

Florida officers allegedly used inmate as prison fighter

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Larry T. Williams, also known, as 'Monster,' was sentenced in January 2007 for a cocaine-possession conviction in Broward County.

Around the state prison in Florida City, his alias was ``Monster."

The inmate's real name: Larry T. Williams.

Three officers at the Dade Correctional Institution used him as a weapon to beat up other inmates with disciplinary problems, according to a federal indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Prison Sgt. Obe D. L'Bert, 30, along with former officers Cordell J. White, 22, and Christopher W. Bonnet, 21, were charged with conspiracy and civil rights violations of inmates. Williams, 28, a former inmate at DCI, was charged in the three-count indictment, too.

Williams, sentenced in January 2007 for a cocaine-possession conviction in Broward County, was released in May from the Charlotte Correctional Institution. His most current address was in Hollywood, according to the state Department of Corrections.

The head of the department called the alleged violations ``unconscionable."

The indictment alleges two incidents:

- On Oct. 26, 2008, L'Bert and White are accused of moving an inmate identified as D.T. to Williams' cell and waiting outside while ``Monster" assaulted him.
- On Nov. 1, 2008, White and Bonnet are accused of escorting Williams to another inmate's cell and waiting outside as he injured another prisoner, identified as F.H. The extent of the injuries to D.T. and F.H. was not revealed.

All four defendants were arrested Tuesday, authorities said. Bonnet and Williams were released on bond at their initial court appearances before U.S. Magistrate Judge Edwin Torres. White and L'Bert are set to appear in court Wednesday. If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison on each of the three felony civil rights charges.

``Our mission is to ensure not only public safety, but the safety and well-being of inmates," Florida Corrections Secretary Walter A. McNeil said in a statement.

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