

# War Protester Tells of Rape At D.C. Jail

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A 27-year-old Quaker war protester arrested at the White House Aug. 14 and held in the D.C. jail was released Thursday after what he said were two days of "terror" in which he was beaten and raped more than 50 times by jail inmates.

Robert Martin, who says he is a former reporter for the Norfolk, Va. Sun, Associated Press and Overseas Weekly, held a press conference at Quaker House here last night "in the hope" that rapes of inmates can be prevented in the future.

D.C. corrections department officials said yesterday the assaults are under investigation but said that jail guards do not usually venture into cellblocks during nightly recreation periods—when Martin was attacked—because the guards themselves might be attacked.

Martin was taken to D.C. General Hospital late Wednesday night but had to wait for treatment, he said, while D.C. jail officials unsuccessfully sought to get the D.C. police department's sex squad down to investigate. They were told, and police officials confirmed yesterday, that police no longer investigate crimes committed at the jail or any District corrections facility, except for homicides.

Corrections officials yesterday expressed ignorance of this new policy, adopted by police June 12, although police say copies of the policy were delivered to corrections officials.

Martin, currently unemployed, said he became a pacifist and Quaker after getting out of the Navy in 1972. He was one of a number of protesters arrested after they sat down in the White House visi-

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tors line to pray for a halt in U.S. bombing of Cambodia.

The protests continued daily for about six weeks until Aug. 14, the eve of the conclusion of bombing. Martin said he was arrested on Aug. 10, but released on \$10 bond on a disorderly conduct charge.

He was rearrested Aug. 14, the last day of the protests, but refused to post bond because, he said yesterday, "I wanted to see what jail conditions were like."

He was held for a week in a "quiet" cellblock along with many older inmates and convicted Watergate conspirator G. Gordon Liddy until he was transferred to a different cellblock late Tuesday afternoon.

When the recreation period began at 6 p.m., less than two hours after he arrived in the new cellblock, Martin said a gang of men came into his cell, began beating him, forced him to strip, and then raped him for almost five hours until the recreation period ended at 11 p.m.

At no time during the five hours did a guard come near Martin's cell, he said, despite a large crowd outside the cell. Martin said he did not scream because he was told he would

be killed if he did.

Corrections officials said yesterday their preliminary reports show that a guard saw Martin sitting in the cellblock at breakfast the next morning, surrounded by a group of men, and called Martin aside because "it looked like Martin might need assistance." When the guard asked Martin if everything was all right, officials said, Martin replied that he would handle it himself.

Martin said yesterday he was too terrified to tell the guard because the inmates had said they would kill him if he mentioned a word about what had happened. "I was threatened with death if I talked . . . I was terrified . . . something inside of me snapped."

Except for meals, Martin and other inmates were kept locked in their cells during the day, but Martin had visitors that night and told them what had happened to him. When he was returned to the cellblock about 8:30 p.m. he said he went to his cell and started on a letter, but had written only "Dear Friend," when a group of inmates came into his cell and told him to take off his clothes or be killed.

He refused, but his clothes were ripped off and inmates again raped him for about two hours, with some of the larger inmates charging other inmates "a pack of cigarettes" to get into his cell, Martin said.

After more than two hours he was delirious, Martin said, and the inmates "told me to take a few minutes break." During that time an inmate standing guard outside the cell called "be quiet, the man is watching," meaning that a guard was at the end of that particular cellblock tier. At this point, Martin said, he broke through the inmates, was seen by the guard, and ran naked toward him for help.

Martin and corrections officials said yesterday that at least two of his assailants had been identified. However, Martin said he personally does not feel "locking up the men for another few years is going to help." He also said he still fears for his life, that he had been warned never to say anything.