



# TEXAS JAIL PROJECT

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Listening, informing, and advocating for people in county jails.

## **Texas Jail Project Statement on Jaleen Anderson Wrongful Death Lawsuit Against LaSalle Corrections and Harris County Sheriff's Office**

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29 year old Jaleen Anderson died on April 3rd 2024 in LaSalle Corrections Facility in Olla, Louisiana after being transferred from Harris County Jail in Houston, Texas. Jaleen was one of thousands of pretrial detainees who have been shipped out of Texas to other states since 2021.

This lawsuit is the first concrete attempt to hold Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) and its notorious private contractor LaSalle Corrections accountable for the lack of protocol in easily preventable deaths.

Jaleen was a poet, a father and a loving son who had a vibrant life ahead of him which was cut short due to a complete lack of basic medical protocols. Jaleen should have never been arrested and shipped out to Louisiana. **Four Texans have died in Louisiana after being shipped out of**

**two separate Texas counties.** These deaths are symptoms of hyperincarceration and failed policies peddled in the name of public safety which have made our communities less safe.

We hope this lawsuit will send a strong message that our community will no longer tolerate our loved ones being arbitrarily ripped away from their families and transferred hundreds of miles away to be subjected to the inhumane and violently cruel conditions in [LaSalle corrections facility without any of the necessary protections that are afforded to them as Texans such as transparency and oversight.](#)

This lawsuit should serve as a wake up call to our county commissioners and all state actors that by shipping Texans out of state we are opening the flood gates of consequences that we are ill equipped to deal with. If we don't course correct now, these in-custody deaths will soon become the norm.

We hope this litigation forces Harris county to acknowledge that it cannot shirk its responsibility by using geography and delegation as an excuse. HCSO is just as culpable for its active role in overcriminalizing and hyperincarcerating our communities. This lawsuit is an attempt to hold HCSO accountable for the harms perpetrated on thousands of Harris county residents who are being held in abysmal conditions in out of state facilities run by notorious private prison companies at an annual cost of \$58 million to Harris county taxpayers.

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