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## Suit accuses five jail guards of beating Lewin

*Doris Sue Wong, GLOBE STAFF.* Boston Globe (pre-1997 Fulltext). Boston, Mass.: May 14, 1991.

### Abstract (Summary)

The lawyers said that [Richard Pond] stood on the bed while [Joseph Fitzpatrick] punched and kicked [Albert Lewin] repeatedly in the head, face and chest. [Richard Flynn] allegedly watched and did nothing to stop the attack, which the lawyers said left Lewin unable to move for hours, coughing up blood. Shortly after the beating, while Lewin was on the floor moaning, [Russell Chickering] allegedly entered the cell, cleaned some of the blood off the floor and left with the towel.

### Full Text (356 words)

*Copyright Boston Globe Newspaper May 14, 1991*

A civil rights suit was filed yesterday against five Suffolk County Jail guards, alleging that they took part in or helped to cover up an unprovoked attack on Albert Lewin three years ago, when he was awaiting trial in the fatal shooting of a Boston police detective.

Filed in Suffolk Superior Court, the suit names Richard Flynn, a lieutenant at the Suffolk County Jail, and jail officers Joseph Fitzpatrick, Richard Pond, Russell Chickering and Victor Wellington as defendants.

Last fall, a jury in Greenfield acquitted Lewin of all charges, including murder, stemming from the Feb. 17, 1988, shooting of Detective Sherman Griffiths during a drug raid. Lewin has since been deported to Jamaica.

Lewin's suit alleges he was attacked in his cell in the old jail at Charles Street on May 14, 1988, the day that a memorial was being dedicated in Griffiths' honor.

Lewin's lawyers, Patricia Garin and Max Stern, state in the suit that on that day Flynn allegedly told Pond that Lewin was violating a rule -- adopted the previous morning -- prohibiting inmates from carrying towels during recreation period, and ordered Lewin to return his towel to his cell.

The lawyers alleged that Pond and Fitzpatrick, who accompanied Lewin to his cell, thwarted his attempts to place the towel into the cell through the bars. Fitzpatrick then allegedly grabbed Lewin's arm, pushed him inside, shoved him to the floor and then tipped the 200-pound steel bed on top of him.

The lawyers said that Pond stood on the bed while Fitzpatrick punched and kicked Lewin repeatedly in the head, face and chest. Flynn allegedly watched and did nothing to stop the attack, which the lawyers said left Lewin unable to move for hours, coughing up blood. Shortly after the beating, while Lewin was on the floor moaning, Chickering allegedly entered the cell, cleaned some of the blood off the floor and left with the towel.

The suit also charges that Lewin was denied medical care for two days after the beating.

Sheriff Robert Rufo suspended four guards for two months following the beating, but the sheriff's office has declined to identify the officers.

### Indexing (document details)

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