

# MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY (PARCHMAN) INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

On April 20, 2022, following an extensive investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi notified the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) that it had reasonable cause to believe that the conditions at Parchman violate the constitutional rights of persons incarcerated at the facility.

In summary, the Department of Justice identified the following:

- **MDOC fails to protect incarcerated persons from violence at the hands of other incarcerated persons, resulting in an abundance of weapons, drugs, gang activity, extortion, and violence, including 10 homicides since 2019.**
- **MDOC fails to provide adequate mental health care and has too few qualified mental health professionals on staff to meet the serious needs of the persons incarcerated at Parchman.**
- **MDOC fails to take adequate suicide prevention measures, resulting in 12 suicides in the past three years.**
- **MDOC prolongs the time incarcerated persons, including those with serious mental health needs, spend in restrictive housing, subjecting them to conditions that increase the likelihood of harm from psychological deterioration.**

Now that the investigation into Parchman is complete, our goal is to work with MDOC to resolve the identified constitutional violations and implement remedial measures. Our investigation of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility, South Mississippi Correctional Institute, and Wilkinson County Correctional Facility remains ongoing.

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**If you have any questions, ideas for reform, or comments, please feel free to contact the DOJ team:**

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**or**

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