

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

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ADVOCATES EXPRESS GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT IN GOV. HOCHUL'S DECISION TO GRANT ONLY ONE CLEMENCY TO AN INCARCERATED PERSON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, CALL ON HER TO GRANT MORE CLEMENCIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

NEW YORK -- Today, Governor Kathy Hochul granted clemency to only one incarcerated person in the New York State prison system. **In response, Jose Saldana, Director of the Release Aging People in Prison (RAPP) Campaign, released the following statement:**

“Today, Governor Hochul has drastically failed Black and Latinx communities by only granting clemency to one incarcerated New Yorker. While we welcome home that person and celebrate for their loved ones, and we also recognize the life-saving value of the pardons granted to people long since released, we are heartbroken knowing that so many of our mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers are suffering behind bars and facing a slow death penalty. Hochul didn't grant a single clemency to an incarcerated woman, and her bare minimum action means that thousands of elders continue to needlessly languish behind bars. Instead of talking about what she will do, we call on her to take real action now and moving forward by granting far more clemencies to incarcerated New Yorkers frequently, inclusively, and transparently.”

BACKGROUND: Since being elected Governor, Kathy Hochul has granted only one clemency to an incarcerated person. In his 10 years as governor, Andrew Cuomo granted only 41 clemencies to New Yorkers in prison despite the fact that he received at least 16,000 applications. Governors in [California](#), [Illinois](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Kentucky](#), and other states across the country have granted more clemencies than Cuomo and Hochul combined during the pandemic.

Advocates with the Release Aging People in Prison Campaign/ RAPP are calling on Governor Hochul to grant far more clemencies and support the Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole bills.

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