



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Nine Officers Injured at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

Three Convicted Murderers Conduct Consecutive Attacks in Cell Blocks on Staff

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2023

Ossining, NY – Seven officers were transported to local hospitals after an initial attack on staff escalated into two other assaults on officers in a cell block at the maximum security correctional facility last week and injuring nine officers in total.

On Tuesday, March 21, at approximately 10:40 a.m., inmates were returning from recreation in the facility yard and they were directed back to their cells in the cell block. Initially, one inmate refused orders from an officer to return to his cell. He became agitated and began yelling at staff. The officer attempted to escort the inmate to his cell, when the inmate turned and struck the officer in the left side of the face, causing the officer to fall backwards onto one knee. The inmate struck the officer a second time in the right side of the face. The officer got to his feet and with the assistance of a second officer, placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

He was escorted from the cell block to the infirmary for evaluation.

Following that attack, staff were attempting to secure the cell block and the inmates in their cells. An officer approached an inmate who was standing in front of his cell. The inmate suddenly grabbed the officer by his torso and pulled him into the cell. He punched the officer multiple times in the head and body. A second officer called for a response and responded to the attack. Initially, the inmate grabbed the officer's shirt and attempted to get her baton from her. She was able to break free as two additional officers arrived at the cell. The four officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him out of the cell and onto the floor of the cell block. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to the infirmary for evaluation.

The third attack occurred when staff began a frisk of a cell for contraband. Initially an officer attempted to pat frisk the inmate. The inmate elbowed the officer in the head and proceeded to punch the officer multiple times in the face. With the assistance of a second officer, the inmate was placed in a body hold. The inmate was able to kick off the cell wall, causing both officers to fall on the cell bed with the inmate on top of them. The two officers were able to push the inmate off them. A third officer responded to the cell and was punched in the left eye and face before staff were able to place the inmate in a body hold again, force him to the ground, and place him in handcuffs.

In all, nine officers sustained injuries in the three attacks. Six officers were transported to Phelps Hospital and treated for face, knee, shoulder, elbow and minor lacerations. One officer was transported to Westchester Medical Center for a fractured bone in his hand and contusions to his head and jaw. Two officers were treated at the facility by medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate in the first attack is serving a 25 years to life sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2017 for Murder 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

The inmate in the second attack is serving a 46 years to life sentence after being convicted in Bronx County for Murder 2nd and Attempted Murder 2nd in 2014. After Tuesday's attack, the inmate was transferred to Shawangunk Correctional Facility.

The inmate in the last attack is serving a 25 years to life sentence after being convicted in 2016 in Kings County for Murder 2nd and Attempted Assault 1st.

"The situation last Tuesday at Sing Sing was extremely dangerous for staff and resulted in seven officers with injuries serious enough that they needed to be treated at outside hospitals. The troubling aspect in all three of these attacks is the fact they were committed by three violent inmates with no regard for human life. All three viciously murdered people and are serving long sentences that could keep them in prison for the remainder of their lives. Without any level of discipline left as a result of the HALT Act, there is nothing from stopping this from becoming a daily occurrence, especially when the inmates know they have little to lose. Just that fact, puts staff in an extremely dangerous working environment every day and they deserve far better than that! " – stated Dave Luther, NYSCOPBA Southern Region Vice President.