

7 prison guards, 4 nurses under fire after inmate beaten

22 Aug

Florida:

Seven prison guards were placed on paid leave and four nurses were fired after the severe beating of an inmate at Union Correctional Institution last weekend that went unreported for nearly 48 hours. Corrections Secretary Walt McNeil ordered a full-scale internal investigation and asked the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and FBI to determine whether the inmate's civil rights were violated, and whether the guards and nurses should face criminal charges.

BEATEN UP

According to an account provided by McNeil, the inmate threw feces at a correctional officer about 7 p.m. Aug. 15. The inmate was removed from his cell and was "assaulted numerous times by staff members." The inmate was not treated for his multiple injuries until Monday morning and was moved to an outside hospital.

"The inmate's injuries are serious and are reprehensible," McNeil told reporters at a news conference. "The actions which resulted in these injuries will not be tolerated."

Five correctional officers were fired and a sixth retired after the April beating of a Florida State Prison inmate, and McNeil's predecessor, James McDonough, fired dozens of officers for violations ranging from grand theft to forcing inmates to clean toilets with their tongues.