

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 17-19064**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 17-19064

OIG Inspector: Inspector Scott Gambel

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Jennifer Wolf

Date Assigned or Initiated: 10-23-2017

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Mayo Correctional Institution

Complainant: Inmate Hakim Ramatoola, DC# C02005

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0056

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Death Investigation

Confidential Medical Information Included: ___ Yes X No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: ___ Yes X No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On October 23, 2017, Inspector Scott Gambel (*Gambel*) was notified by Supervisor Maurice Radford (*Radford*) [REDACTED] inmate at Mayo Correctional Institution (*MCI*) [REDACTED]. Inmate Hakim Ramatoola, DC# C02005 (*Ramatoola*) was located [REDACTED] on his bunk in J-dorm side 1. Security staff [REDACTED] transported Ramatoola [REDACTED] Ramatoola [REDACTED]

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

Gambel responded to *MCI* where contact was made with Captain Lee Corbin (*Corbin*) who briefed Gambel on the situation. According to Corbin, Ramatoola was suspected to have smoked K-2 before [REDACTED]. Ramatoola is a known smoker of K-2 according to Corbin. The fixed wing video was viewed and shows at least two inmates in the area around Ramatoola that appeared to be smoking. One of the inmates then falls to the floor and five other inmates come to assist. Corbin was able to identify the five inmates on the video, but not the inmate that was smoking with Ramatoola.

FDLE agent Jennifer Wolf (*Wolf*) responded to *MCI* to lead the investigation. The five inmates were escorted to the security building where they were questioned. All five maintained the same depiction of what transpired, that Ramatoola and an inmate known as "Solo" was smoking K-2 when Ramatoola [REDACTED]. Solo was then identified as Inmate Joseph Stowell, DC# 988591 (*Stowell*). Stowell admitted to smoking K-2 with Ramatoola and passing out. Stowell described the experience as "the worst ever". Stowell admitted that he and Ramatoola smoked K-2 on several occasions. There does not appear to be any acts of violence toward Ramatoola or Stowell from any of the inmates in the dorm according to the video. *FDLE* agent April Glover (*Glover*) [REDACTED] to monitor the situation with Ramatoola from there.

Ramatoola was unable to be transported [REDACTED] At 7:00 am EST, Corbin relayed to Gambel that Ramatoola [REDACTED] the institution was in the process of contacting family. At 8:37 am, Corbin called back with the update that Ramatoola was pronounced deceased [REDACTED] in Perry at 8:24 am. Glover was contacted and will respond to [REDACTED] in Perry for the body inspection and to seal the body bag. Glover did not request assistance from Gambel for this inspection.

On October 24, 2017, Wolf submitted an investigative demand letter for this case. This letter has been attached to this report.

On January 29, 2018, the Medical Examiner's report for Ramatoola was concluded. The Medical examiner concluded that the cause of death [REDACTED] A copy of this report is attached to this report. Wolf responded that there would be no other assistance necessary in this case for the *FDLE*.



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VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. No Charges.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Jennifer Wolf the allegation against N/A for N/A, **in violation of N/A**, be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared

Inspector Gambel reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.