



July 8, 2016

For Immediate Release

Officer Injured in Attack at Collins Correctional Facility

Drug Overdoses and Second Assault Also Occur at Prison

Collins, NY –A correction officer sustained facial injuries after an inmate put bars of soap in a sock, charged the officer, and struck him with the sock and fists to the head.

The attack occurred on Friday, July 1 at approximately 8:00 PM. The officer was assigned to one of the dorms at the medium security correctional facility. The inmate, Patrick Coleman, charged the officer, struck him with the sock, jumped on him, striking him several times in the face before other officers were able to get him restrained and off the injured officer.

The officer was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for face and head injuries. He was treated and released and did not return to duty.

Inmate Coleman, 24, is serving a 1 to 4 year sentence after being convicted in Suffolk County in 2014 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd.

Inmate Coleman was transported to Wende Correctional Facility after the attack.

The next day two officers were exposed to blood that was spit on them by a restrained inmate on Saturday, July 2nd.

Two inmates had to be restrained after an apparent overdose on K2. They were brought to the facility infirmary where one of the inmates spit blood in the officers' faces.

Both officers were transported to a local hospital and treated for exposure. They did not return to duty.

In all, seven inmates overdosed on K2 between Saturday and Monday, July 4. One inmate was transported to Erie County Medical Center for treatment.

On Wednesday, July 6, a second officer was assaulted in the facility recreation yard. The officer noticed inmate Kendu Starmel acting irrational. He ordered Inmate Starmel to put his hands on the wall so he could be searched for contraband. Inmate Starmel proceeded to elbow and punch the officer before being restrained.

The officer sustained minor injuries and remained on duty.

Inmate Starmel, 49, is serving a 15 to 30 year sentence after being convicted in 2002 of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd in Kings County.

“The two assaults and drug overdoses in a six day period is a prime example of how dangerous the environment is inside our state prisons, particularly the medium security prisons. Two unprovoked assaults continue the upward trend of assaults on staff statewide. Additionally, seven overdoses on K2 in three days indicates that contraband is still easily finding its way into our facilities”, said Joe Miano, Western Region Vice President.

##

James Miller
Director of Public Relations
(518) 469-0379
www.nyscopba.org