

The following is a personal account of events that took place during a lockdown that occurred on Tues Sep 19, 2017 at MDC Guaynabo due to Hurricane Maria and the regrettable set of circumstances surrounding the deplorable living conditions of our confined quarters and the officers abusive and negligent treatment. For 7 days our unit (2c) was without water or electricity, while all inmates remained locked in cells in inhumane conditions. Our toilets would not flush and we were not given water to drink nor a shower. Except for on 2 separate occasions only were we provided with a 12oz bottled water during lunch. Our 3 meals were mainly bologna sandwiches and a cold meal for dinner. Repeated requests to officers for water were either ignored or were told to be patient. We were given a memo on how officers would be going to each cell to allow the flushing of toilets after each and every meal. Our toilets were only flushed 1 single time during the 7 days. Officers seemed confused and out of it. The smell in my cell was nauseating and foul. The worst part was having to eat with urine and human waste floating in the toilet in a shared 10x7 ft cell and the toilet not having a lid. Multiple times I would ask an officer for something to place over the toilet to at least cover the feces but was refused. My cell was so dark that I couldn't see what I was being fed for dinner. I felt vulnerable and extremely afraid. Living conditions in my cell were not fit for human habitation and I was becoming highly concerned to have to continue to live and breathe in this sewage smelling filthy cell. I got diarrhea after a couple of days, maybe due to the unwholesome food or perhaps the unsanitary conditions and bacteria lurking about. Cleaning supplies were denied by officers on numerous requests. We were provided no means of disposing of our human waste for several days. After throwing up I told officers on how this was intolerably cruel and uncalled for but officers refused to protect us. The smell and stench was so intoxicating that I no longer had the urge to eat. It even got to the point where I was scared to go poop for fear of the toilet filling up. One day an inmate passed out and had to be carried out on a stretcher. On the day prior to us being evacuated the dayroom began to flood and water began to flow into every cell. The flooding could not be contained or controlled by officers because of the speed in which the water was entering our cells. Inmates and I became terrified while others began kicking cell doors calling for officers. Inmates began to collect water off of the floor and into their plastic trash buckets in order to flush their toilets. Apparently the inmates attempt to flush their toilets using the water from the trash buckets caused some toilets to overflow making the water on the floor mix with urine and feces throughout all the unit. This dirty water began to flow into neighboring cells. Officers decided to use excessive force and a SWAT team began to enter every cell yelling for every inmate to get face down in this dirty water. Four officers would enter the cell, one aiming a gun that fires rubber bullets,

another aiming a can of pepper spray while the other two ziptie your hands behind your back. Inmates that hesitated to get face down into the dirty water or would only get on their knees would get shot, sprayed and/or tackled. Once the inmate was faced down in the feces infested water he would get zipties placed on his wrists and made to sit indian style in the puddled dayroom floor. Many inmates were taken out of their cells in only their wet boxers/underwear and their private parts could be seen. Both male and female officers were present during this humiliating moment. Every inmate was coughing including some officers due to the heavy doses of pepper spray despite some wearing masks. The warden then addressed us in a rude and degrading manner. We were then all taken to the mop facility room, still ziptied, where an officer holding a waterhose would pressure spray each and every inmate in their face and my glasses fell off and I nearly choked. After the nose down as I was walking back to my cell I slipped and hurt my right leg. We were left wet and ziptied in our dark cells for a couple of hours but not the entire night as the warden had threatened. We were not fed that evening. On evacuation day we were told to get dressed in our wet clothes and uniforms. The officers applied excessive force for the sole and impermissible purpose of inflicting unjustified harm both mentally and physically on the detainees and I feel my rights were violated. The officers failure to protect us elevated to a point that is inhumane and doesn't reflect normal policy.

I Milton Pinilla am fully competent and have personal knowledge of each and every fact set forth in this statement and if called to testify in this matter, I would and could completely testify to each of the facts set out in this statement and declare under penalty of perjury that this statement is all true and correct.

I signed this statement on December 13, 2017 at Yazoo City, MS.

Milton Pinilla
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