

Petition to the Public

Date: 07/2/2020

"I CANNOT BREATHE!" was what George Floyd cried out when the law enforcement officer kept his knee on his neck while George Floyd was helpless, defenseless and begged for his dear life.

"I CANNOT BREATHE!" we all ICE detainees cry out here at Etowah County Detention Center in Unit 9, as we too feel helpless, defenseless and beg for our dear lives. The law enforcement is keeping their knee on our neck by forcing us to live in an enclosed space occupied by more than 110 detainees.

Everyone in this unit is now sick for past week and as of today this whole unit is quarantined from people going in and out.

This civil detention has become a death sentence. Who do we cry for help that we don't want to die in this jail!? Our basic civil rights to life and safety instead has become subject to cruel and unusual punishment, jeopardizing our constitutional rights to liberty and justice.

Fear, anxiety, depression and threat to our lives plague our wellbeing as we are not so sure if some of us will ever get to see our children, wives, brothers, sisters, family and friends again. Will they just also dig a mass grave to accommodate lost lives of detainees to Corona Virus? We detainees feel just a little bit of what George Floyd must have felt crying out for help, each minute and every second became each minute and every second closer to his death. He couldn't say good bye or see his mother or any of his family and friends before he was murdered. The life slowly drifted out of his body as he lay flat on the ground, handcuffed and knee pressed to his neck.

OUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER IN THIS JAIL! They are not giving us testing or any substantial relief to stop the spread of infection. No social distance is feasible with the Pod filled to its max capacity. How are we supposed to survive in this controlled and suffocating environment?

Deportation? What deportation? Hundreds of thousands of lives are being lost on the outside due to Corona Virus and government led by Donald Trump is worried to enforce detention and deportation of some immigrants. Skewed priorities due to the political agendas are jeopardizing human lives and it is clear negligence on the part of this administration.

All detainees here at Etowah County Detention Center plead to the People of The United States and around the world that don't let the law enforcement once again under the banner of 'protection' take another human life. Their obligation to duty has trampled our need to simply breathe, to simply live. In these out of ordinary circumstances and times, **our civil detention needs to end**, because one day more locked away with this virus is one day where we are physically and mentally tortured by the U.S government.