

Corrections in the USA

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Rikers: Where Mental Illness Meets Brutality in Jail

By MICHAEL WINERIP and MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ JULY 14, 2014



A Beating at Rikers

By Mona El-Naggar



According to internal documents, Mr. Lane is one of 129 inmates who suffered serious injuries from correction staff at Rikers last year.

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[Corruption Sweep at Rikers Island Leads to 22 Arrests](#)JUNE 24, 2014

[Warden at Rikers Island Demoted After Inmate Dies in Overheated Cell](#)APRIL 3, 2014

[3 Rikers Officials Charged in Brutal Beating of Inmate](#)JULY 9, 2014

[Complaint by Fired Correction Officer Adds Details About a Death at Rikers Island](#)MARCH 25, 2014

[Mayor Vows Jail Reforms on Rikers Island](#)MARCH 20, 2014

3 Rikers Officials Charged in Brutal Beating of Inmate

By MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ JULY 9, 2014

Two New York City correction officers and a captain were arrested Wednesday on charges that they handcuffed and beat an inmate unconscious with a baton at [Rikers Island](#) and then falsified documents to cover it up, the authorities said.

The arrests were part of a monthslong inquiry by the city's Investigation Department into "a pattern of lawless conduct at Rikers that must be brought under control," Mark G. Peters, the department commissioner, said in a statement.

"The victims here were not simply the injured inmate but the justice system itself, which cannot properly function when sworn law enforcement officers falsify documents to cover up crimes," Mr. Peters said.

The captain, Moises Simancas, 43, who has nearly 17 years' experience, and the two correction officers, April Jackson, 34, and Tyrone Wint, 28, who were both hired in 2008, were each charged with attempted first-degree assault, which carries a maximum of 15 years in prison. They

Warning Signs Overlooked in Hiring for New York City Jails

Agency Report Finds Criminal Histories and Gang Ties Among Rikers Officers



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Rikers Island Security Chief Is Charged With Ordering Brutal Assault on Inmate JUNE 26, 2013



Not since the gang riots of the 1980s and early 1990s has violence at Rikers Island so alarmed oversight officials, union leaders and inmate advocates. Over the past decade, the use of force by correction officers has jumped nearly 240 percent, even as the daily population has declined by almost 15 percent over the same period, according to data from the city's Correction Department obtained under the Freedom of Information Law.

Rising Violence at Rikers Island

SAFE ALTERNATIVES TO SEGREGATION INITIATIVE

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A PROJECT OF THE VERA INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE'S CENTER ON
SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS, WHICH WORKS WITH GOVERNMENTS TO
ADVANCE CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICIES THAT PROMOTE FAIRNESS,
PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, AND ENSURE THAT RESOURCES ARE USED
EFFICIENTLY.

Expanding Solitary Confinement Reform

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) proposed expanding [Vera's Safe Alternatives to Segregation \(SAS\) Initiative](#) in its recommendations for [limiting solitary confinement practices in the U.S.](#) Now, the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance has awarded Vera \$2.2 million to continue and expand the [SAS Initiative to up to five new jurisdictions around the country.](#) The DOJ's National Institute of Justice also awarded Vera \$1.4 million to assess the [national use of solitary confinement and step-down programs, as well as the impact of working in restrictive housing on the well-being of correctional officers.](#)

A Conversation on Reforming the Use of Solitary

Rikers to Ban Isolation for Inmates 21 and Younger

By MICHAEL WINERIP and MICHAEL SCHWIRTZ JAN. 13, 2015

Data-Driven Human Rights: Using Dual Loyalty Trainings to Promote the Care of Vulnerable Patients in Jail

Sarah Glowa-Kollisch, Jasmine Graves, Nathaniel Dickey, Ross MacDonald, Zachary Rosner, Anthony Waters, Homer Venters

Health and Human Rights 2015, 17/1

Abstract

Dual loyalty is an omnipresent feature of correctional health. As part of a human rights quality improvement committee, and utilizing the unique advantage of a fully integrated electronic health record system, we undertook an assessment of dual loyalty in the New York City jail system. The evaluation revealed significant concerns about the extent to which the mental health service is involved in assessments that are part of the punishment process of the security apparatus. As a result, dual loyalty training was developed and delivered to all types of health staff in the jail system via anonymous survey. Six clinical scenarios were presented in this training and staff members were asked to indicate whether they had encountered similar circumstances and how they would respond. Staff responses to the survey raised concerns about the frequency with which they are pressured or asked to put aside their primary goal of patient care for the interests of the security mission. The online training and follow-up small group sessions have revealed widespread support for more training on dual loyalty.



Death in Prison Sentences

- In 2005, the United States Supreme Court declared in *Roper v. Simmons* that death by execution is unconstitutional for juveniles. Before the ruling, 365 children had been legally executed in the United States, including 22 since 1985.



Kalief Browder, spent three years on Rikers Island without being convicted of a crime. He had been arrested in the spring of 2010, at age sixteen, for a robbery he insisted he had not committed. Then he spent more than one thousand days on Rikers waiting for a trial that never happened. During that time, he endured about two years in solitary confinement, where he attempted to end his life several times. Once, in February, 2012, he ripped his bedsheet into strips, tied them together to create a noose, and tried to hang himself from the light fixture in his cell.

In November of 2013, six months after he left Rikers, Browder attempted suicide again. This time, he tried to hang himself at home, from a bannister, and he was taken to the psychiatric ward at St. Barnabas Hospital, not far from his home, in the Bronx. When I met him, in the spring of 2014, he appeared to be more stable.

Kalief Browder, Held at Rikers Island for 3 Years Without Trial

Kalief Browder was sent to [Rikers Island](#) when he was 16 years old, accused of stealing a backpack. Though he never stood trial or was found guilty of any crime, he spent three years at the New York City jail complex, nearly two of them in solitary confinement. For a while, it appeared Mr. Browder was putting his life back together: He earned a high school equivalency diploma and started community college. But he continued to struggle with life after Rikers.

In jail he had tried to commit suicide several times. He told Ms. Gonnerman that he was repeatedly beaten by correction officers and fellow inmates, but she said she did not realize the extent of the abuse until she watched security videos showing him being knocked to the ground by an officer and attacked by inmates.

Throughout, he insisted on his innocence, refusing several offers from prosecutors to take a plea deal, including one that would have allowed him to be released immediately. Ultimately, prosecutors dropped the charges. In the course of the three years Mr. Browder was being held, they lost contact with their only witness.

On Saturday, he committed suicide at his parents home in the Bronx.





MARCH AND RALLY TO

CLOSERikers

BUILD COMMUNITIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH • 1PM

FEATURING



RUSSELL SIMMONS

Entrepreneur & Activist

MARCH FROM
30TH AVE. & STEINWAY
TO THE RIKERS BRIDGE

R TO STEINWAY ST.

N TO 30 AVE.

RALLY AND VIGIL AT
19TH AVENUE & HAZEN
AT 4PM

N Q

TO ASTORIA-DITMARS

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