

The Daily Mail: Attica Prison visitor charged in contraband incident

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ATTICA — A Rochester woman was charged Jan. 6 after she allegedly flushed contraband down a toilet at Attica Correctional Facility.

Siljuana Range, 48, was at the prison visiting her son, with his girlfriend, said New York State Correctional Officers Police Benevolent Association representatives.

A corrections officer noticed her son, Branchaunn Range, was clutching something in his hand, while sitting at a table with his mother and girlfriend.

The officer approached the table and ordered the inmate to put the object he was holding on the table, NYSCOPBA officials said.

The inmate momentarily put the contraband on the table, but Range allegedly picked it off the table and put it in the top pocket of her shirt, before the officer could see what it was.

She's then accused of running to the visitors' bathroom, where she tried to flush the contraband down the toilet. The officer immediately ran after her and tried to stop her.

As the officer struggled with the woman in the bathroom, the inmate and his girlfriend came over and pulled the officer away, NYSCOPBA officials said.

Range was allegedly able to flush the contraband down the toilet in the meantime.

Additional officers responded to the scene and helped detain all three individuals. Range's son was removed from the visitors room.

The two women were held at the facility.

Range was charged with obstructing governmental administration and second-degree harassment. The girlfriend, who was not identified, wasn't charged.

Branchaunn Range, 28, is serving a 6 to 12 year sentence after being convicted in 2006 of second-degree manslaughter and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon in Monroe County. He faces internal disciplinary charges as a result of the incident.

"Contraband that makes its way into our correctional facilities is an on-going problem," said Mike Dildine, Western Region Vice President of the NYSCOPBA, in a news release. "One of our most serious concerns, besides the safety of our members, is the amount of drugs finding their way into the facilities. Thankfully the officer assigned to the visitor's room that day was alert and acted quickly enough to ensure that didn't occur."