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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***Statement on Nunez Independent Federal Monitor Special Report Concerning Abuse in New York City Jails***

(NEW YORK, NY) – Mary Lynne Werlwas, Director of the Prisoners’ Rights Project at The Legal Aid Society, released the below statement responding to a special [report](#) filed by Steve J. Martin, independent Federal Court-appointed Monitor in [Nunez v. City of New York et. al.](#), concerning misuse of force in New York City jails:

“The report confirms that New York City’s abuse of the thousands of people it holds in City jails is a public health and human rights disaster unparalleled in the United States.

The report details the current administration’s inability to manage its oversized corrections workforce, which continues to abuse sick leave, and to meet minimum standards of competence and decency in the jails.

The Monitor confirms that DOC has been unsuccessful in curbing excessive staff absenteeism despite the agency’s claims to the contrary, and further reports new and deeply troubling facts about the new administration’s firing of the head of its investigation division and its abandonment of core security practices in the jails.

The alarming examples of injury, abuse, and mismanagement cited in the report confirm what we hear from clients - that every minute they are in City custody, they are at serious risk of harm that has become the norm. New York City cannot tolerate this status quo.

We will be following the Monitor’s recommendation to immediately address these matters with the City.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*