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5 prison guards found not guilty for aggravated assault in Montgomery County



JIM MELWERT

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Montgomery County District Attorney's Office

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The jury could not reach a verdict on some of the lesser charges, but all five were found not guilty on the more serious aggravated assault.

Defense attorney Charles Peruto represented Captain Edwin Negron, says the defense was successful by putting the inmate, Derrick Houlihan on trial.

"We bloodied him up so badly, that the jury looked at it and said, 'Are we going to trade this man for our prison guards, regardless of what they did?' because obviously the video was bad, and the jury sided with the guards."

The guards were charged with beating two inmates, according to prosecutors, as a reminder to inmates of who is in charge.

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The incident with one of the inmates - a man with one leg - was caught on video.

Peruto says they conceded the video was hard to watch, but painted a picture of Derrick Houlihan for the jury.

"It was a guy who was nothing but trouble, anywhere he went," he said. "When he was on the street, when he was in prison, he had no respect for authority, tried to incite a riot all the time, stabbed a prison guard in Philadelphia and he was absolute vermin, and the jury so found."

Peruto says inmate Derrick Houlihan was a problem inmate and they argued the use of force was justified.

This is a man who decided to incite others to just throw their trash into the day room on a daily basis, and made it a complete pig sty. And that is not how Montgomery County prison is run, and the guards saw to it that they run the jail, and not him.

TAGS: [Montgomery County](#), [Montgomery County Correctional Facility](#), [Trial](#), [jail](#), [Inmates](#), [guards](#), [Court](#), [Capt. Edwin Negron](#), [Lt. Darin Collins](#), [Randall Sims](#), [Alfred Gregory](#), [Anthony Saxby](#)