

# Parchman riot: Fifth inmate killed in Mississippi prisons amid violence, lockdown

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A fifth inmate in less than a week has been killed at a state penitentiary in Mississippi.

The inmate was killed early Friday morning at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, Sunflower County Coroner Heather Burton reported. Another inmate was stabbed and taken to a Memphis hospital for treatment.



Denorris Howell (Photo: Courtesy of MDOC)

Burton identified the victim as 36-year-old Denorris Howell, who was serving a 17-year sentence for manslaughter out of Marshall County. The injured inmate was not identified.

The death comes a day after two other inmates were killed — one at Parchman (</story/news/local/2020/01/02/mississippi-prison-lockdown-violence-continues/2794482001/>), who has not been identified pending notification of family, and 26-year-old Gregory Emary (</story/news/local/2020/01/02/mississippi-prison-fight-1-dead-2-injured-3rd-fatal-fight-in-week/2794038001/>) at Chickasaw County Regional Correctional Facility in Houston.

Another two inmates were killed and others injured this week. Walter Gates, 25, was killed Tuesday (</story/news/politics/2020/01/01/one-inmate-dead-and-several-injured-in-fight-at-parchman/2790702001/>) during a riot at Parchman and 40-year-old inmate Terrandance Dobbins was killed during a fight Sunday at South

Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville.

"The situation is still volatile," Burton said.

**From the bench:** Judge rules prison safe as violence hits system (</story/news/2020/01/02/judge-rules-1-mississippi-prison-ok-among-deaths-others/2798322001/>)

**Resigning as MDOC commissioner:** Pelicia Hall to depart Mississippi's troubled prison system (</story/news/politics/2019/12/31/mdoc-head-pelicia-hall-resigns-head-troubled-state-prison-system/2786873001/>)

MDOC officials said in a news release Thursday afternoon that all state prisons will remain on lockdown "for the safety of the public, staff and inmates." The statewide lockdown was initiated Sunday (</story/news/local/2019/12/31/mississippi-prisons-lockdown-inmate-killed-smci/2782157001/>) after a "major disturbance" was reported at SMCI.

Prison officials declined to comment further.

"Because of the active investigations, the agency is limited in providing additional information," the release said. "Reporting allegations is irresponsible and could further jeopardize the safety of officers, inmates and the public."

*This is a developing story. Check back for updates.*

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