
The Metro Section

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10 Rikers Inmates Complain of Beatings

By JOHN SULLIVAN

A group of inmates at Rikers Island claim they were beaten by correction officers earlier this month, and one inmate has filed a notice that he intends to sue the city.

Leo Glickman, a lawyer for the inmates, said yesterday that 10 inmates claimed correction officers struck them with fists and batons after another inmate attacked a guard on the evening of Oct. 5.

Mr. Glickman said none of the inmates were involved in the initial assault, but they said they were beaten in retaliation.

Other legal claims will probably follow, he said.

"A few were lightly beaten and others were beaten pretty badly," Mr. Glickman said. He said he interviewed one inmate whose eye was "red as a tomato," while another suffered a knee injury and others had bruises.

The inmates said that during the incident the officers repeatedly said, "Who owns this house?"

Thomas Antenen, a Correction Department spokesman, said the department was investigating.

Mr. Antenen said that a unit at the Anna M. Kross Center was locked down about 9 p.m. on Oct. 5 after an inmate slashed a correction officer in the face with a sharpened watch face.

The officer received 12 stitches.

"The area was locked down and the inmates were searched," Mr. Antenen said. He said the department investigates any time force is used inside the jail.

Mr. Antenen said several other officers were injured in the incident. One officer had a broken hand, while others suffered bruises.

He said several inmates were also treated for bruises and one suffered a more serious injury, although Mr. Antenen did not know the specifics yesterday evening.

Mr. Glickman said he had asked the city for an opportunity to review all videotapes made that night in the unit.