

## The Mysterious Death of Quinten Thomas Is 1 of 3 Deaths Inside Twin Towers Jail This Month – and the LASD Remains Quiet

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**Los Angeles, CA** – On Saturday, March 10th Saharra White received a call from a private number. The caller identified himself as a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department Homicide Detective. She agreed to meet him at a local McDonald’s. Saharra had planned on taking her 1-year-old daughter to Northridge that day to see her father, Quinten Thomas. Detective Gene Morse informed Saharra that Quinten was dead.

Quinten had been incarcerated in Twin Towers Correctional Facility for less than a week when he was found dead by himself in an isolated cell on March 9th, according to Detective Morse. Saharra had spoken with Quinten on the phone March 3rd and 4th and he spoke positively and assured her that he would be out on Friday. Originally Detective Morse told Saharra that Quinten had gotten into an altercation with a nurse upon intake, but the following day changed his story, saying he had gotten into an altercation with another prisoner. Saharra asked if Quinten was found with head wounds since he suffered from seizures, but the Detective said no and that he was found with pills, but would not specify what pills, how they got there, or how many. When Quinten’s brother Joe Jernigans asked if they could see Quinten’s body, the coroner refused, saying that his body had already been identified through fingerprints so there was no need for them to see him. They were told only Quinten’s parents can see his body, even though Quinten was a ward of the state with no parents to do so. According to the Detective, the autopsy report found no natural cause of death and the toxicology report will take 3-6 months to be completed. Saharra asked about footage and she was told it exists, but that the majority of the cell is not visible and that she cannot see it.

Quinten Thomas was a 22-year-old Black man in his 4th year as a full-time student at California State University, Northridge studying to be a registered nurse. He was a music artist and eventually wanted to have his own studio. He loved his daughter and wanted her to be successful and go to school. Quinten prayed, read scripture, and went to church.

Quinten’s loved ones want answers. Saharra stated, “The last thing my baby’s father told me on the phone March 4th, 2018 was that he still loved me and believed in me. My biggest fear was becoming a single mother and now, I believe through some type of foul-play or neglect, that day has come. But I believe in my higher power. The truth shall prevail.”

Dignity and Power Now has uncovered that Quinten’s death is just 1 of 3 mysterious deaths inside Twin Towers this month, and 1 of 6 in the jails this year. The LASD has not released any information about these 3 new deaths. Michele Infante, DPN Campaign Lead, says, “Foul-play and medical negligence are rampant inside the LA County jails. This is a matter of *lives* and *deaths*. We want justice and peace for Saharra and all of the families affected by this state-sanctioned violence – and they want answers. We need transparency and accountability from the Sheriff’s Department, and the first step is subpoena power for the Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission.” Michele and DPN support subpoena power for the COC and diverting money from the \$3.5 billion jail plan into mental health diversion and community resources.

**Saharra White, Joe Jernigans, and other family are willing to be interviewed by press and to share photos.**

For more information please visit [dignityandpowernow.org](http://dignityandpowernow.org).

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