

Attorneys for 69 inmates request court order to obtain personals

TRENTON — Attorneys for 69 Leesburg inmates, who were transferred on March 4 to Trenton State Prison following a work stoppage, have requested that a federal court in Trenton order prison officials to return clothing and other articles taken from the prisoners.

A representative from Prisoners Rights Organized Defense (PROD), a project of the civil liberties Education and Action Fund, American Civil Liberties of New Jersey, said a 70th prisoner died three days after the transfer.

In an action filed on March 11, PROD Attorney Leora Mosston and Steven Hamowitz of the Camden

Legal Services requested the court order for the "immediate restoration" of the inmates' clothing, religious materials, money and other personal articles, according to the PROD spokesperson.

The attorneys are also asking that the inmates medical records be transferred and they be allowed access to telephones to call lawyers and family members.

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The PROD spokesperson revealed that the entire Leesburg prison population, which numbers 400, refused to go to their designated work assignments in the protest against conditions at the prison and dis-

content with the parole system.

The original 70 inmates were shipped out, according to the PROD source, late on the day of the stoppage. This job action was said to have been peaceful.

The PROD source said after the transfer that the inmates were placed in a 24-hour lock-up and stripped of much of their clothing. They also were denied toiletries and medication and had been kept isolated until the day of the court action.

Attorneys for the inmates are expecting an early court date.

Leesburg in a minimum security facility, while Trenton State Prison is maximum security.