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Jackson Was Shot In Back

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — The bullet that killed Soledad Brother George Jackson at San Quentin prison struck him in the back, rather than the head, passed upward through his body and exited at the top of his skull, a pathologist's autopsy report concluded Tuesday.

This was in conflict with a coroner's report issued Aug. 23, two days after the black militant and author was slain in what prison officials said was an attempt to escape from the prison across the bay from San Francisco.

The first report, described then as preliminary by Marin County Coroner Donovan O. Cooke, said the bullet apparently entered the skull and exited from the midback.

In the final autopsy report released by Cooke, pathologist John Manwaring said: "Ballistic consultation confirms that the entry wound was located in the midback and the exit is through the top of the skull as clearly evidenced by the outward coning of the skull on the calvarium," the dome-like portion of the skull.

Cooke said no conclusion had been reached about the position of the body but said: "if he was

flat on the ground he could have been shot that way through the back."

He said Jackson was also struck on the inside left ankle, fracturing a bone.

Joseph O'Brien, San Quentin information officer, said prison officials still maintain Jackson was killed by a bullet fired from one of two 20-foot-high guard towers. Three guards, two white inmates and Jackson died in the violence.

Members of Jackson's family questioned the prison's statement that the 30-year-old Jackson smuggled a gun into San Quentin's maximum security Adjustment Center and used it in an escape try. They contend he was murdered by prison guards.

In New York, Jackson's mother, Georgia Jackson, said the family is asking the United Nations to investigate his death.