



Media Release  
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## ***Officer Injured During Inmate Escape***

*Inmate Jumped Fence After Returning from Work Release  
Officer Sustains Serious Leg Injuries During Incident*

**Rochester, NY**—A corrections officer was hospitalized with serious leg injuries after he fell down a flight of stairs chasing an inmate who escaped the Rochester Correctional Facility by jumping a facility fence this past Sunday night.

The incident occurred at approximately 7:50 PM. The inmate, Chukuma Challenger, had just returned to the minimal security prison from his work release job. A corrections officer on duty was processing the inmate back into the facility when he noticed that the inmate appeared intoxicated. After testing the inmate for alcoholic beverages, he escorted the inmate towards a secure unit at the facility. During the escort, Challenger ran off. The officer gave chase and in the process of trying to stop the inmate, he fell down a flight of stairs breaking his left leg.

The inmate was able to hop a fence and get out of the prison on foot. Local law enforcement authorities were notified of the escape and a search commenced. At approximately 5:00AM Monday morning, he was captured a short distance from the correctional facility.

He was immediately transferred to Wende Correctional Facility in Alden. He is facing felony assault and escape charges.

Challenger was serving a 5 to 6 year sentence after being convicted in New York County in 2011 for Attempted Burglary 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The officer was admitted to Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. He sustained a broken left tibia and torn meniscus.

He is still hospitalized awaiting to undergo surgery.

“This latest incident clearly shows the danger corrections officers face even in low level security facilities. The inmate, who was already on work release from the prison and was eligible for parole in just a month, chose to take a course of action that seriously hurt one of our officers. Those actions will undoubtedly cause the inmate to face serious criminal charges. It is our hope that he faces the full consequences of those actions,” stated Mike Dildine, Western Region Vice President.

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