

Equal Justice Initiative

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://eji.org/news/56th-homicide-in-alabama-prisons-since-doj-opened-investigation/>

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05.07.21

Prison violence has claimed the lives of two more people in Alabamas prisons shortly before they ended their sentences.

Ian Rettig was stabbed to death on May 4 at Fountain Correctional Facility in Atmore, Alabama. He was serving an 18-month split sentence for identity theft and property convictions. He was scheduled to be released on May 5, which was his 24th birthday.

This week EJI also received reports that a man who died on February 9 was the victim of a homicide and was strangled to death. He was serving a 30-year sentence for theft and burglary convictions and was scheduled to complete his sentence on April 20.

Tuesdays homicide is the 56th Alabama prison homicide that EJI has documented since the U.S. Department of Justice [began its investigation](#) into the states prisons in October 2016. Both the number and rate of prison homicides has climbed markedly since the investigation began.

EJI has documented 27 homicides in Alabama prisons since the Justice Department released its [findings](#) on April 2, 2019, that Alabama routinely violates the constitutional rights of prisoners by failing to protect them from rampant violence and sexual abuse.

The Justice Department found a high level of violence that is too common, cruel, of an unusual nature, and pervasive.

Though the recent high rate of homicides ranks Alabama prisons among the [most deadly](#) in the country, there is evidence that the Alabama Department of Corrections undercounts the true rate of violence as it does not report prisoner deaths that are the result of officer force and has repeatedly classified homicides as deaths due to natural causes.

Tags:

[Alabama](#)

[Prison Conditions](#)

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122 Commerce Street Montgomery, AL 36104 [\(334\) 269-1803](#) [\[emailprotected\]](#)

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