

October 26, 2006

## **STENEHJEM: ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST MOE MAURICE GIBBS**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem announced that the state is bringing additional charges against Moe Maurice Gibbs based upon allegations of sexual abuse of inmates at the Barnes County Correctional Center while Gibbs was employed as a jailer. Information regarding the incidents was brought to the attention of law enforcement, which turned the matter over to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

A complaint was filed this afternoon in Barnes County District Court charging Gibbs with six counts of sexual conduct with female inmates allegedly occurring between May and Sept 2006. The most serious counts allege that Gibbs engaged in digital penetration of female prisoners while they were sleeping, Class A felonies.

“These are extremely serious offenses, given that Gibbs held a position of authority over the inmates in the jail,” said Stenehjem.

Stenehjem and Barnes County state’s attorney Brad Cruff conferred and agreed that it was appropriate for Stenehjem’s office to prosecute the charges since Cruff may become obligated to represent the county, which hired and employed Gibbs.

The maximum penalty for a Class A felony is 20 years imprisonment. Handling the case for the Attorney General’s office is Assistant Attorney General Jon Byers. No date has been set for an initial appearance.

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