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Please attribute to Tina Luongo, Attorney-In-Charge of the Criminal Defense Practice at The Legal Aid Society:

“Layleen Polanco’s death is an absolute tragedy, and her passing further underscores the dangers of solitary confinement, which isolates already medically fragile people from observation and care. We demand utmost transparency and rigor in the investigation of the correctional and medical policies and decisions surrounding her treatment and her placement in isolation. Lastly, Layleen’s passing demands that Mayor Bill de Blasio prioritize the immediate closing of Rikers Island. He must also end his Administration’s punitive solitary confinement policy, which has already claimed the lives of too many New Yorkers.”

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