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Smoke fills prison, guard attacked: Inmate video shows aftermath

Videos from inside the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs show glimpses of what happened after an inmate attacked a guard and a fire was set Wednesday night. Issa Arnita, director of corporate communications for Management and Training Corp., which runs the private prison for the Mississippi Department of Corrections, said via email Friday that a guard was assaulted by an inmate in one of the housing units around 7:50 p.m.. The guard was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, Arnita said, and treated for "non-life-threatening injuries." He was released Thursday morning. The lockdown at the prison after the incident has since been lifted, Arnita said, but the investigation is ongoing. Marshall County Sheriff Kenny Dickerson told WREG-TV that a fire broke out at some point during the incident. Dickerson could not immediately be reached for comment. In his email, Arnita did not mention the fire. He did not return requests for additional comment. Friday, the Clarion Ledger received five videos and two photos from a Marshall County inmate. The images were taken on the inmate's phone, during and after the reported fire. The videos show a smoke-filled prison while the photos show soot high on the walls. The Clarion Ledger is not identifying the inmate who sent the videos but had his permission to use them with the sound muted. In a message to the Clarion Ledger, the inmate gave his detailed account of what happened, saying, "If not for the fire sprinkler going off, I can assure you every inmate on the zone of delta 4 in Marshall county correctional facility would have died!" In the first video and second video, smoke fills the prison. The videos are shot from what appears to be a cell on a higher floor. The smoke is thicker in the second video. "It looks like a m***** f*****g horror film, don't it?" He then tilts the camera to the side and asks, "Can you even see that?" The third video shows what appears to be thinning smoke. The Clarion Ledger is not publishing the third video because it shows identifying features of the person who sent it. "Can you see that? It's getting lighter in here. Man, I've got a migraine. I'm sick, my stomach is hurting, I'm shaking and s***. This s*** right here is deadly." In the fourth video, the man turns the camera on the inside of his cell. What looks to be smoke hangs in the air. The Clarion Ledger is not publishing that portion of the video because it shows identifying features. He then turns the camera to film what's happening outside of his cell. A person in a white shirt can be seen at the bottom of the screen, on the bottom floor. "There goes a white shirt. That must be a captain." The fifth video is shot from the bottom floor of the jail and shows soot up on one wall, almost to the ceiling. The video was recorded Friday, he said. "Here's the aftermath, the actual effect of the fire. That's how high the flames got. The flames were really licking the ceiling up there. If you can't tell, that's a pretty f***** tall a** ceiling...this is two days after the fact."