



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrating One Year of Activism Against Wisconsin's Torture Chamber

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin—The #CLOSEmsdf Coalition will host a one year anniversary celebration calling attention to the progress made this year toward closing the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility.

On Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 pm coalition and community members will gather at Hephatha Lutheran Church, 1720 W. Locust Street.

A panel of formerly incarcerated community members will testify about their experiences inside MSDF. Jerome Dillard, State Director of Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing, will share stories of two Wisconsinites who are currently wrongfully incarcerated by the DOC.

Since its launch the #CLOSEmsdf campaign has made tremendous progress and caused a shift in the public conversation about incarceration across the state. The coalition is over 40 partners strong and growing, including national organizations like JustLeadershipUSA and #cut50. In early June eight Wisconsin gubernatorial candidates pledged that they would eliminate crimeless revocations and develop a plan to close MSDF if elected.

MSDF is filled with Wisconsinites imprisoned for allegedly violating rules of community supervision, not for committing a crime. MSDF is in violation of UN human rights standards for the treatment of incarcerated people. Conditions for people incarcerated at MSDF include no natural light, no access to outdoor recreation, no air conditioning, and no in-person visitors.

17 people have died while detained in MSDF. Last year taxpayers funded a \$1 million settlement for the wrongful death of Jeremy Cunningham who died in MSDF in 2011 after a corrections officer ignored calls for help from Cunningham's cellmate.

MSDF and the unjust DOC policies and practices of mass supervision that keep it filled are violating human rights and decreasing community safety. The organizations and individuals that form the #CLOSEmsdf Coalition are demanding that it be shut down and community supervision be completely reimaged.

Learn more at closemsdf.org

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