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**For Immediate Release**

## ***Officer Assaulted at Auburn Correctional Facility***

*Sustains Three Inch Laceration to Face*

**Auburn, NY** – A veteran corrections officer sustained a laceration to his face and was bitten by an inmate who was being escorted to recreation at the maximum security correctional facility.

The assault occurred on Tuesday, June 28 at approximately 9:20 AM. Inmate Carlos Rivera was being escorted to recreation when he turned around and punched the officer in the face.

The officer defended himself and struck the inmate back. Inmate Rivera then bit the officer on his left hand. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and additional staff responded to the scene and assisted getting Rivera in restraints.

The officer sustained a three inch laceration under his right eye. He also sustained a small cut on his left hand where the inmate bit him.

He was taken outside the facility for medical attention and did not return to duty.

Rivera, 39, is serving a 25 year sentence after being convicted in 2008 in Jefferson County for Arson 2<sup>nd</sup>, Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> and Reckless Endangerment 1<sup>st</sup>. He burned down a 24 unit apartment building in Watertown in 2007.

“Assaults on staff have risen almost 60 percent in the last five years and this latest attack is a prime example of the dangers our members face on a daily basis. Over the past several weeks we have held informational pickets outside of prisons to raise awareness of the dangerous environment that exists inside our correctional facilities. We will continue to be vocal until we see effective measures taken to reduce the violence”, stated Joe Miano, NYSCOBPA Western Region Vice President.

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