

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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

Statement in Response to Forthcoming Reports and Court Conference on Nunez Monitor's Alarming Special Report of Continued Violence Suffered by Incarcerated New Yorkers at Local Jails

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Judge Laura Taylor Swain's [order](#) granting Plaintiffs' [request](#) for a court conference in *Nunez v. City of New York et. al.*, litigation concerning brutality and excessive force in New York City jails, scheduled for June 13, 2023, at 9:30 AM regarding the Monitor's [special report](#) of recent deaths and the City's astonishing refusal to provide information to the Monitor:

“This Administration has taken extraordinary measures in the last several months to keep secret the violence that it inflicts on people held behind its closed doors, and must be held accountable to the federal court and the public.

“The attempts to hide the shocking brutality described in the Monitor's reports — by failing to report incidents through normal jail reporting channels, withholding information from a court-appointed Monitor, prematurely claiming ‘no foul play’ in a death later revealed to be caused by a skull fracture — cannot be countenanced.

“Even more alarming, these efforts to hide information and limit transparency are part of a consistent pattern in which DOC has sought to keep outside eyes away from Rikers Island. The Department has limited Board of Correction access to video, abruptly ended long-standing contracts with external program providers, and demonstrated transparency failures reaching back to the concerns expressed by the Monitor in his March 16, 2022 [special report](#). The City cannot be permitted to isolate the jails from outside oversight, especially at a time when so many people are suffering severe harm and death.

“The culture of impunity and violence in New York City jails persists unabated and will continue to do so until an authority independent of the City, such as a federal receiver, is permitted to intervene and do what this Administration cannot or will not do to address the ongoing catastrophe plaguing the Department of Correction. We look forward to reading the City's report ordered by the Court and hearing an accounting for these atrocities at the conference.”

Background

Pursuant to Judge Swain's order, members of the press and the public may access the audio feed of the June 13, 2023, hearing by calling 888-363-4734 and using access code 1527005# and security code 4999#.

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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 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org