



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

*United States Penitentiary
Atwater, California 95301*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2008

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Staff Homicide at the United Penitentiary (USP), Atwater, California

It is with deep sadness that I must provide information regarding a very unfortunate incident that resulted in a staff member's death at USP Atwater. Today, Friday, June 20, 2008, at approximately 3:30 p.m., two inmates assaulted Correctional Officer Jose Rivera, in an inmate housing unit with homemade weapons.

Staff responded immediately, successfully restraining both inmates. Institution medical staff responded and performed life saving measures. Officer Rivera was immediately transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead at 4:15 p.m.

Officer Rivera was a 22 year-old resident of Chowchilla, California. He began his career with the Bureau of Prisons on August 5, 2007, as a Correctional Officer.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Officer Rivera's family and friends and will assist in any way possible to ensure the perpetrators of this horrific crime are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Dennis Smith
Warden
USP Atwater

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