



Inmate Convicted in Assault of Officer

Attack Occurred Last July at Mohawk Correctional Facility

***For Immediate Release
February 7, 2020***

Rome, NY – A 34 year inmate incarcerated at Mohawk Correctional Facility was convicted of Assault 2nd and Assault 3rd in connection with an attack of a correction officer at the facility last July.

Jason Melendez, 34 years old, was convicted in Oneida County Court and sentenced to one and a half years to three years in state prison. His sentence will run consecutively to his current state time at Clinton Correctional Facility.

On Monday, July 8, 2019, at approximately 8:23 a.m., an officer approached Inmate Melendez to counsel him about smoking while he was on his way to program. Melendez turned and struck the officer several times in the face and head. Additional staff responded to the assault and found Melendez lying on the floor. When they went to apply mechanical restraints, he started to struggle with [staff](#). Body holds were used, restraints were applied and the inmate became compliant. The [injured](#) officer sustained a half inch laceration to his left eye brow and a laceration to his lip that took 10 stitches to close at an outside medical facility.

Inmate Melendez was indicted by a grand jury in November and plead guilty to the charges before the case went to trial.

At the time of the assault, Inmate Melendez was serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Orange County in 2008 on Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd charges. He was scheduled for conditional release in March of 2021.

After the attack Inmate Melendez was transferred from Mohawk to Clinton.

“Staff assaults continue to be serious problem in our correctional facilities and it is our sincere hope that this conviction sends a clear message to any inmate that attacks staff that they will face serious consequences. I commend the Oneida County District Attorney’s Office for pursuing charges in this attack and securing a conviction. The men and women who work in our prisons face a very violent environment and having prosecutors pursue charges when attacks occur is a step in the right direction. ” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.