



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

***"Keeping New York Safe"***

## ***Inmate Breaks Officer's Fingers, Fractures Hand at Upstate Correctional Facility***

*Assault Occurred as Staff Attempted to Break Up Inmate Fight*

### **For Immediate Release**

**March 15, 2024**

**Malone, NY** – A female officer had two of her fingers fractured and her hand fractured when an inmate grabbed her hand and fingers and violently twisted it as staff attempted to subdue the inmate during an inmate on inmate fight inside a cell at the maximum security correctional facility.

The inmate on inmate fight occurred on Tuesday, March 12. Two officers observed the fight and gave several orders for the inmates to stop, which they ignored. OC spray was utilized multiple times on both inmates with no effect. When additional staff arrived at the cell, the cell door was opened, and an officer armed with a shield entered the cell and used the shield to force the inmates apart. Officers grabbed one inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted out of the cell.

Officers attempted to place the second inmate in a body hold and he resisted. He grabbed the female officer's hand and violently twisted her hand and fingers and refused to release his grip. Officers used force, which successfully broke the inmate's grip on the officer's hand. The inmate attempted to exit the cell and kicked a sergeant in the leg. Staff forced the inmate back into the cell and used body holds to force him to the ground. On the ground, handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted out of the cell.

Both inmates were decontaminated and were brought to the infirmary for evaluation.

The female officer sustained a fracture to her pinky finger, displaced fracture to her ring finger and a fracture to her metacarpal bone in her hand. She was transported to Alice Hyde Medical Center for treatment.

Two officers sustained minor lacerations to their forearm and knee and lower back pain subduing the two inmates. They were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate who assaulted the female officer is serving a 45 years to life sentence after being convicted in Onondaga County in 2018 for Murder 2<sup>nd</sup>, Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2<sup>nd</sup>. He and another gang member drove around Syracuse shooting at innocent people, killing one person and injuring another in 2016.

“Every prison is already dealing with staffing shortages and now we have another officer go down for weeks with three fractures to her hand and fingers as a result of inmate on inmate violence. Instead of the inmates following orders to stop fighting, they continued, forcing staff to enter the cell to separate them. The end result is one officer out of work for an extended period of time and two others injured. This is a daily occurrence at prisons across the state and there is little or no disciplinary system left to prevent it from happening thanks to the legislators who pushed through the HALT bill. When you have a violent inmate serving 45 years to life and there is no deterrent to not to attack staff, this is going to continue happening.” - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.