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Prison Violence NL

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SACRAMENTO AP — A re-
port by penal officials that Na-
tional Lawyers Guild attorneys
and "other misguided individ-
uals" spurred a revolutionary
attack in California's prisons was
denied Saturday by a guild spokes-
man.

The report cited 35 violent
deaths in state prisons during the
past 30 months as evidence of
the attack it said was encourag-
ed by guild lawyers, the under-
ground press, Chicago 7 defen-
dant Tom Hayden, actress Jane
Fonda, the Black Panthers and
radical student leaders.

"The charges simply aren't
true," said Marvin Stender, pre-
sident of the San Francisco chap-
ter of the lawyers guild. "It's
obvious prison officials want to
keep lawyers out. . . to keep their
absolute power over inmates so
that they have no knowledge of
what's going on outside."

"It's our policy to lend legal
assistance to inmates who want
to form unions and need help,
and we'll continue to do so. We
won't let this kind of tactics
scare us off," he said.

Individuals named who sup-
ported inmate causes by wild
demonstrations, or news stories,
said Stender, "are performing
a fantastic service by bring-
ing to public attention what's
going on inside prisons."

The 36-page report from James
Hall, chairman of the State Board
of Corrections, to Gov. Reagan
does not link revolutionary acti-
vity directly to the killings of
nine prison employees and 24
inmates, but it contrasts the cur-
rent total with the previous 17-
year total of four.

Released Friday, it said the
killings of the employees and as-
saults on others "appear to
be without specific personal mo-
tive — except that they might
fit into a general pattern of re-
volutionary violence."

SACRAMENTO Prison violence
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lence."

The "revolutionary attack"
began after a Soledad Prison
guard killed three inmates in
January 1970 by firing into the
prison yard to break up a
gang fight, the report said.
That incident, said the report,
sparked "a full-scale propagan-
da campaign" by radical
groups to discredit the prison
system.

The study said 405 new em-
ployees should be added to pri-
son staff for more security
along with building and com-
munication improvements.

Another part of the report
still being developed by the
board urges that the state's
two oldest prisons — Folsom
and San Quentin — be shut
down.

More security, noted Stender,
"isn't going to solve the prob-
lem. . . a large part of the vio-
lence has occurred in high-se-
curity prisons within the prisons
— the adjustment centers."

"To think that you can end
violence with over-confinement
is so obviously incorrect it
calls for a sweeping reassess-
ment of what the Department
of Corrections wants to do,"
he said.