

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[One individual reported dead at Columbia Correctional Institution \(Portage, WI\) as lockdown continues](#)

MILWAUKEE, WIS. – December 10, 2019 – One incarcerated individual was reported dead on the night of December 4. Rumors of suicide continue as the lockdown at CCI (Portage, WI) threatens to become indefinite.

As a contact from inside Columbia Correctional Institution has told IWOC-Milwaukee, recent death is rumored to be a suicide triggered by the inhumane treatment that incarcerated people have been receiving over the past 6 weeks. CCI has been on a lockdown since October 22. Not until early December had people got access to showers, phones and visit rights. School, recreational activities and access to library remain discontinued. Even worse, incarcerated workers are denied their lawful state pay, which leaves many people who depend on it unable to pay for their most basic needs like deodorant, shampoo, envelopes, paper, phone calls, etc...

“This lockdown has made most of us feel more like animals than humans, — IWOC’s contact writes,—we haven’t been allowed to clean our cells in any way, nor have we gotten any clean linen. The way we have been treated is lacking all empathy. The few guards who have contact with us all agree that the restrictions that are being imposed are beginning to become unnecessarily repressive in nature and when it is suggested they help remedy the situation by going to the media they immediately reply that they would lose their jobs if they did.”

It should be noted that the individuals whose actions caused the lockdown have been identified and transferred to other facilities. This makes the continuing lockdown an unexplainable, inhumane act of punishment.

To know more about the situation at CCI, follow us [here](#) or contact iwoc.milwaukee@gmail.com, phone or text 414 630-7507.

**Help IWOC to end prison slavery in Wisconsin
An injury to one is an injury to all**