

Reports of Human Rights Violations at SCI Camp Hill- 2007–2009

Physical/Mental Abuse, Medical Neglect, Denial of Due Process, Racism, etc.

This information was reported to the Human Rights Coalition by way of letters, grievances, and lawsuits sent by people incarcerated in the SMU at SCI Camp Hill and their families.

The following information is organized chronologically
—Please note that some of these reports go into detail of physical abuse and may be upsetting—

Date of Incident	Name and Number	Brief Description of Incident and Guards Involved
January 15 to time of reporting	SMU prisoners	According to a series of witness Declarations submitted by Michael Edwards SMU guards have been threatening and terrorizing the entire SMU population via racist slurs and death threats. Some specific examples include: on 1/19/09 C/O Brant stated over the PA system, “I have a dream that one day all of you niggers will be dead,” after which he laughed, clapped his hands, and lit a smoke; on 1/20/09 Lt. Kuzar stated, “He [Obama] may have won, in my eyes he’s still a nigger.” Brant and C/O Flynn started laughing at this, and Kuzar continued, “There will be no showers or yard today. We are going to show you niggers who run this SMU.”
January 20, 2009	Gary Tucker #FG8520 David Serrano #EF4816 Damont Hagan #DS9488 William Robinson #FX7258 Jamar Perry #DQ4432 Ronald Jackson #CF3994 SCI Camp Hill	On January 20 th six prisoners were assaulted in the SMU by a still unidentified staff member. Gary Tucker was attacked with chemical mace and an electrocution stun-shield, stripped naked, thrown in a hard cell without any property or bedding or mattress; David Serrano’s wrists were reportedly injured when staff pulled his handcuffed arms through the tray door with the tether; Hagan, Robinson, Jackson, and Perry were also subjected to attacks with chemical mace and placed in cells without their property or state issue items. Tucker was also told that although there may be a black president, Mr. Tucker and other blacks would always be niggers.
January 20, 2009	Gary Tucker #FG8520 SCI Camp Hill	Mr. Hagan submitted a Declaration of Truth regarding the following: on January 20, 2009 he witnessed C/O Liddick threaten the life and safety of Gary Tucker. Mr. Tucker informed staff that he feared for his life. Mr. Tucker was subsequently subjected to repeated threats, including some over his correspondence with HRC and www.prisoners.com , prior to unnamed staff (see entry below) rushing his cell and attacking him with chemical weapons and assaulting him. After the assault Hagan

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		witnessed Mr. Tucker taken upstairs despite his being required to be housed on bottom tier for medical reasons.
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January 20, 2009	Gary Tucker #FG8520; David Smith #FZ5176 SCI Camp Hill	<p>On this day Lt. Kuzar, C/O Zeigler and Liddick approached Mr. Tucker’s cell under the pretext of searching it (despite having done so on 1/15/09), with the latter stating, “Since these guys like filing grievances let’s make an example out of him.” Mr. Tucker refused to leave his cell unless a Captain or the Unit Manager was present because of the threat. Kuzar refused this request, and shortly thereafter David Smith was assaulted when he consented to leave his cell for a search. Later in the morning a cell extraction team came to Tucker’s cell and began spraying vast amounts of mace into his face and eyes through the tray slot. Tucker moved to the back of the cell where he was attacked with more mace once the door was opened, and 7 guards (including Kuzar) began punching, kicking, choking, and attacking Tucker with electro-shock weaponry. This continued for several minutes while the camera was averted and staff repeatedly yelled “stop resisting” to cover their actions, even though Tucker—blinded and overwhelmed—was not able to resist. Following this, Tucker was airlifted to the top tier despite having a medical condition that forbids this, and the guards continued hitting, shocking, and choking him. Tucker was stripped and placed in a cell without property and denied medical attention for his injuries which were as follows: swollen face; deep cuts on the wrists; stiff neck; severe lower back pain; dislocated right arm; badly swollen right ankle; bloody mouth.</p>
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January 20, 2009	Damont Hagan #DS9488 SCI Camp Hill (now Pgh)	<p>In a Declaration of Truth, Damont Hagan reports the following: on January 20, 2009 C/O Brant told Hagan that he had to come out for a cell search, reminding him that the camera that is mandatory use in such procedures can be manipulated, also calling the prisoner a “nigger.” Following that Hagan heard other inmates threatened and David Smith assaulted by the same staff that was to search his cell. When Hagan reported Brant’s threats to Lt Kuzar the latter quickly ordered another C/O to turn off the camera, then told Hagan “you’re a pussy, Hagan, we’ll get you one way or another,” before walking away. Hagan told Unit Manager Chambers about these threats and that he feared for his life. Chambers replied, “I’m tired of this complaining to HRC, www.prisoners.com, and preliminary injunctions. Y’all did this to y’all selves, now y’all are scared. You’re coming out anyway, so write HRC or have .com write the Attorney General again, who cares.” Shortly thereafter a cell extraction team came to his cell and ordered Mr. Hagan to cuff up. After Mr. Hagan stated on camera that he feared for his life he was attacked with chemical weapons which penetrated his eyes and lungs. After he was cuffed, Mr. Hagan was taken to another cell where his clothes were cut off, and while this was happening Sgt. Maxwell whispered into his ear “get it nice and hard for Flowers now,” as the female Lt. Flowers watched him being stripped naked. Mr. Hagan was left in the cell naked without any</p>
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		<p>property or state issue items or water, drenched in mace and freezing. His water was not turned on until January 22nd; his food was tampered with and he was deprived of breakfast and lunch on January 21st. For the next week prior to his transfer Mr. Hagan was left in that cell with nothing and became sick as a result. On January 26th Mr. Hagan told Chambers that he was sick and freezing and needed clothing and a blanket, to which Chambers replied, "I see your lawsuit is still active, deal with it."</p>
January 20 to 26, 2009	Ronald Jackson #CF3944, David Smith #FZ5168 SCI Camp Hill	<p>On this day Mr. Jackson reports that David Smith was assaulted by C/Os Liddick, Ziegler, and Brant immediately upon exiting his cell for a search. Afterwards Mr. Jackson, along with others (see above entries), refused to exit there cell for obvious reasons. For this Mr. Jackson was assaulted with chemical mace, forcibly ripped from his cell and punched in the head several times by C/O Brant. Ziegler, Liddick, Hartman, Brant, Huber, and Lt. Kuzar removed Mr. Jackson to another cell where they cut off his clothes and his dreadlocks. He was left in this cell, bleeding behind both ears, naked, with cuff markings on his wrists, for six straight days prior to being returned to his former cell, which was still contaminated with mace. Mr. Jackson, who has an open civil suit against DOC personnel, had his legal property confiscated and destroyed during the attack. Supt. Palakovich justified this obstruction of access to the courts upon the pretext that the documents were contaminated with mace and had to be destroyed, presumably to protect Mr. Jackson from the chemical. In another letter Mr. Jackson confirmed other details of the January 20th shakedown, which corresponded precisely to the other accounts (see above entries).</p>
January 20 and 30, 2009	Michael Edwards #CM8086 SCI Camp Hill	<p>On this date C/O Huber stated to Mr. Edwards, "Your number is up nigger. You're next. Please refuse to have your cell searched. One thing for sure, you can't stay in their forever, Edwards. I'm going to try and kill you when I do get my hands on you. This is not SCI Fayette. Look what happened to Smith, and all the niggers before him. We don't play that shit here. We will fuck you niggers up in a heartbeat, this is what we get paid to do you stupid nigger." On the 30th, after Chambers told Mr. Edwards he would not be receiving any law books or property in retaliation for his working with HRC/Fed Up!, Huber told the inmate, "Hey listen up nigger, I have the green light to kill your black ass," before walking away from the cell laughing. On February 1st, Lt. Kuzar stated to Mr. Edwards, "Nigger do you honestly believe we are going to let you, or any of these other niggers get away with what you are doing?"</p>
January 23-25, 2009	Michael Edwards #CM8086 Cisco Ortiz #ET8023 All SMU inmates	<p>Michael Edwards testifies in a Declaration that on 1/23/09 Lt. Kuzar announced over the loud speaker, "For those who downright believe what Rendell said, bullshit! He doesn't sign my check, your stupid mother's and father's do. Sgt. Jones added, "Do I look like</p>

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		<p>I'm worried about a bunch of retarded niggers?" On 1/24/09 C/O Martz stated to SMU prisoners, "For the niggers who don't know me, I use to work in this SMU before, and one thing is for sure, all you niggers are in trouble." Also, Mr. Edwards requested of Lt. McNeal, Sgt. Houser, and C/O Flynn to stop serving food with the black gloves that come in contact with blood, feces, and urine. Lt McNeal replied, "Nigger spell my name right." Sgt. Houser replied, "Motherfucker you are lucky to be eating." C/O Flynn stated, "All you niggers do is cry, fuck you." On 1/25/09 Sgt. Houser told Cisco Ortiz, "Wetback you will not be eating tonight," and burned him for his tray. This occurred a couple days after Ortiz sent mail to HRC.</p>
January 2009	All SMU inmates SCI Camp Hill	Mr. Edwards reports that all prisoners in the SMU with the exception of two (one white, one native) are black and/or Latino, and all SMU guards are white/euro-american.
February 1-4	Jamar Perry #DQ4432 SCI Camp Hill	<p>On the first three days of the month Mr. Perry was forcibly ripped from his cell and placed in a restraint chair prior to being returned to his cell, according to a Declaration from Mr. Edwards. Guards continually taunt Mr. Perry, who is severely mentally ill, with racist slurs. On the 4th Shirley Moore-Smeal toured the SMU and took offense at the odor coming from Perry's cell, where he smears urine and feces over himself and the cell. Richard Southers from Central Office compared Mr. Perry to a dog and referred to him as retarded, provoking laughter from Unit Manager Chambers and other ranking DOC professionals. Shirley Moore refused to speak with inmates during this visit.</p>
February 7, 2009	Anonymous (inmate report submitted by inmate's mother)	<p>One day after being transferred to Camp Hill this anonymous inmate was placed in the hole after using a curse word in response to verbal abuse from guards. His incident report accused him of additional infractions that he did not commit. En route to the RHU his wrists were cut from the cuffs being applied too tight. In the RHU he was placed in a filthy cell with dirty linens and no mattress. Staff has called him and other inmates "niggers." Deprivation of and tampering with food is a common practice as well.</p>
January 2009	SSNU prisoners at SCI Camp Hill	<p>Mr. Banks reports that the Secure Special Needs Unit, ostensibly designed to provide for the mental health needs of high security inmates, is in fact little more than a solitary/control unit under another name. He reports that guards are not trained to deal with and/or recognize signs of mental illness; inmates are denied medications and rehabilitative and therapeutic programs; locked in their cells 24 hours most days, and permitted to leave the cell for one hour three times per week to enter the exercise cage; a video camera monitors their cell at all times; deprived of human contact with prisoners and staff; rarely able to shower; and subjected to death threats from staff. This has produced suicidal feelings in Mr. Banks.</p>

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Reports of Human Rights Violations
 at SCI Fayette-2006-2008
 Physical/Mental Abuse, Medical Neglect, Denial of Due Process, Racism, etc.

This information was reported to the Human Rights Coalition by way of letters, grievances, and lawsuits sent by people incarcerated at SCI Fayette and their families.

The following information is organized chronologically
 —Please note that some of these reports go into detail of physical abuse and may be upsetting—

Date of Incident	Name, #, Location of Person(s)	Description Incident
November 21 and December 5, 2008	Eric Robinson #AM 6940 SCI Fayette	On these dates Mr. Robinson filed grievances regarding his being denied toothpaste, soap, deodorant, and writing paper for seven and ten straight weeks respectively, despite having submitted commissary purchasing slips to Sgt. Haywood. Rhonda House denied the first grievance on the grounds that it was not submitted within fifteen days of the incident.
December 8, 2008	Eric Robinson #AM6940 SCI Fayette	On this date Mr. Robinson submitted an Inmate Request to Staff psychologist Rick Boxtoko regarding the psychological impact resulting from Mr. Robinson's life having been threatened by Capt. Manchas, Lt. Hooper, Sgts. Bush, Pearce, Bittner, C/O Yuhouss, and Lt. Crump in the past. Mr. Robinson reported living in constant fear and suffering from stress, anxiety, weight loss, sleep deprivation, and nightmares of being assaulted by guards as a result of these threats, coupled with the issuance of fabricated misconducts, the denial of commissary items and the delay of a proposed transfer.
December 17, 2008	Andre Jacobs #DQ5437 SCI Fayette	While Mr. Jacobs was being led to retrieve legal property of his C/O Miller said, "This nigger thinks he's a lawyer," and squeezed the prisoner's arm. When Mr. Jacobs asked why he was continuing to squeeze his arm, C/O Miller pushed him.

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		Mr. Jacobs had alerted both Capt. Leggett and Unit Manager Abrams that Miller was harassing him in retaliation for the lawsuit the prisoner had recently won. Capt. Leggett and Abrams both indicated that this is to be expected.
December 2008	Andre Jacobs #DQ5437 SCI Fayette	Andre Jacobs was denied all witnesses at a misconduct hearing, found guilty of an offense he did not commit, and received 60 days DC as a result.
December to present	Andre Jacobs #DQ5437 SCI Fayette	Eric Lyons reports that SMU staff have been threatening and harassing Mr. Jacobs since his recent victory in a lawsuit against DOC officials.
December 17, 2008	Rodney Wilson #DD6079 SCI Fayette	Tierre Davis witnessed an inmate get pushed down the stairs while in handcuffs after a Sgt. and C/O told him to shut up while he was talking with a Lt. The inmate was on Phase 2 of the SMU and about to be released to general population. Patrick Brown reports that the inmate was Rodney Wilson, who suffered one bruised hand, one cut hand, and his mouth was “busted open.” Pictures were taken of his wounds.
December 22, 2008	Eric Robinson #AM6940 SCI Fayette	On this date, at approximately 4:30 AM Sgt. Pearce called over to Mr. Robinson’s cell #2014, stating “Robinson, Sgt. ‘Yo-Yo’ [John Yolinski] said, how do you like the wrath of our unification asshole? We are not done with you yet.” Mr. Robinson claims this is a reference to Grievance #187839, which he filed on May 11, 2007 against then Western Regional Deputy Secretary Raymond J. Sobina and Sgt. Yolinski, in which Mr. Robinson requested a separation following an assault at the hands of SCI Fayette staff.
December 29, 2008	Matthew Young #GD4210 SCI Fayette	C/O Halley was physically abusive with Matthew Young while leading the prisoner to yard, pushing him and yanking on the tether attached to his handcuffs. C/O Holman returned Mr. Young to his cell, followed him inside, and delivered several blows to his head while verbally abusing him. Homan slammed Mr. Young’s head into the back and side wall of his cell. Following this he dragged Mr. Young to the cell door by the handcuff tether. A nurse took pictures of his injuries. Mr. Young suffered a severe headache and a neck pain. At 4pm he was refused treatment by nurse Tony Trayter.

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January 9, 2009	Anthony Boyking #DS1972 SCI Fayette	Five of Mr. Boyking's fellow prisoners wrote to a family member of his to report an assault he suffered on January 9 th , involving the C/Os Woods, Bricker, Kister and others. Mr. Boyking suffered a head wound requiring 18 stitches; bruised and swollen head, face, and eyes; loss of consciousness; and he was covered in blood and bruises according to multiple eyewitnesses. Mr. Boyking was accused of assaulting staff and placed in solitary confinement where he has been denied phone calls and writing/mail materials, as well as having been subjected to denial of food. Fayette received dozens of phone calls on Friday, January 16 th and the state police and the DOC's Office of Professional Responsibility have been contacted.
Winter 2009	L-Block inmates	C/Os Ankrom and Stroutman as well as Sgt. Knizner are conducting cell searches and depriving prisoners of property, including legal materials, while they are in the shower, thus coercing them into refusing showers.
February 2009	Lark Ramsey #FB0600; Ravanna Spencer #FH6976; Anthony Boyking #DS1972; E. Gonzalez #FQ0274 SCI Fayette	Mr. Ramsey was deprived of his wheelchair by SCI Fayette RHU staff, rendering him unable to reach his food trays or receive medication. Only after Ravanna Spencer, E. Gonzalez and Anthony Boyking refused to turn in their food trays in protest over this matter was Mr. Ramsey's wheelchair returned to him. These three men were issued misconducts and placed on 'food loaf.'
February 12, 2009	Eric Robinson #AM6940 SCI Fayette	Mr. Robinson submitted a grievance on February 21 st over Lt. Hooper's refusal/failure to submit the required security transfer recommendation report to the PRC in order to initiate the transfer process. Hooper , along with Cpts. Manchas and Trempus have reportedly acted in a consistently hostile manner to Mr. Robinson, issuing the inmate several fabricated misconducts in retaliation for his filing a grievance against their co-workers and superiors.
February 14, 2009	Eric Robinson #AM6940 SCI Fayette	Mr. Robinson reports that two racially-motivated drawings of Klansmen have been attached to his storage footlocker at the institution. He believes these pictures are part of an ongoing campaign of intimidation and retaliation for his filing of grievances on staff at SCI Fayette.
March 2, 2009	Anthony Allen #BQ6634 SCI Huntingdon	Mr. Allen reports being shocked with the stun belt by Lt. Tiff upon his return to SCI Fayette from a civil trial in Pittsburgh where Mr. Allen was to be a witness

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	(@ SCI Fayette for court proceeding)	against DOC defendants. Mr. Allen attempted to show his injuries to a nurse but she refused to look at them. Whether or not the incident was accidental or deliberate remains a matter of speculation.

Reports of Human Rights Violations at SCI Greene-2007-2008

Physical/Mental Abuse, Medical Neglect, Denial of Due Process, Racism, etc.

This information was reported to the Human Rights Coalition by way of letters, grievances, and lawsuits sent by people incarcerated at SCI Greene and their families.

The following information is organized chronologically
—Please note that some of these reports go into detail of physical abuse and may be upsetting—

Date of Incident	Name, #, Location	Description Incident
Summer 2008— general complaint	Antwan Felder #GX8737 SCI Greene	Mr. Felder reports that institutional racism is endemic to SCI Greene, and that 85% of the RHU prisoners are people of color. Physical abuse is frequent, and Felder suffers from pain in his hands at the time of writing after being cuffed too tight.
September 2, 2008	David Snyder	On this date an inmate was placed in a cell near Mr. Snyder that was covered with urine and feces. This affected the entire cell block due to poor ventilation. This inmate was left there for five days.
September 22-23, 2008	Leonard Matthews #GU8954 SCI Greene	Lt. Kirby wrote Mr. Matthews up on a false misconduct charge, alleging he failed to return a food tray when both the inmate and eyewitness Pugh testify otherwise. Pugh stated that he saw Matthews return the tray to C/O Eagle . The following day Lt. Kirby assaulted Leonard Matthews with an <u>electro-shock stun-shield</u> in the course of transporting the prisoner to a hard cell, purportedly as a result of the fabricated misconduct. Mr. Pugh alleges racial bias on the part of Lt. Kirby .
September 24, 2008	Leonard Matthews #GU8954	On Wednesday, September 24 th , Leonard Matthews had his arm slammed in the

Date of Incident	Name, #, Location	Description Incident
	SCI Greene	door slot and was denied medical attention. The following day Mr. Matthews was removed from the hard cell he had been in and Lt. Hollow , C/O Schifko , and an unnamed Sgt. planted an object in his cell. Antwan Felder testified in two sworn affidavits that he witnessed Matthews have his arm slammed in the slot seven times by C/O Ramey . According to these affidavits, C/O Ramey has called Matthews racist names on several occasions, including “porch monkey,” and “nigger.” He also told Matthews that “This is Greene. We kick ass and kill people here.”
October 30, 2008	Steven Cave #EF5695 SCI Greene	C/O Hayes deprived Mr. Cave recreation on this day without cause. When Cave called Sgt. Walters to address the issue, Walters called him a “monkey” and propositioned him sexually when Mr. Cave requested to see a Lt. Mr. Cave reports that Walters frequently subjects inmates to racist and sexual harassment.
Fall 2008	Lamont Pugh #BG9048 SCI Greene	Mr. Pugh submitted two official complaints to HRC, stating the Librarians Tustin and Sebek , along with School Principal Johnson have been deliberately giving him the wrong legal material despite his submitting specific requests. Consequently, Mr. Pugh is having difficulty moving forward with his suit against Superintendent Folino.
Fall 2008	Ronald Williams #AP8467 SCI Greene	Mr. Williams was transferred to H-Block by an unnamed Sgt. and subsequently deprived of property, including 3 boxes of legal property, two pairs of tennis shoes, plus an authorization for additional phone calls. Mr. Williams has filed several grievances on this and related matters which have been refused on frivolous grounds by Grievance Coordinator Dan Davis and his staff.
November 20, 2008	Lamont Pugh #BG9048 SCI Greene	Mr. Matthews reports in an “affidavit complaint” that the temperature on I-B pod in the RHU is freezing cold.
November 25, 2008	Lamont Pugh #BG9048 SCI Greene	On this date Mr. Pugh was spit on and told, “fuck you bitch,” by C/O Hackeroad . This same officer also cuffed Mr. Pugh so tightly that it caused swelling in his wrists. Earlier in the day he attempted to slam Pugh’s hand in the tray slot in his door. Mr. Felder reports that this C/O is a blatant racist.
Fall 2008	Michael White Wolf Dean	Mr. Dean has been charged over \$5,000 for writing on food trays while in the

Date of Incident	Name, #, Location	Description Incident
	#AS1919 SCI Greene	RHU. He claims another inmate wrote on them to set him up, and that he was not allowed to view or challenge the evidence at his hearing.
October thru present	David Snyder #GE9337 SCI Greene	In a sworn affidavit, David Snyder testifies that he sent inmate request slips to Diane Thomas, Major Winfield and Capt. Workman regarding the freezing temperatures in the cells—the heat is on in the unit—on I-B pod in the RHU. The problem is ongoing at the time of this correspondence 12/08/08).
January 10, 2009	Antwan Felder #GX8737 SCI Greene	After Mr. Felder commented on C/O Mega's attitude, Mega deprived him of yard in retaliation and has done so several times since then. Mr. Felder claims that C/O Mega consistently acts in a racist manner.
June 2007 to present	Frank Rivera #FK9345 SCI Greene	In a series of documents provided to HRC, Mr. Rivera details his subjection to three physical assaults by staff; false charges and convictions of four misconducts resulting in 17 ½ months in punitive segregation/solitary; denial of any medical care, including denial of prescribed medications on many occasions; denial of access to the courts via staff refusal to mail legal documents; deprivation of exercise period; being the subject of racist dehumanization. These deprivations and violations began after Mr. Rivera started filing grievances regarding inattention to his medical needs. They continue to accumulate and intensify in severity as he has been forced to pursue redress through civil litigation due to the prison's refusal to address legitimate grievances.