

Spokane
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Killings, Attica Revolt Spark Crackdown

Controls Tightened At San Quentin

SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP) — Inmate movement is more tightly controlled at San Quentin and guards are taunted more since the deaths of six men here and the bloody prison uprising at Attica, N.Y., inmates and prison officials said Friday.

"Nobody likes to see people dead," said a young black inmate who declined use of his name. "But both incidents, they were necessary, you know. We heard the same rhetoric about reform for 20 years and nothing changed."

Lt. Mike Lufford, a guard, braced a little at the suggestion "that taking any life could ever be necessary."

Since the Aug. 21 deaths of Soledad Brother George Jackson, two other inmates and three guards, correctional officers have won some of the changes they had wanted—tighter control on inmate movement, a promise of 43 more guards.

Black convict Raymond Wright, 32, dressed in prison blue denim, stared at two 300-foot parallel stripes of fresh white paint which form a narrow new corridor. Inmates now must walk single file within the lines to the education building.

Wright was a former inmate of Jackson who was gunned down by guards in what officials termed an escape attempt.

It was the first time inmates had been interviewed by a newsman since the Aug. 21 violence. A reporter was permitted to enter the honor block and talk with inmates housed there.

Passes for inmates to move from one area of the prison to another now are more closely screened. Men no longer are allowed to gather in large groups.

"We don't let 2,400 men get together in the big yard like we used to," said prison information officer Al Silva. "Now we only let 100 or so move around and mostly they're walking in single file lines, not en masse."

The Black Panther newspaper and other revolutionary publications are banned, said Silva.

"We're trying to get back to a state of normal as much as we can, but it'll be a new normal when it's accomplished," Silva said.

"You watch it now," said inmate Wright. "You give a flat salute to another dude and they'll put you in the hole (solitary confinement)."

"I'll tell you, I've never seen so many guys openly taunt those bulls (guards) on the gunnery. You know, tell him to shove it and like that," inmate said.