



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 21, 2021

Zine Release: How Prison Food in Maryland Became Even Worse During COVID-19

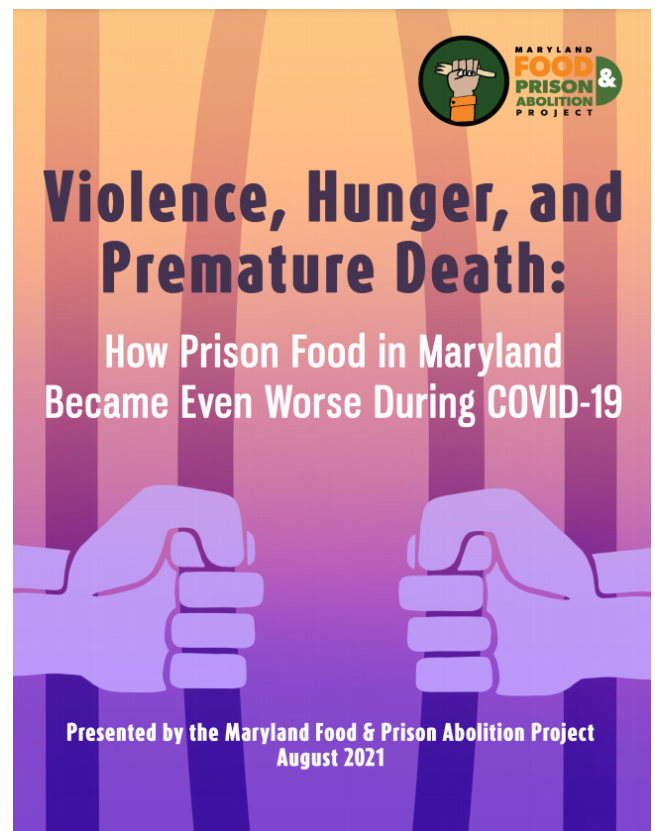
Dozens of Accounts from Currently and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Highlight the “Horrendous,” “Inhumane,” and “Despicable” Experience of Eating in Confinement During the Pandemic

Baltimore, MD — On the 50th anniversary of the murder of George Jackson at San Quentin State Prison, the Maryland Food & Prison Abolition Project (MFPAP) is honored to announce the release of [*Violence, Hunger, and Premature Death: How Prison Food in Maryland Became Even Worse During COVID-19*](#). This zine is MFPAP's premier self-publication written by researchers Kanav Kathuria and Jamesha Caldwell after conducting a critical participatory action research study examining food conditions in Maryland's prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Violence, Hunger, and Premature Death: How Prison Food in Maryland Became Even Worse During COVID-19

Prison conditions during the pandemic have been unimaginable. People testing positive for Covid are being shackled to beds in makeshift tents and made to suffer for weeks. Others are left to die alone in their cells, and their bodies are pulled out clandestinely by staff days later. Prisons have always been death-making institutions; during the pandemic, the state's actions have produced even greater deadly consequences for our incarcerated kin.

Prison food conditions during the pandemic have also gotten more despicable. This zine, *Violence, Hunger, and Premature Death: How Prison Food in Maryland Became Even Worse During COVID-19*, covers how carceral food service from 2020 onwards is another invisibilized way in which the state is dehumanizing and killing people in its custody. From incarcerated folks



developing ulcerative colitis and Hepatitis B as a result of nutritionally bankrupt meals; to commissary providers exploiting hunger by extracting even more profit from a captive population; to prisons extending the sentences of people who protest and sending them to maximum security prisons as punishment, the prison eating experience during Covid-19 is nothing short of a means of premature death.

Violence, Hunger, and Premature Death: How Prison Food in Maryland Became Even Worse During COVID-19 is the first of two self-publications that MFPAP is releasing. Our second publication—a groundbreaking six-part report titled “*I Refuse to Let Them Kill Me: Food, Violence, and the Maryland Correctional Food System*”—is the first of its kind to interrogate carceral food provision from an abolitionist perspective. Consisting of over 80 interviews with currently and formerly incarcerated individuals in Maryland state prisons, the report extensively uncovers how food in prison is a tool of control, punishment, and dehumanization; a means of violence; and an assault on a person’s most basic rights. The report will be released on September 9th, 2021.

About The Maryland Food & Prison Abolition Project

The Maryland Food & Prison Abolition Project connects urban and small-scale farms to prisons to use food as a tool for liberation. By increasing amounts of fresh produce in Maryland prisons, we aim to pave the pathway for conditions for resistance on the inside and support communal forms of self-determination on the outside.

Website: www.foodandabolition.org

Email: info@foodandabolition.org

Instagram: [@foodandabolition](https://www.instagram.com/foodandabolition)

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