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Statement of Jarrod Massey, Spokesperson, Alabama Correctional Organization

| *Montgomery, AL* |

The Southern Center for Human Rights today is reporting the Alabama Department of Corrections " *has repeatedly released inaccurate information to the public, significantly underreporting the number of persons assaulted in state custody.*"

The Center has requested the Alabama Department of Corrections conduct an investigation to determine how these errors were made; as well as asking the department to propose corrective remedies. The Center has also requested the department release its findings to the public. Further, the Center has requested the department implement a plan to ensure all future public reports at ADOC facilities statewide are accurate.

The Alabama Correctional Organization [ACO] fully supports these specific requests from the Southern Center for Human Rights and encourages the Alabama Department of Corrections to expedite this investigation in order to ensure the safety of correctional employees. Employees of the Department of Corrections have become increasingly concerned about potential inaccuracies in department reports associated with inmate on staff assaults. With this in mind, the ACO requests the department also conduct an investigation into the reporting of inmate on staff assaults in light of the Center's proposed findings.

The Alabama Correctional Organization [ACO] is a professional, membership association made up entirely of Alabama Department of Corrections employees and retirees. The ACO's mission is to strengthen the professionalism of corrections personnel by improving procedures and training, raising standards, recruiting more qualified personnel, and being the primary voice for correctional employees concerning legislative and policy issues in Alabama.

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