THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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Contact:

Redmond Haskins
The Legal Aid Society
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Mayor Adams' Correction-Related Announcement

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to Mayor Eric Adams' correction-related announcement:

"That the Mayor visited Rikers Island and did not take responsibility for the deaths of nine people who have died in City custody this year, including the two New Yorkers since Sunday, is both irresponsible and callous.

This is emblematic of how City Hall views incarcerated people as second-class citizens, guilty until proven innocent and unworthy of compassion. The rhetoric about highly militarized searches for weapons and drugs ignores that the overwhelming majority of drugs smuggled into the jails are carried by correction officers, and exacerbates the sense that this Administration continues to be in denial about the realities on Rikers Island.

Mayor Adams and Commissioner Molina have not acted with urgency and commitment to run the jails with even basic levels of correctional competence. While Mayor Adams makes these press announcements, people held inside the jails are unsupervised as staff continue to stay home from work with impunity and basic jail services remain in limbo. The extraordinarily high death rate on Mayor Adams' watch, and the suffering of all who are kept in abysmal conditions inside, are a humanitarian crisis that this Administration seems incapable of rectifying any time soon."

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