

Nassau County jail guard urinated on inmate and his bed, says suit

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A New York man claims in a lawsuit that a correction officer in the Nassau County jail urinated on him and on his cot as other officers looked on.

The incident happened as Abdelrahman Seweid, 26, was being held at the Nassau County Correctional Center in East Meadow on wire-fraud charges on Oct. 17, 2018, said his lawyer, Frederick Brewington.

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The jail went into lockdown so a nurse could give out inmates' medications, says the suit in Brooklyn Federal Court.

When the nurse came by to give Seweid his medication, he told the nurse that the lockdown was a "punk move." The comment upset nearby officers, the suit claims.



Nassau County Correctional Center on Carmen Avenue, East Meadow, New York, run by the Nassau County Sheriff's Department. (Google Maps Street View)

"Jail is not meant to be comfortable," corrections officer Anthony Destefano stated, according to the suit.

Then another officer, Bryan Schmitt, asked if Seweid had a problem, to which Seweid responded, "No."

Soon after, Destefano, Schmitt and another officer trashed his cell during a search, said the suit. They then demanded that Seweid clean up the mess, according to the suit.

The suit says Schmitt then "undid his pants, exposed his penis and began urinating on Plaintiff's [Seweid's] bed and other items in the room," the suit alleges.

"Schmidt [sic] subsequently aimed the stream of urine ... on Plaintiff's leg," the suit says.

The other two officers present laughed at Seweid and the trio of officers left him in his cell, "soaked with urine."

Seweid slept in the urine-soaked bed that night and had an adverse skin reaction, with bumps appearing on his face and shoulders, the suit said.

“I want justice to be done,” Seweid wrote the next day in a handwritten complaint to the New York State Commission of Correction. “It’s unfair that officers abuse that power and do a lot of stuff that is inhumane and I feel less of a human and I want them to pay for their irresponsible actions.”

The Nassau County Sheriff’s Department’s Internal Affairs Unit found Seweid’s claim “not sustained,” according to a document seen by the Daily News.

All three officers involved denied in interviews that they urinated on Seweid or his property. Also, Seweid’s story changed — at one point he said he saw the officers making motions like they were urinating, but that he did not see them actually pee, an investigator reported.

The Sheriff’s Department did not respond to a call for comment.