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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 activ-  
ity 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.