

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/10/05/america/NA-GEN-US-Strip-Searches.php>

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

New York City promises not to strip search those charged with misdemeanors

The Associated Press

Friday, October 5, 2007

NEW YORK: About 150,000 inmates charged with misdemeanors who were improperly strip searched at a New York City jail over the past five years are eligible to receive several thousand dollars each under the settlement of a lawsuit against the city's Department of Correction.

The settlement was reached Thursday just as a civil trial was set to begin in Manhattan federal court, said lawyer Richard D. Emery.

Emery had filed a lawsuit accusing the city of reneging on a deal that barred strip searches of inmates charged with misdemeanors who were brought to the city's main jail at Rikers Island. The inmates are sometimes held at the jail awaiting trial if they cannot post bail, amounts that sometimes are as little as \$100, Emery said.

The inmates each stand to collect from \$3,000 (€2,122) to \$4,000 (€2,830) under the settlement, but Emery said he expected fewer than 25 percent of the inmates would bother to collect the money because many former prisoners cannot be located or do not respond.

The settlement calls for the city to train all the jail workers who process new inmates and make sure that written policies reflect that people arrested on misdemeanor charges are not to be strip searched unless authorities believe they are hiding a controlled substance.

It also called for signs to be posted at city jails advising misdemeanor detainees that they do not have to submit to strip searches.

A similar agreement was reached in 2002, that would have given inmates disposable paper gowns to wear during searches, but not enough gowns were ordered. That deal awarded damages of up to \$1,000 each for inmates who were improperly searched.

Emery said the small size of that award and the continued failure of the city to abide by the agreement led to the second lawsuit.

"The most offensive thing is that 150,000 people were degraded and humiliated when the law was clear they should have been protected," he said.

A message left for comment with the city law office Friday was not immediately returned.

Notes:

ADVERTISER LINKS

Forget About Halliburton?

Learn How Colorado is Sitting on More Oil Than the Middle East
www.DailyWealth.com/Oil_Report

The Petraeus Report

Are You Sure You Can Handle the Truth on Oil & Iraq? New Report.
EnergyAndCapital.com/Petraeus_Rpt

Juniper M20 Router

We Buy and Sell Juniper and many other Manufacturers - Contact us
www.Launch3Telecom.com

A Muslim Europe?

Edward Luttwak on Turkey's plans for the Islamisation of Europe
www.thefirstpost.co.uk



Copyright © 2007 The International Herald Tribune | www.iht.com