

July 21, 2016

Dear Governor Haley

I am writing to you in the hopes of getting something done with the SC Correctional Institutions. I will be also be writing the Justice Department, but I know it takes them 6 months or more to even answer and that is too long.

My son is in Ridgeland Correctional Institution, he's been there since about April, before that he was in Evans for about 3 years. Since he's been at Ridgeland it has been horrible for him (I know he's in prison, of course it is going to be.) They are terribly under staffed, whenever I go to visit what is supposed to be a 3 hour visit ends up a 1 and ½ hour visit. And the rest of the time is waiting because count is at the same time as visits, and they always have to take time to find someone to monitor the visitation room. This never happened at Evans. All though it's a short drive for me, some people drive 3 hours or more just to sit and wait an hour and a half to visit.

But the biggest problem the one that concerns me the most is that Ridgeland Correctional also spends a lot of time on lock down. Not just the prisoners that get in trouble but all the prisoners are locked down. I understand it's for security purposes, but it's unfair to the one's that aren't in trouble to be not able to make phone calls or have visits or go to commissary, there has to be a different way of doing things.

Since being in Ridgeland my son has had a lot of problems with gang members because he sticks to himself and he's mentally ill and that makes him an easy target. I fear for his life and from the letter I just received from him, it's obvious he is in fear too, he never felt that way at Evans.

I lost one son in an accident, and I could not bare losing another child, it's devastating. They've been in lock down for close to 2 weeks, when I received his letter I sat down and cried, because his fear is so obvious.

I never ever thought I would be a person that would ever be visiting a prison, and most people look at me as a bad parent because I have a son in prison, so I don't hold out much hope that you will help me, but I pray you will, and I will hold the state of SC responsible if anything happens to him.

Ridgeland Correctional is in dire need of more staff and more organization, so could you please tell me who to contact. I am attaching the letter my son send me.

Thank-You

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Dear Mom this is Chris

As you know we are locked down, who knows how long. There was a stabbing in our unit, it's really dangerous in here. I don't know if it would be any safer later somewhere else. I hope nothing will happen to me, we think they did it because they were white. Since we are locked down, the only way I can get coffee is through a package. Maybe you can check with Jamir and see if he can order a package. If Jamir will give you the money I need coffee and soup. 2 boxes of soup, and 6 bags of coffee. They will bring the package to me in the room. As long as it's in the room nothing can happen to it. & we come out I have some friends who can hold the food for me. I didn't want to order it, but if they let us out of the room I will run out of coffee. I was waiting to see you Saturday, but that is when this happened. What have you been doing, ~~when~~ when we come you can still come see me, maybe soon. They said when they fix the windows they will let us out, we don't know for sure, or how long that will take. I am still studying my Book every day. I went to the store that Friday before they locked us down, I got 1 bag of coffee. This and it's really bad, they don't have the staff they need to run, and it is dangerous. They need to do something about it. Keep writing to the Department of Justice, it is unsafe how they are running this place. That's all I have to say, Tell Jamir and Michael I said hi and Shanna too. I love and miss you, hopefully we will