

**Testimony of Anonymous NYIFUP Client of The Legal Aid Society  
Before the New York City Council Immigration Committee  
February 28, 2022**

When I first arrived at Orange County Jail at the end of December, I was put into quarantine for two weeks. During that time, I was in my cell all day, with only short beaks to use the restroom. Sometimes the guards would bring meals to us in our cells, other times they would open the door and have us come out and pick it up. When I did get meals, it was not enough food. A typical meal would be a bit of pasta, some crackers, and a slice of bread. The only vegetable we ever got was string beans. Sometimes there would be a little meat in the pasta sauce, but that was it. We don't know any fruit here.

My biggest issues in quarantine were having enough water. We had a little cup of water, which we could fill during meal times. We would ask officers to let us get more water during the day, but they wouldn't answer. They wouldn't say no, they would just ignore us, no matter how often we asked. One week into quarantine, I was sent to a doctor for a check up. She told me that my kidneys were being affected and told me that I really needed to take in a lot of fluids. I was really worried that I wouldn't be able to do what the doctor told me to do. When I got back to my cell, I asked the officer for water and he said no. I told him what the doctor said but he didn't want to get it for me or let me get it for myself. I didn't get water for the rest of the day except a little cup with dinner.

When I was released from quarantine, we still had issues with food: not getting enough, not getting protein or fruits and vegetables. I know that there have been times when the officers have made racist comments because my friends have told me, but I don't speak English so I try to ignore it. There are some officers who we are all concerned about. There was an incident when six or seven officers attacked one man. One of the officers put his knee on his neck, he said he couldn't breathe, but they wouldn't move. An African inmate near me was trying to go down to help the one who was being punished, but we told him not to because we knew they would hurt him too. They made us go back into our cells and I don't know what happened next.

I just want to get out of here and be back with my family. I have three young children and they cry every time they see me on the video calls because they miss me.