

Inmate Dies After Being Placed In Same Cell As Man He Testified Against

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March 15, 2009 10:06 p.m. EST

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Miami, FL (AHN) - An inmate in the Oklahoma State penitentiary was sound beaten to death after being put in a cell with the man he had testified against in a murder trial.

Prison officials said the two should not have been placed in the same cell together, and there will be an investigation.

Corrections officers found 23-year-old Paul Duran unresponsive in the cell Wednesday night, the McAlester News-Capital reported.

This was less than an hour after he was placed in the cell that was already housing 32-year-old Jesse James Dalton, who is serving a sentence of life in prison without parole, in part because of testimony given by Duran about a 2003 murder.

The two men and another person, at the time a 16-year-old boy, broke into a house intending to burglarize it. While inside, Dalton shot and killed a 19-year-old man.

Duran agreed to testify against Dalton in exchange for a lighter sentence. He also pleaded guilty of robbery with a firearm, according to the McAlester News-Capital.

But because the two were co-defendants, they should have been automatically listed as "separatees," and should never have been housed in the same cell.