



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

*Office of the Assistant Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW - RFK
Washington DC 20530*

October 1, 2024

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp
Governor of Georgia
Georgia State Capitol
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: CRIPA Investigation of Georgia Prisons

Dear Governor Kemp:

The Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Offices for the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Georgia have conducted an investigation of Georgia's prisons under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997. Consistent with the statutory requirements of CRIPA, 42 U.S.C. §1997b(a)(1), we write to provide this Notice of the alleged conditions that we have reasonable cause to believe violate the Constitution of the United States. The attached findings report details the supporting facts giving rise to those violations and the minimum remedial measures that we believe may remedy those alleged conditions.

After carefully reviewing the evidence, we conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that conditions in Georgia's prisons violate the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These violations are pursuant to a pattern or practice of resistance to the full enjoyment of rights protected by the Constitution and federal law. Specifically, we find that Georgia fails to protect individuals incarcerated at the medium- and close-security levels from violence and harm by other incarcerated persons in violation of the Eighth Amendment. We also find that Georgia fails to protect incarcerated people from harm caused by sexual violence, and fails to adequately protect people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex ("LGBTI") from a substantial risk of serious harm from sexual violence and abuse by staff and other incarcerated people, in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The attached report details the supporting facts giving rise to those violations and the minimum remedial measures that we believe may remedy those alleged conditions.

We hope to resolve this matter through a cooperative approach and look forward to working with the State and GDC leadership to address the violations of law we have identified. The lawyers assigned to this investigation will contact counsel for the State for such discussions.

Please note that in the event we are unable to reach a resolution regarding our concerns, CRIPA authorizes the Attorney General to initiate a lawsuit 49 days after issuance of this notice letter to correct the alleged conditions we have identified. 42 U.S.C. § 1997b(a)(1). Please also note that this notice letter and accompanying report are public documents. They will be posted on the Civil Rights Division's website.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Regan Rush, Acting Chief of the Special Litigation Section, at 202-532-5675.

Sincerely,



Kristen Clarke
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc:

Christopher M. Carr
Attorney General
State of Georgia

Tyrone Oliver
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Corrections

Carmon Edwards
Warden, Arrendale State Prison

DeShawn Jones
Warden, Augusta State Medical Prison

Curtis Carter
Warden, Autry State Prison

Walter Berry
Warden, Baldwin State Prison

Meosha McMillan
Warden, Burruss CTC

Trevonza Bobbitt
Warden, Calhoun State Prison

Teketa Jester
Warden, Central State Prison

Phillip Glenn
Warden, Coastal State Prison

William Danforth
Warden, Coffee Correctional Facility (CoreCivic)

Michael Thomas
Warden, Dodge State Prison

Gregory Sampson
Warden, Dooly State Prison

Jessie Williams
Acting Warden, Emanuel Women's Facility

Shawn Emmons
Warden, Georgia Diagnostic and Classification State Prison

George Ivey Jr.
Warden, Hancock State Prison

Joshua Jones
Warden, Hays State Prison

Sidney Carter
Warden, Jenkins Correctional Facility (CoreCivic)

Kochelle Watson
Warden, Johnson State Prison

James Spann
Warden, Lee State Prison

Timothy Sales
Warden, Macon State Prison

Aimee Smith
Warden, McRae Women's Facility

Allen Dills
Warden, Metro Re-Entry Facility

Tracy Page
Warden, Montgomery State Prison

Aaron Pineiro
Warden, Phillips State Prison

Karen Flowers
Warden, Pulaski State Prison

Fredrick Head
Warden, Riverbend Correctional and Rehabilitation Facility (GEO Group)

Sandi West
Warden, Rogers State Prison

Scott Wiza
Warden, Rutledge State Prison

Joe Williams Jr.
Warden, Special Management Unit

Jacob Beasley
Warden, Smith State Prison

Andrew McFarlane
Warden, Telfair State Prison

Acting Warden
Valdosta State Prison & Valdosta Annex

Jeanie Kasper
Warden, Walker State Prison

Roy Odum
Warden, Ware State Prison

Veronica Stewart
Warden, Washington State Prison

Shawn Gillis
Warden, Wheeler Correctional Facility (CoreCivic)

Myra Orsborn
Warden, Whitworth Women's Facility

Charles Mims
Warden, Wilcox State Prison

Roderick Clanton
Warden, Long Unit State Prison

Ryan Buchanan
United States Attorney
Northern District of Georgia

Peter Leary
United States Attorney
Middle District of Georgia

Jill Steinberg
United States Attorney
Southern District of Georgia

Attachment: Report of Investigation of Georgia Prisons