

12 INMATES NAMED IN ATTICA CHARGES

Some Are Led Into Court in
Shackles for Arraignment

—2 Accused of Murder—

12/19/71
By Francis X. ...
Special to The New York Times
WARSAW, N. Y., Dec. 18—
Twelve convicts, including two
convicts were led, shackled, into
court today to face the first
charges growing out of the
Attica prison uprising of 1971.
The charges included murder,
kidnapping, assault and at-
tempted arson.

Among those accused of murder
as the court opened the
first of 37 sealed indictments
was Charles J. Farnasillo, who
allegedly was caught up in the
uprising while at Attica only
briefly as a 19-year-old youth-
ful offender awaiting transit
with no serious criminal record.
He was accused of having
fatally beaten a prison guard,
William Quinn, on the first day
of the revolt, Sept. 9, 1971.

All of those arraigned today
were already in custody in state
prisons for previous offenses.

Two men accused of killing
Mr. Quinn, Mr. Farnasillo and
an inmate identified as John
Hill, face a charge that carries
the death penalty. The murder
of a prison guard or a police-
man is the only capital crime
under state law.

A third suspect, Mariano
Gonzalez, was accused of hav-
ing fatally stabbed Michael
Priestera, a fellow Attica in-
mate.

The insurrection at Attica

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12 Convicts Named in Charges Arising From Attica Rebellion

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was ended after five days on
Sept. 13, 1971, when state
troopers stormed the prison's
D yard. A total of 43 men—32
inmates and 11 prison em-
ployees—died in the incident
and more than 80 were
wounded.

Mr. Quinn and three inmates
died during the period the
prisoners were in command of
the correctional facility, and
29 inmates and 10 guards and
civilians held as hostages died
of gunshot wounds during the
police assault.

Today, at this arraignment,
some of the suspects appeared
bewildered, but others saluted
friends firmly as they hobbled
in leg chains from prison vans
into the red-brick courthouse.
One inmate, Vernon Lafranque,
had to be carried in after he
refused to cooperate. He said
he had been summoned from
a prison movie and had been
told to pack with no reason
given.

The suspects were kept wait-
ing for more than five hours
for the arrival of Deputy As-
sistant Attorney General Gerald
Ryan, who is in charge of the
arraignment of what is ex-
pected to be a total of several
dozen individuals throughout
the week.

None of those accused today
entered pleas. Defense lawyers
obtained adjournments of up to
one month to enable them to
study the charges and prepare
defenses.

The arraignments are being
made before State Supreme

Court Justice Carmen Ball on
the basis of indictments handed
up by a special grand jury
sitting here at the county seat,
15 miles from the State Correc-
tional Institution at Attica.

The investigation that led to
the indictments was under the
direction of Deputy State At-
torney General Robert E.
Fischer, a special prosecutor
appointed by Governor Rocke-
efeller.

Although Governor Rocke-
feller declined to go to Attica
during the rebellion, he directed
the state's responses and sub-
sequently came under sharp
criticism.

The criticism was continued
today by a score of demonstra-
tors who marched outside the
courthouse opposite the War-
saw Civil War memorial, which
was decked with holiday bunt-
ing.

Lawyers from the Attica De-
fense Committee objected re-
peatedly that the use of sealed
indictments was unnecessary,
because most of the accused
are in prison already. The real
intent, they charged, was to
disorganize the defense and
distract attention from a Fed-
eral Court hearing in Buffalo,
today dealing with inmates'
charges of brutality.

The other accused inmates
and charges are as follows:
Vernon Lafranque, possession
of weapons; Robert Johnson,
kidnapping and coercion; Wil-
liam Ortiz, assault; Otis Mc-
Gaughy, assault; William Ben-
nett, possession of weapons;
William Outlaw, attempted
arson; Calvin Hudson, robbery
and assault; Eric (Jomo)
Thompson, coercion, and José
Quinones, coercion.