

SWORN STATEMENT NO.20 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. This testimony was taken in April 2020.

I went to the medical unit about two weeks ago. While there I saw an inmate from the kitchen unit who was lying down in the bullpen. He had a mask on, was breathing very hard and his eyes were very red. I was only coming there for a toothache check. When I saw him I refused to go into the bullpen and the correctional officers kept telling me to go in there to wait to be checked. I refused medical treatment for my tooth pain so that I could get out of there as soon as possible.

We are only finding stuff out from the news, calling out to our families, and the correctional officers that actually care about us would tell us what was going on.

Last week, the health department came here with the news and we were locked in our cells. We didn't get to communicate with them and they didn't tell us why they were there.

A few days later a correctional officer came into the unit and told us what was wrong; saying that the jail was being checked out due to the COVID-19.

Social distancing is not being practiced or strictly enforced. I can recall only one correctional officer mentioning about keeping space between us.

There are inmates saying they can't smell or taste.

The past couple days my nostrils have been burning and my sense of taste is limited. I'm not sure what is going on.