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Suspect Held

In Folsom

Stabbing

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Folsom,
Sacramento County

Folsom prison authorities identified a 25-year-old black inmate as the chief suspect yesterday in the stabbing death Thursday of laundry supervisor Ronald L. Turner.

The suspect, being held in the prison's adjustment center, was identified as Jeffrey Patrick Gaulden, convicted of assault in San Diego in 1967 and sent to Folsom last year after he escaped from the California Institution for Men at Chino and was recaptured.

Turner, 30, a civilian employee at the prison, was stabbed repeatedly in the chest, prison spokesman John Moore said. Moore said the attack "apparently was without provocation."

Prison officials said they have found a prison-made knife they believe was the murder weapon, but could offer no possible motive for the slaying.

Turner, the father of four children, was "well-liked by inmates and prison personnel," Moore said.

All 1700 inmates in the old maximum security prison remained locked in their cells yesterday for a cooling-off period, but authorities said the mood of both inmates and staff was "calm and quiet."

Turner was the seventh California prison employee to be slain this year — the bloodiest year in state penal history.

Our Correspondent