





was sexually assaulted over heroin

Susanne Cervenka Asbury Park Press

Published 5:00 a.m. ET Dec. 24, 2019 | Updated 11:39 a.m. ET Dec. 24, 2019

A former inmate is suing Monmouth County jail and its staffers, saying corrections officers did not do enough to protect him from being sexually assaulted by inmates.

Angelo Torres claims jail staff violated his civil rights when they refused his request to be moved to another area, which occurred after an earlier attack and sexual assault in September 2017.

The federal lawsuit names Barry Nadrowski, the acting jail warden at the time of the incident; Donald Sutton, the current acting jail warden; Corrections Officer Aleksandrs Urjans, and Roger M. Bremekamp, an inmate later indicted in the attack.

Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, which runs the jail, referred questions to Monmouth County counsel Michael Fitzgerald, who declined to comment because it is pending litigation.

[The trusted place to find the best home service providers. Find local pros.]

The Moriarty Law Firm, which is representing Torres, also did not return calls for comment. While the attack occurred in September 2017, the lawsuit was filed this fall in the U.S. District Court in Trenton.

Torres claims he was in the detox unit of the Monmouth County Jail around Sept. 11 and 12, 2017 when another, unnamed inmate came up to him and demanded Torres give him heroin.

Torres told the inmate that he did not have heroin. Rather, Torres was on Librium, a medication use to treat alcohol withdrawal, which the jail medical staff had given him, according to his lawsuit.

The unnamed inmate attacked Torres, the lawsuit said, after the refusal.

Crack vs. Heroin: Drug wars' racial double standard arrested millions of blacks, saw compassion for whites

Ocean Township murder: Defendant says jailhouse snitch lied about missing woman



Torres also claims he specifically told Urjans that he was scared for his safety.

Corrections officers denied his request but said he could move to a different bed in the detox unit. The only available bed was roughly 10 feet away, the lawsuit said.

[Want more Monmouth County news and updates? Download the Asbury Park Press app today.]

Torres said he was sitting on the new bed about an hour or two later when the same inmate, plus five or six additional inmates, grabbed him and held him down while one put on a rubber glove and penetrated him in a search for drugs.

The lawsuit claims no corrections officers came to Torres' aid.

Torres said he passed out after the attack and awoke to the jail unit being on lock down because of the attack. Torres was later taken to the hospital for treatment.

Bremekamp was later indicted on charges of aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault and robbery. Court and state corrections records show Bremekamp is serving five years in prison in connection to the incident.

'Extreme humiliation': Jackson teacher, jailed 3 days after mistaken identity arrest

Crack vs. Heroin: 5 takeaways from our investigation into the role of race in drug battle

It's not clear whether other inmates were criminally charged in the incident. It's also not clear why Torres was in jail.

The lawsuit claims the corrections staff violated his due process rights as well as his rights against cruel and unusual punishment. The lawsuit also accused the jail, Monmouth County and Nadrowski of being negligent in hiring, training and supervising jail employees.

Bremekamp is accused civilly of abuse and battery. All defendants, including Bremekamp, were accused of negligently and intentionally causing Torres emotional distress.

Susanne Cervenka covers Monmouth County government and property tax issues, winning several state and regional awards for her work. She's covered local government for 15