified movement as of today.

Let me tell you what that looks like in here. Work release does not go to work. Recreation, library and medical are done by housing units. There are no chapel services.

Other than that, we still move in huge groups. If you figure each housing unit has four wings, and each wing can hold ninety-six women, and there are three regular housing units, plus one house which houses treatment and R/O for all the new arrivals, you can see how easily moving by housing unit really doesn't change anything. We are still at risk, and we are still being moved like there is no social distancing.

We understand that this is prison, and many of our rights have been taken, but the one right that has not been taken is our right to be safe and to be treated in a humane way. It's time for someone to take a vested interest into the Department of Corrections. We need to be remembered. Some of us are fighting for our lives and are trying to get back to our lives and to our families.

Ms. Harden, we have recently had a couple of people try to kill themselves, and the sad thing is they came very close to succeeding. What's even more tragic—and dare I say insane—is how people walk around like it's nothing, like their lives don't matter. Mental health does not shepherd over the mindsets of the women in this Egypt. I reference Egypt because that is what it simulates here.

I speak from the place of working all the mandatory hours because we are considered essential workers.

Someone asked me was I afraid of the people retaliating, and I said yes, that could happen, and I guess if and when it does happen we will deal with it then. I must speak and I pray someone is listening,

By the way, what do you know about the men who were released from Rikers Prison? I think it was one hundred men released due to the Covid-19, and then they rearrested them. If you have any info on that, please send it to me. Keep safe and blessed.

5/17/20 AN ERDCC:

The brothers at ERDCC are experiencing conditions in Adseg that could proliferate the spread of Covid-19. The conditions in Adseg are already deplorable to begin w/, but w/ the emergence of Covid-19, Adseg has become an incubator for a Covid-19 explosion!

Some of the brothers have filed grievances on the conditions, but have been met w/ stiff resistance, some even being placed under investigation as a retaliatory measure, further keeping the brothers in Adseg when they wouldn't be otherwise.

These brothers are in dire need of assistance. The importance of keeping all areas sanitized and implementing preventative measures can't be overemphasized. We know that inmates in Adseg are treated diametrically different than those inmates in general population. But when a threat of this magnitude is on the precipice, there is no room for differentiating. Covid-19 doesn't care if you are in Adseg, P.C. or general population. Nor should inmates be punished, like being placed under investigation, because they file grievances due to concern about their health.

Somebody needs to make calls to Jeff City, ERDCC, Wardens, State Reps, organizations that advocate for inmate rights, etc. We need to make sure that the brothers in Adseg have access to masks, cleaning supplies, and whatever else they need in order to combat this pandemic. Plus, we need to protect their rights; they should never be retaliated against because they choose to defend their rights.

I'll be contacting you very soon to do a check-in. I will be trying to contact various factions, be it social, legal or political, to disseminate this info as well. Talk to you soon.

Aryan