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LATE CITY FINAL

Guards beat us: inmates

By NEIL GRAVES

Rikers Island correction officers ruthlessly beat and kicked 14 handcuffed detainees earlier this month after one of their own was assaulted at the jail, says a \$1 million notice of claim filed yesterday with the city.

Attorney Leo Glickman is representing nine of the detainees who claim officers in a mental-observation unit went ballistic Oct. 5 after a turnkey was cut during an altercation with an inmate.

The response was swift and vicious, Glickman said, claiming both officers and their supervisors dished out punishment in an assault that began at 9 p.m. and continued for hours.

"That an officer was assaulted was terrible and unfortunate, but what happened after that was an assault by other officers to establish their authority," Glickman said.

Inmates told the lawyer that officers responded to the initial two-man fracas by rushing to a dormitory unit and, after removing one of the combatants, ordered the others to lie facedown on their beds.

Some were then taken to an outside corridor — ap-

parently out of the view of cameras affixed in the dorm — where the beatings began, according to Glickman.

The handcuffed men said they were taunted by officers who demanded, "Who owns this house?" and they were forced to answer, "You do."

"They said get on your knees and face the wall. They said: 'F--- them all' and started swinging," said inmate Jason Lewis, 23, who was in Rikers on a parole violation.

"They were yelling 'If y'all hurt one of ours, we'll hurt five of you.'"

Some inmates were left in handcuffs for up to six hours, the lawyer said. The inmates allege one officer "threatened them with further violence if they saw a doctor for their injuries," Glickman said.

Correction Department Deputy Commissioner Thomas Antenen said the assaulted officer took a 12-stitch cut to his chin. He said the weapon was a sharpened piece of watch.

Antenen said the alleged riot was under review, but noted the lockdown is standard procedure following altercations with officers.