

SWORN STATEMENT NO.40

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 was incarcerated at the Prince George's County Jail in Upper Marlboro, Maryland from about April 22, 2020 to May 22, 2020. I contracted COVID-19 while being detained at the jail and tested positive for the virus at the end of May.

When I first arrived at the jail, the guard chained me up to a bench in the back room for 6 hours. People would pee on the floor and we would wait hours for anyone to clean it up. We were all close beside each other chained to the bench.

Soon after I first entered the jail, I started having symptoms of COVID-19. I had pain in my body and I began throwing up. I began coughing and I had an ear infection. I couldn't hear and I couldn't speak. I talked to my mother and she told me to get tested.

Sometimes the nurses would come through and take your temperature through a slot. They would put the temperature gun to your head and that was it. They didn't ask any questions. I told the COs I was coughing and I would put money in for the sick call form, but they never came.

It took them about a week for anyone to send me to medical. Once I got to medical, I wasn't tested. They threw me right back into the cell – with the same cellmate.

When we would ask questions about COVID, the COs would not respond. The COs would even say things like "get away from me you have the corona." They were scared to come around us. They were not treating us right. We didn't get books or anything to read when we were in the cell for 23 hours a day.

The soap they gave us was little. Sometimes when other people would leave we had to beg the guards to let us use their soap.

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Now that I am home, I still have been coughing. I was not even told I had the virus. The health department called my mother. My mother had to tell me. I still can hardly taste my food now. Sometimes I wake up in the morning and have mucus that does not look like mucus.

This happens every other day and I cannot breathe.