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Attorneys say prison guard isn't credible

The Associated Press

Attorneys for inmates charged in an uprising at Northpoint Training Center say a state witness lacks credibility.

The incident a year ago at the prison near the central Kentucky city of Burgin injured eight guards and eight inmates, destroyed five buildings and damaged five of the six dormitories.

The Lexington Herald-Leader reported two attorneys who represent indicted inmates said on Wednesday that corrections officer Jesus Cabrera's July 28 arrest damages Cabrera's credibility.

The guard was charged with bringing contraband pills into the prison.

Cabrera had identified more than 100 inmates he said were involved in the uprising.

Prison officials disciplined more than 170 inmates. Ten have been indicted on criminal charges.

Attorney Theodore Shouse, who represents inmate Aaron Fisk, said he has filed a motion to get the personnel records of three corrections officers, including Cabrera, and wants to see the internal investigation involving Cabrera's arrest.

"I'm very concerned that an officer who claims to have identified over 100 inmates in this event has within a matter of months himself been charged" with promoting contraband, Shouse said. "It clearly causes anyone to doubt his credibility."

Fisk faces charges that include rioting and arson. Shouse said his client did not participate in the riot.

Department of Corrections spokeswoman Lisa Lamb said the internal affairs division of the corrections department investigated the administrative charges against inmates, while Kentucky State Police determined criminal charges.

"Each case was handled fairly and impartially, with actions taken against those whose activity was directly witnessed by staff members," Lamb said.

Prosecutor Richie Bottoms said "none of the pending cases rely on one guard's testimony."

Meanwhile, the case against Cabrera has been sent to the grand jury. His attorney, Jackie Horn of Lexington, declined to discuss the charge.

Information from: Lexington Herald-Leader, <http://www.kentucky.com>

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