



Justice Champ Lyons
 Senator Clyde Chambliss
 Senator Cam Ward
 Senator Bobby Singleton
 Representative Chris England
 Representative Jim Hill
 Representative Connie Rowe
 Director Kelly Butler
 Commissioner Jeff Dunn
 Attorney General Steve Marshall

To the 0 H P E H U V R I W K H * R Y H U Q R U . V & U L P L Q D O - X V W L F H 6 W X G

The carnage in our prisons has continued unabated.

On December 20, 2017, Alabama's for Fair Justice held a press conference in which coalition members invoked the names of twenty people who have been killed by homicide, suicide, or overdose in Alabama prisons this year. Searcy Ray, whose son Steven Davis was to be by correctional officers in October, urged Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner Jeff Herd to act. He told the crowd that some of the officers involved in the deaths were members of ADOC. But rather than meaningful action, we have seen in the days since at least five more men die in Alabama prisons.

Since the press conference, ADOC has confirmed the deaths of Michael Smith, Willie Leon Scott, Cornelius Jackson, Byron Tubbs, and Brandon Ladd. Like Davis, Smith was beaten to death by correctional officers. Several more violent deaths have been reported to Alabama's for Fair Justice in the days since the press conference but remained unconfirmed by ADOC. Our answer to this escalation is to form a commission to investigate the concerns about deadly use of force will be addressed through the actions of correctional officers.

We demand more.

If ADOC wants to invite real oversight of its prisons, it must include independent, external observers in its new task force. The people of Alabama do not trust prison officials to provide

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They have had that option for the last several years and they have failed. Deputy

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Group on criminal justice. Two months and deaths later, Commissioner Dan

The violence remained

In the past year alone, ADOC has been put on notice by the Department of Justice

Equal Justice Initiative by Alabamians for Fair Justice and the press that their prisons are the

deadliest in the country. Time and time again ADOC has committed to new forms of internal

oversight, and new strategic plans been in the midst of this heightened scrutiny that these

latest deaths have occurred.

To signal its commitment to accountability and transparency, Alabamians for Fair Justice calls upon

Commissioner Duane and Governor Ivey to include independent, external observers on any new task

force on prison violence. At the least, these observers should include:

- Legislators with experience on the prison oversight
- Advocates who have served time in ADOC prisons
- Lawyers who represent people in prison
- Family members of people who have been victims of violence in ADOC prisons
- Currently incarcerated advocates

We welcome ADOC to discuss the composition of it