



CONDITIONS INSIDE THE WOMEN'S COUNTY JAIL

Mark-Anthony Clayton-Johnson

Chairperson of Sybil Brand Commission

Co-Executive Director of Dignity and Power Now

Member of the JusticeLA Coalition



UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS VISIT LOS ANGELES

Save the Date:

April 29, 2023
9am - 1pm PT

The UN is *in town* to hear testimonies from the Black community. Come to support those giving testimony.



Los Angeles Community Action Network (LACAN) 838 East 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90021 United States



LIVE

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032037228>



FOR MORE INFO: unarc.org/emlers-visit-to-the-united-states



ORGANIZED BY:



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“The process of being in the women’s jail is dehumanizing. Pre-housing is filthy and nasty. There was no screening process, so I was in the same space as people having mental health breakdowns. Once housed, we are placed on 23 and 24 hour lockdowns on alternating days. You have to shower, make phone calls, collect mail--if they give it to you--in that short period which ends up being about 30 mins every other day.”

-Testimony from Robyn to UN re:
incarceration in CRDF in 2020



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“You always have to be quiet so they can hear their radios. We didn’t have reading materials. We were just stuck there in our own heads. Being in my head wasn’t a good space to be in, and because of these isolating conditions and because I was facing 25 to life, I had an anxiety attack. Despite thinking I was having a heart attack, they were very slow to give me medical attention. Eventually I was seen and placed on a 5150 hold.”

-Testimony from Robyn to UN re: incarceration in CRDF in 2020



BREAKING THE SILENCE:

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM MEDICAL NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF WOMEN OF COLOR IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAILS



-
- There is alarming consistency amongst the documented testimony of Black women over the last 9 years. A throughline between this testimony points to the same patterns of medical negligence, dehumanizing and abusive behavior by deputies, and negative mental health outcomes.

THE SILENCE: CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM MEDICAL NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF WOMEN OF

I. Understanding the Vulnerability of Incarcerated Women of Color to Medical Neglect and Abuse

Nina's Story

"I wanted to see a doctor and couldn't. That's why I jumped."

—Nina

In September 2014, Nina,¹⁰ a forty-seven year old African-American woman, was detained at the Century Regional Detention Facility ("CRDF"). After two weeks at CRDF, she attempted suicide by jumping off of a second-story balcony.

Prior to her incarceration, Nina had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and depression. During her incarceration at CRDF, Deputies denied Nina access to any medical professionals and to any medication. For those two weeks, they confined her to her cell for all but 30 minutes a day. Nina had no

professionals treated her foot, blood pressure, and bipolar disorder, Nina was forcibly confined to her bed. Staff forced her to relieve herself in a bedpan in front of a male guard, despite her repeated protests. Staff also forced her to lie in her own filth—a nurse washed her only once in two weeks. Weakened, humiliated, and depressed, Nina lost the will to eat for almost a week.

After her hospital stay, Deputies handcuffed Nina to a gurney and transferred her to Twin Towers Correctional Facility. No doctors consulted with her at Twin Towers. Instead, officials fed her a generic painkiller and an anti-anxiety drug known as Clonazepam or Klonopin, which these officials said would stop Nina from complaining about her treatment. Deputies, mostly men, regularly called her crazy and systematically denied her requests to see a doctor, a psychiatrist, a physical therapist, or a clinician of any kind.

Nina's Story *"I wanted to see a doctor and couldn't. That's why I jumped."* —Nina In September 2014,

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ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

CENTURY STATION
CENTURY REGIONAL DETENTION FACILITY

INMATE VISITING ↓





Sybil Brand Commission For Institutional Inspections

Courts_____ Jails X Sheriff Stations_____

COMMISSIONER(S): Grills and Clayton-Johnson TIME 9:20am DATE 2/17/23

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| FACILITY NAME: | CRDF |
| ADDRESS: | 11705 Alameda St Lynwood, / LASD SUPERVISOR CONTACTED Watch commander on Duty: Lt. Mullings |
| Census: | (Capacity: <u>2336</u>) (Current Census: (<u>1463</u>) |
| Location(s) Inspected: | 3500, 3800, Medical- Main Clinic |
| Issues Reported to: | BOS X Officer in Charge LASD ISD OIG COC |

RATING: S = Satisfactory U = Unsatisfactory CA = Corrective Action Needed N/A = Not Applicable

| ITEMS | RATING | COMMENTS |
|--|-----------|---|
| 1.Conditions of Confinement | | |
| Cells/Toilets/Sinks | CA | Some sinks and toilets not working |
| Showers (water temperature, rust, mold etc.) | CA | Rust, mold, needing deep cleaning |
| Crowding | S | |
| Cleanliness/Graffiti | US | Deep cleaning needed in showers; shower mats need to be replaced. |
| Safety, Conflict, Tension | | |

“Why don’t you go cut yourself, isn’t that what is in your file?”

Quoted comment from a deputy to Ms.F (currently incarcerated in CRDF), in February of 2023

MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL CLOSURE PLAN:

ACHIEVING A CARE FIRST VISION



MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL CLOSURE PLAN:

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Recommendation:

- The Civilian Oversight Commission can approve a resolution that echoes the chorus of multiple county entities including Department of Health Services, Correctional Health Services, and members of the Sheriff's Department and the Board of Supervisors which says **the jails must be depopulated**. Such a resolution would align with the federal judge who is currently deliberating on whether the county will be found in contempt for failing to meet DOJ mandates, and in the most recent hearings, directly cited the county's own [Men's Central Jail Closure Plan](#). Such a resolution would urge the Board to emphasize decarceration and take heed of this very plan, which names the need to depopulate CRDF specifically. Such a resolution would be a meaningful, responsive, and necessary display of this Commission's authority.