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

***Statement on Memorandum of Agreement Between NYS and NYSCOPBA
Allegedly Ending the Unlawful Correctional Workers' Strike***

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to a [memorandum of agreement](#) between the State of New York and New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA) allegedly ending the unlawful correctional workers strike:

“Although Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Commissioner Daniel F. Martuscello III and NYSCOPBA leadership have signed an agreement aimed at ending the illegal strike, the threat to incarcerated New Yorkers persists.

“Without a clear plan to swiftly restore essential services, resume legal and family visits, provide medical care neglected during the strike, and implement strong oversight to prevent retaliation by returning correctional staff, the people we serve in DOCCS facilities across the state will continue to face life-threatening harm.

“Compounding these concerns, DOCCS has doubled down on a purported ‘suspension’ of HALT, the vague terms of which threaten a boundless and illegal circumvention of critical legal protections for incarcerated New Yorkers. All incarcerated New Yorkers, their families, friends, and communities, deserve to know what DOCCS is doing to comply with HALT, and we are going to court to ensure they have that clarity.

“The Legal Aid Society will continue to closely monitor this situation to ensure the well-being of those we represent and safeguard their legal rights.”

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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 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. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>