



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

December 15, 2016

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General, dated November 21, 2016, regarding your request for a civil rights investigation of the conditions in the Milwaukee County Jail, which you believe provides an unsafe environment for its inmates. Specifically, you raised concerns about a string of in-custody deaths that occurred this year and the quality of care provided by the jail's contractor, Armor Correctional Health Services.

The Special Litigation Section of the Department of Justice's (the Department) Civil Rights Division is responsible for enforcing the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA), 42 U.S.C. § 1997, which allows the Department to investigate conditions in state and local correctional facilities where it is alleged that institutionalized persons are being deprived of their constitutional rights. When a systemic pattern or practice of the deprivation of such rights is determined to exist, we have the authority to initiate a civil action against the jurisdiction in order to remedy the unconstitutional conditions.

We will carefully consider your letter along with other information we may receive regarding the Milwaukee County Jail in order to determine whether a pattern or practice investigation may be necessary. Our decision to open a pattern or practice investigation is based on a number of factors, including the severity and frequency of alleged deprivation of rights; the effectiveness of any remedial actions taken by the jurisdiction to address deficiencies in policies, procedures or practices; the resources of the Special Litigation Section to investigate the allegations; and the need to address systemic deficiencies in other jurisdictions across the country.

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We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Kadzik". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Peter J. Kadzik  
Assistant Attorney General