



# **New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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## **Media Release**

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### **Officers Assaulted, Injured at Green Haven Correctional Facility**

#### ***Three Separate Attacks in Five Days***

**Stormville , NY** –Four correction officers, assigned to Green Haven Correctional Facility were injured when inmates attacked them in three separate incidents at the prison.

The first incident occurred at 4:45 PM on September 20 at the maximum security correctional facility.

An officer, who was supervising a meal run in one of the prison's corridors, was suddenly struck in the face by an inmate with a broken broom handle. The inmate, Rupert Alberga, continued to strike the officer with the broom handle, as well as punching him with his fists. The officer was able to defend himself against the attack but the inmate continued to come after him. Another officer responded to the scene and got in between the inmate and the injured officer. Alberga charged past the officer in an attempt to attack the injured officer again. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and took him to the ground where he was able to get restraints on him.

The injured officer sustained a laceration to his lip. He received five stitches at an outside hospital.

Alberga, 33, is serving a 24 year to life sentence for stabbing his girlfriend to death in 2011 in Colonie.

The second assault occurred on September 22 at approximately 5:50 PM. An officer ordered an inmate to submit to a pat frisk. When he did, the inmate, unprovoked, struck the officer with a closed fist to the left side of his head. The officer grabbed the inmate around the waist in a body hold. The inmate continued to struggle and fight with the officer. During the struggle, they both fell to the ground. While on the ground, the inmate continued to strike the officer with his fists. Another officer responded to the assault and used a body hold to pull the inmate off the officer and get him restrained.

The responding officer was bitten on the hand by the inmate during the restraint.

The inmate, Equarn White, 32, was placed in a special housing unit. He is serving a 14 year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2008 for Assault 1<sup>st</sup>.

Both officers received minor injuries. They were treated at the facility and returned to duty.

The last attack occurred on September 25 at 10:30 AM. An officer was escorting inmates back from recreation when one inmate refused to follow the policy of no talking in the corridor. The officer began to counsel the inmate about breaking the policy when he suddenly punched the officer in the face with a closed fist. He then repeatedly struck the officer in the upper body. The officer defended himself and used a body hold to force the inmate to the floor. The inmate continued to violently struggle while on the floor and refused commands to stop resisting.

Another officer responded to the scene and assisted in restraining the inmate.

The officer sustained minor injuries and remained on duty.

The inmate, Levon Pratt, 38, was placed in a special housing unit. He is serving a 15 year sentence for Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and Criminal Possession of Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was convicted in New York County in 2009.

“Three separate attacks in five days at once facility only reinforces the fact that our members are being attacked on a regular basis. Thankfully the officers didn’t sustain more serious injuries under the circumstances they were subjected to. This is just another example of the violent nature of the inmates incarcerated in our state prisons. Until there are significant changes to hold the inmates accountable for their actions, this type of incident will unfortunately continue to occur ,” stated Mike Mazzella , NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.

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