



## ***Eight Officers, Sergeant Injured at Auburn Correctional Facility***

*Female Sergeant Sustains Concussion, Fractured Elbow During Inmate Attack*

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 10, 2024**

**Auburn, NY**—A female sergeant sustained a concussion and fractured elbow when an inmate came up from behind her and struck her in the back of the head causing her to fall forward, striking her head on the metal fence post in the south recreation yard of the maximum security correctional facility last week.

The attack occurred on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at approximately 4:15 p.m. The Sergeant was supervising the yard and went to speak with an inmate who was near the metal fence. When the Sergeant approached the inmate, another inmate came up behind her and struck her in the head, causing her to fall forward and into the metal fence post, knocking her unconscious. The inmate ran across the yard from the attack as officers responded.

Five officers caught the inmate and placed him in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground, he remained combative. Officers were able to force the inmate's arms behind his back and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant and was brought to his feet and escorted out of the yard.

During the incident, another inmate began to walk towards the incapacitated Sergeant. He was given several orders to back away. As the inmate continued to advance, chemical agents were utilized and were effective. The inmate was handcuffed and removed from the yard and brought to the infirmary to be decontaminated. In the infirmary, the inmate became combative and head-butted one officer in the head and spit blood at several other officers. A spit net was applied and officers used body holds to force the inmate to the ground. Once on the ground, he became compliant. During a search of the inmate, a metal rod was recovered from inside the inmate's sock.

After being treated by medical staff, the inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The injured Sergeant regained consciousness and was transported by ambulance to SUNY Upstate Hospital. She was diagnosed with a concussion and a fractured elbow.

Four officers were transported to Auburn Community Hospital for their injuries. One officer sustained a fractured metacarpal bone in his hand. The other three officers sustained back, hip, and shoulder injuries.

Two officers were treated by medical staff at the facility for knee, head and shoulder injuries. They remained on duty.

The inmate who attacked the female sergeant was transferred to Attica Correctional Facility. He is serving a 15 to 18 year sentence after being convicted in Westchester County for Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> and Sexual Abuse 1<sup>st</sup> in 2019. Previously, he served prison time in 2016 after being convicted for Robbery 3<sup>rd</sup>.

During the attack in the south yard, inmates in the main yard were ordered to place their hands against the wall as a security measure by staff. One inmate refused and pulled away from the wall. He was placed in a body hold by staff and forced to the ground. As the inmate was being handcuffed on the ground, other inmates began to advance on staff. OC spray was utilized and was effective in stopping the inmates and maintaining order.

A sergeant and officer were injured in the main yard subduing the inmate. The Sergeant sustained a right shoulder injury and the officer sustained a left shoulder injury. Both men were taken to Auburn Community Hospital for treatment.

Another serious concern is it is quite clear that female officers are also being targeted by inmates. On Wednesday, August 21, multiple officers were injured when two inmates attacked staff while returning to their cell block from the mess hall. Three officers and a sergeant were struck multiple times in the head and face by the two inmates in the cell block. One of the injured officers was a female who was punched in the face by one of the inmates who broke free from a body hold during the attack.

“I want to commend staff who responded quickly to the attack on the female Sergeant and protected her from possibly sustaining further injuries at the hands of the two inmates involved in the south yard. The initial attack was vicious and unprovoked and could have been far worse. Thankfully the Sergeant regained consciousness and hopefully will recover from her injuries but certainly will be out of work for an unknown period of time at the hands of an inmate.”

“The attacks and serious injuries, especially on our female members, continue to grow with no end in sight. There is no deterrent anymore for bad behavior in our prison system and it cannot be any more evident than in unprovoked attacks like this. They attack themselves too, an inmate at Auburn tried stabbing and killing his own mother a few weeks back at Auburn, let that sink in, his own mother! Already faced with staffing shortages and mandatory overtime, to have seven staff members injured in one day who needed to be transferred to local hospitals because of the extent of their injuries, as many of those injured will be out of work for extended periods of time, further straining an already stressed Auburn Prison. What will it take for the State Legislature and the Governor to realize how dangerous an environment they have created for staff with their policies for them to take corrective actions to fix it once and for all? When will they put on the uniform and endure what our brothers and sisters face daily, both physically from the inmates and mentally because they know the lawmakers in this state could care less if they died inside the walls? The Governor has the ability, and more importantly the obligation to protect our members but apparently that isn't high on her priority list as her silence is becoming deafening!”-stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.