



Media Release

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Assaults Occur at Downstate and Sullivan Correctional Facilities

Officers Sustain Fractures After Being Attacked by Inmates

Fishkill, NY – Five correctional officers were injured in two separate incidents at Downstate and Sullivan Correctional Facilities last week.

On Sunday, September 14, at approximately 7:30 p.m. during an evening medical run, an officer gave inmate Francisco Calderon a direct order to enter the lobby area. The inmate refused to comply and became irate with the officer. The inmate, who uses a cane to assist with walking, began swinging the cane violently, striking the officer in the face. A sergeant and two other officers responded to the scene and attempted to restrain the inmate. Calderon then struck the sergeant in the knee, one officer in the chest and the third in the forearm with the cane before being subdued.

All four officers sustained injuries and were taken to Vassar Brothers Hospital for treatment. The officer, who was struck with the cane in the face, sustained a fractured nose. The sergeant sustained bone chips in his knee after being struck. The two other officers sustained minor back, ankle and forearm injuries.

The officers and sergeant were not able to return to duty.

On Wednesday, September 17, at Sullivan Correctional Facility an officer was making his rounds in the North Housing Unit at approximately 1:58 p.m. As the officer was passing a cell, an inmate, Sharory Bigelow, reached out and grabbed the officer's baton. The officer started to struggle with the inmate to get control of the baton. During the struggle, the officer was pulled up against the cell bars and the inmate was able to put a choke hold on the officer.

A response team was activated and arrived at the cell. The cell door was opened, which broke the inmate's choke hold on the officer. The inmate immediately exited the cell and continued to attack the officer.

The response team was able to restrain the inmate after a brief struggle.

The injured officer was taken to Catskill Region Medical Center for treatment. He sustained a broken clavicle, bruises and abrasions to his neck and a shoulder injury.

Calderon, 30, is serving a 17-20 year term at the maximum security facility after being convicted in Bronx County for Robbery 1st and Assault 2nd in 2013.

Bigelow, 32, is serving a 25 years to life sentence at the maximum security facility after being convicted in Kings County in 2007 for Murder 2nd, Attempted Robbery 1st and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

The New York State Police are investigating both incidents.

“There is an inherent risk in the duties of a correction officer. While our officers understand that, what is most troubling is the number of violent attacks committed by inmates on staff throughout the state. Within a four day period we had five officers injured in two separate attacks, two of which sustained fractures. The prison environment in which our members work continues to become increasingly violent and it must be effectively addressed by the administration,” stated Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Vice President.

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