



FEBRUARY 24, 2022

CONTACT:

Redmond Haskins
rhaskins@legal-aid.org
(929) 441-2384

Color Of Change
Media@colorofchange.org

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

On the Last Day of Black History Month, Defenders, Advocates and Impacted New Yorkers to Rally at Rikers Island Demanding the Decarceration of Local Jails

(NEW YORK, NY) - On Monday, February 28, 2022 at 12:00 PM, the Black Attorneys of Legal Aid Caucus (BALA), Color Of Change, Freedom Agenda, VOCAL-NY, elected officials, impacted New Yorkers and others will rally outside the gates of Rikers Island on the last day of Black History Month to demand the immediate decarceration of all people currently remanded to New York City jails.

The rally comes amid continued reports of the ongoing suffering of Black and Latinx New Yorkers, who make up 90 percent of people held in the City's jails. Activists have long been [calling on](#) local officials to put an end to this mass incarceration crisis, demanding that New York City District Attorneys take immediate action to reduce the population.

In 2021 alone, 16 New Yorkers [lost their lives](#) in City jails and individuals still [lack access to critical medical care](#). City officials and the Department of Correction continue to threaten the safety of the New Yorkers in its custody. On Monday, activists will gather to call for their immediate release.

WHAT: Rally at Rikers Island demanding the immediate release of all incarcerated New Yorkers

WHO: The Black Attorneys of Legal Aid Caucus, Color Of Change, Freedom Agenda, VOCAL-NY, elected officials, impacted New Yorkers and others

WHEN: Monday, February 28, 2022 at 12:00 PM

WHERE: Outside the gates of Rikers Island

###