

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 16-20146**



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



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Case Number: 16-20146

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Lee McGauley

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Larry Perez

Date Assigned or Initiated: 11-02-2016

Complaint Against: Inmate Valentin Reyes DC# 133973

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

Complainant: Colonel Ronnie Morgan

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0036

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Investigative Assist (*Homicide*)

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes 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 November 2, 2016, at Suwannee Correctional Institution (SWCI), Inmate Miguel Elias-Alas DC# 723878 (*Elias-Alas*), was found in his cell (G3206) [REDACTED]. Elias-Alas was transported [REDACTED], and pronounced deceased at 11:25am [REDACTED].

This incident was assigned to Inspector Lee McGauley on September 6, 2016, as an assist to FDLE.

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:

Inspectors Lee McGauley, Scott Gambel and Senior Inspector Dorothy Stafford responded to SWCI Main Unit [REDACTED]. Upon arriving [REDACTED] Lieutenant Charles Richter advised us that Inmate Miguel Eliasalas DC# 723878 (*Inmate Eliasalas*), was pronounced deceased at 11:25AM [REDACTED] Major Boston advised: Sergeant Robert Greene (*Sergeant Greene*) overheard inmates kicking the cell door in G-Dormitory wing 3. Sergeant Greene responded to cell 3207, where Inmate Diamond Monroe DC# L93333 (*Monroe*), and Inmate Quentin Wilson DC# C05732 (*Wilson*) were housed. Sergeant Greene reports Monroe opened a piece of newspaper, showed him a piece of a human finger, and said "you need to check on the guy in 16 top (*cell 3216*). Sergeant Greene responded to cell 3216 and found Inmate Eliasalas [REDACTED] Sergeant Greene initiated ICS.

Note: Inmate Eliasalas [REDACTED] on his clothes. Inmate Eliasalas [REDACTED] Supervisor Aretino, FDLE SA's Larry Perez, Craig Riley, April Glover, and Matthew Grinstead, along with Assistant State Attorney John Weed, and SAO Investigator Lisa Long responded to the institution. SA Perez advised FDLE would be lead in this investigation, with OIG assisting.

On November 3, 2016, SA Perez provided the following information as a result of the autopsy performed on Inmate Eliasalas. The preliminary cause of death [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were located on November 2, 2016. One being delivered to Sergeant Greene by Inmate Monroe, one located on the cell floor of G3216 and one located hanging in cell 3216 from an air vent. [REDACTED], have not been located after an extensive search of the recreational area, and cell, which were processed by FDLE Crime Scene Analysts.

On March 13, 2019, I contacted SA Perez in person requesting an update as to his progress, and to offer additional assistance if needed. He indicated he had completed his case and had submitted his reports, which have been approved. SA Perez documented in his Investigative Report the following:

On Monday April 10, 2017, a Grand Jury in and for Suwannee County convened to deliberate in this investigation. After hearing testimony from Special Agent (SA) Lawrence Perez, Department of Corrections (DOC) Correctional Officers, and inmate witnesses, the Grand Jury deliberated the testimony presented. The Grand Jury returned a True Bill for Inmate Valentin Reyes



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for First Degree Homicide in the death of Inmate Eliasalas. A copy of the True Bill for this investigation was electronically attached to this case file in Related Items (INV #44).

The Arrest and Charges Report was amended to reflect the change in status of this investigation.

On March 27, 2019, SA Perez provided me copies of his final report, and advised there would be no further assistance needed from the OIG.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. Murder

Violation of § 782.04(1) Florida Statutes, when perpetrated from a premeditated design to effect the death of the person killed or any human being.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Larry Perez the allegation against Inmate Valentin Reyes for **Murder, in violation of § 782.04(1)**, be termed as follows:

1. Closed by Investigative Assist