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Report On Alleged Inmate Abuse Released

3 Corrections Officers Face Charges

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HARRISON COUNTY, Ind. -- An incident that began with a thrown mop bucket and television has resulted in the arrest of three jail employees.

Three Harrison County Jail corrections officers -- Cpl. Nathan Adams, Officer Ross Timberlake and Officer Sheila Barber -- face charges in the alleged mistreatment of former inmate Tevin Bald.

WLKY News received a copy of a 55-page state police report about what happened at the jail.

The report stated that on May 22, Bald requested some clean water to clean his cell and the jail staff denied the request.

Troopers said Bald told them he became upset and threw a mop bucket.

The report said the three officers then responded to the situation.

According to documents, Timberlake told investigators, "I observed inmate Bald standing on the day room table. Cpl. Adams instructed Bald to get off the table but Bald refused this order. So Cpl. Adams and myself assisted him to the floor and restraints were placed on inmate Bald."

The report states Bald was taken to another part of the jail. Bald told investigators that he was ordered to remove his clothing, an order he refused.

Bald was stripped naked, placed in a restraining chair and a spit-mask covered in pepper spray was put on his face, according to the report.

The report states Bald told investigators "his eyes began to burn, and he started coughing and had difficulty breathing."

The police report indicates Bald was left like that for an hour.

According to the report, "Barber stated that she obtained the spit mask for Cpl. Adams."

Timberlake told police another jail employee said, "Cpl. Adams told him that, 'Yeah, I sprayed the spit sock. That shut him the (expletive) up. That's how I was taught to do it, unofficially."

Adams has been charged with two counts of battery and criminal recklessness.

Timberlake and Barber are both accused of assisting a criminal.

Prosecutors said the trio could face more charges.

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