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Toxic Chemicals and Inmate Deaths By Jennifer Gann

Yesterday, here at Kern Valley State Prison (KVSP) in Delano, California, prison officials distributed a notice from the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) recommending that its "customers" stop using bar soap "purchased" from CALPIA.

The notice states in part: "During CALPIA's annual review of product Material Safety Data Sheets a trace amount of chemical that is listed for review under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) as carcinogen was found to be present in CALPIA's bar soaps."

This is in addition to the arsenic-laced water supply at KVSP, cited by state and federal health

agencies, which prisoners have been forced to drink over the past few years. Many inmates have experienced outbreaks of rashes and bumps on their skin.

It's no wonder that a federal court in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger* found that the lack of adequate health care was resulting in at least one unnecessary inmate death per week, in violation of the Eighth Amendment constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

Every day, I worry if I will meet an untimely death due to the homicidal negligence of prison officials. Where is the public outrage?! Where are those who will join me in the struggle for human rights?
Abolish Prisons Now!