



## U.S. Department of Justice

### Civil Rights Division

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*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