

June 27, 2020
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about coronavirus in prisons. As was clear since this pandemic began our jails and prisons are ideal for the virus to spread with overcrowding, understaffed hospitals, poor sanitation and communal dining. Now with massive outbreaks in many facilities (including San Quentin which I can see from here) the film *Midnight Express* comes to mind. Federal authority is concentrated and a recent bill empowers General Barr still further to expedite releases but even here the response has been disastrous and chaotic. After decades of excessive incarceration the Brennan center estimated that more than a third are now held with no public safety benefit even before this crisis added a huge public health cost.

Please assure me that you will pressure General Barr to focus on COVID-19 rather than your lawyers.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our humane justice system.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson