

N.Y. inmate sends powder-laced letters

by UPI

NEW YORK -- A New York state prison inmate sent 10 letters to rights groups, journalists and politicians containing a fine white powder, the FBI said. The letters came to the FBI's attention on Monday in Albany, N.Y., and were easily traced because Keith Lettley listed his inmate number on the letters, the New York Post reported Thursday. The 34-year-old is serving 20 years at the Washington Correctional Facility in Comstock, N.Y., for breaking into a New York City home and robbing a couple of money and jewelry at gunpoint, the report said. "The letter had a powdery substance in it," FBI Special Agent James Margolin told the New York Daily News. "The contents tested negative for any pathogens ... It appears to be talcum powder." Among those who received letters were the Rev. Al Sharpton's civil-rights group, the Daily News, reporters for MSNBC, New York's Fox 5 TV, the state bar association and prisoner rights groups. There was no explanation as to how the letters got past security checks at the prison, the newspapers said.

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