



POLICE SHOOT JET OF WATER INTO A BURNING CELL
Officers with riot guns stand guard at New Orleans prison

—UPI Photo

New Orleans

Prison Under Control

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — Fifty-four prisoners who had barricaded themselves in the Orleans Parish Prison during a five-hour disturbance surrendered without resistance today, officials said.

The 54 were the last of a group of more than 250 inmates who caused severe damage to the three-story structure during the incident.

Officials had reported earlier that the disturbance was

“all over,” but Warden A. J. Falkenstein acknowledged at midmorning that the 54 were locked in the cell blocks of one tier and had refused breakfast.

There has been a recent series of protests at the old facility, with prisoners describing living conditions as inhumane.

The trouble apparently began in one cell block on the top floor, where prisoners set

fire to mattresses and banged on the iron bars. A fire department snorkel truck shot water into the windows.

Prisoners smashed glass windows and dropped debris — some of it afire — into a courtyard. They could be heard cursing and yelling, “Power to the people” and “Burn, baby, burn.” Some displayed foot-long knives at the windows.