
**Beyond the freedom: Implications of Mass prison release of inmates due to
COVID-19 pandemic**

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Abstract

The unprecedented times of COVID19 have over raging implications on almost all systems of humanity and prisons worldwide are being pushed to the limits to make adjustments effective to administer services to persons involved in the criminal justice system. Historically, prisons worldwide are characterized by congestion overcrowding, poor hygiene and sanitation, understaffed and inadequate competent staff to handle any form of an outbreak. Social distancing a measure to combat the spread of coronavirus is mission impossible as most prisons do not have enough infrastructures to implement such a measure. Prisons are known to be high risk environments, in case of an outbreak; prisons will be hotbeds of the COVID19 pandemic infection. For such reasons countries most hit by the pandemic are contemplating the mass release of prisoners to decongest the prison. The outraging COVID19 crisis crippling health care systems worldwide are indeed the immediate concern but inhumane prison conditions should not be the reason for the necessity of mass release of inmates into the community. With such a highly procedural decision being debated as a “perfect” solution for the COVID19 crisis, the pandemic may be staring in the face of all stakeholders in the criminal justice system. Is it the reason that this paper sought to assess the implication of mass prison release of inmates due to COVID pandemic? Majorly, secondary literature was reviewed to assess the implications of mass release of inmates during the corona pandemic. It is purely a desktop review with no conclusion drawn and recommendations suggested thereafter.

Keywords: Beyond freedom, implications, prison release, inmates, pandemic

