

“Prostitution is like rape...”

## Inmate Rape

### Oklahoma Sheriff Charged With Running Sex-Slave Operation From Jail

Published April 17, 2008  
Associated Press

The **sheriff of Custer County** resigned on Wednesday just as federal prosecutors filed 35 felony counts against him for allegedly **running a sex-slave operation at the jail.**

**Mike Burgess** quit the position he'd held since 1994 shortly before appearing in court on 14 counts of second-degree rape, seven counts of forcible oral sodomy and five counts of bribery by a public official.

Burgess surrendered to Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agents and was released from custody after posting \$50,000 bail. He could not be reached for comment.

Among other things, Burgess is accused of having sex with a female drug court participant who was in his custody. The crimes allegedly occurred between October 2005 and April 2007.

A federal lawsuit filed in October claims **Burgess told one drug court participant he would have her sent to prison if she didn't comply with his sexual demands.**

The lawsuit, filed by 12 former jail prisoners, alleges the sheriff's employees had them engage in wet T-shirt contests and offered cigarettes to those who would flash their breasts.

One prisoner alleged she became a jail trusty with more freedom after agreeing to perform a sex act on Burgess, but lost that status when she later refused.

Burgess also faces two counts each of sexual battery, rape by instrumentation and subornation of perjury. Also filed were one count each of engaging in a pattern of criminal offenses, indecent exposure and kidnapping.

Special prosecutor James Boring said Burgess could be sentenced to 467 years in prison if convicted on all 35 counts.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,351618,00.html#ixzz2WVscX2r>



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Custer County Oklahoma Sheriff Mike Burgess....continued from previous page



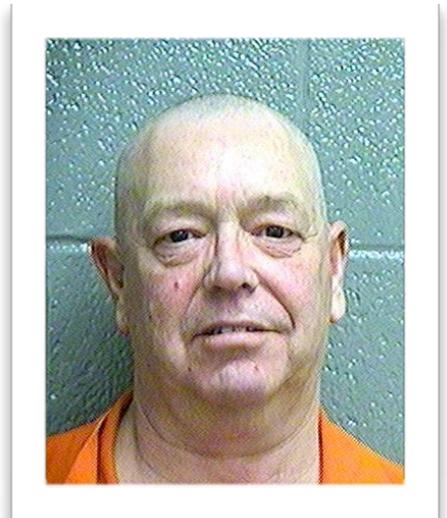
## Former Custer County sheriff receives prison sentence

By RON JACKSON NewsOK.com on Mar 24, 2009

Former Custer County Sheriff Mike Burgess was sentenced to **79 years in prison...**

Burgess, 56, was found guilty of 13 felonies from a total of 36 charges in January by a Major County jury. The assorted charges ranged from forcible oral sodomy and kidnapping to sexual battery and rape.

Burgess has remained in jail since his Jan. 17 conviction. The jury recommended a sentence of 94 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines.



**And in 2004 another Oklahoma County Sheriff and former police chief rapist- received a mere 25 year sentence...**

## Latimer County Sheriff charged with having sex with inmates, The Tulsa World, October 21, 2004.

Ralph W. Marler, MUSKOGEE- **Latimer County Sheriff Melvin Ellis Holly had frequent sex with female jail inmates and then threatened them if they talked, according to a federal charge unsealed Wednesday in U.S. District Court.**

Holly, 63, **had sex with at least three female inmates**, according to an affidavit by FBI Special Agent James Dawson.

U.S. Attorney Sheldon Sperling said Holly is charged with false statement and witness intimidation, felony offenses punishable by five years and 10 years in prison respectively.

At an initial appearance in federal court, Holly was ordered held without bail pending a detention and preliminary examination by Magistrate Kimberly E. West at 2 p.m. Friday.

Sperling asked for detention on grounds that one of the crimes involves violence and Holly poses a danger to another person.

The investigation, which began in April, continues, Sperling said. He noted, in a press release, that Oklahoma law provides that jail inmates are incapable of consenting to sexual relations with law enforcement officers.

Holly was defeated for a third four year term in the July Democratic primary by former Latimer County Assessor Wayne Brinkley, 45. Holly was to leave office in January.

His alleged sexual assaults were traced to September 2003, according to a former inmate who said she had sexual intercourse with Holly after being taken to a railroad facility in Wilburton, the FBI affidavit said.

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**Latimer County Sheriff charged with having sex with inmates, The Tulsa World, October 21, 2004.** continued from previous page

“The 25 year-old woman relented because she was “afraid something bad would happen if did not give in,” the affidavit said. The woman said she had sexual intercourse at two other times, once at Lake Carlton near Robbers Cave State Park, the affidavit said.

At one other time, Holly took the inmate to a sheriffs meeting at a Krebs restaurant and “listened to the business of the sheriffs of southeast Oklahoma,” the affidavit said.

The 25-year old said she is undergoing counseling to deal with problems since her release. One of the problems is intimacy with her husband and in dealing with her children, the affidavit said.

The woman also said she was taken from the jail to Latimer County General Hospital where she was given a sedative after she had been crying for 24 hours.

Another inmate, a 19-year-old, told the FBI agent that Holly took her from her cell to A-OK Railroad facility, where she declined his advances. Holly then took her to his Red Oak home which had been destroyed by fire, authorities said.

At the site, Holly and the inmate had sex in the back seat of his sheriff’s vehicle, officials said. Four or five days later, Holly brought the woman to his Sheriff’s Office where they had sex on the floor, the affidavit said.

Afterward, the sheriff took “moonshine” from a cabinet and served it to her and her cellmate when he returned her to the cell, the affidavit said.

When Holly learned the woman was being taken to another jail, he learned she wanted speak to law enforcement officers. He pressured her to write a statement that she recanted her story, the affidavit said.

**Holly told the inmate she would “end up dead somewhere, floating face down in a river for having talked,” the affidavit said.**

The inmate said she was afraid of Holly because **he had claimed “he has shot and killed numerous people.”** The inmate said she spent time at a psychiatric clinic and is on the antidepressant Prozac to cope with the depression “from being raped” by Holly, the affidavit said.

A third inmate, a 26-year-old, said she on five or six occasions in Holly’s office. She said she last had sex with Holly in May, although Holly continued to “bug” her about it.

Two other female inmates told the FBI of seeing Holly kiss or grope the 19 and 25-year-old inmates. One said she saw Holly take female inmates with him in sheriff vehicles and his own vehicle, the affidavit said.

A 34-year-old female inmate said Holly made several sexual advances toward her, including comments and groping, but denied having sexual intercourse with him. On Sept. 16, the FBI interviewed Holly at his office, but Holly denied ever having any kind of sexual contact with any female inmates in his jail.

Holly was wounded in a September 1998 gunfight after he responded to a woman screaming in downtown Wilburton, news articles show. The woman was killed by a boyfriend, who exchanged shots with Holly. But the boyfriend died of a self-inflicted gunshot, authorities said.

In March 1998, Holly shot and killed a Buffalo Valley man after responding to a call of a man pointing a gun at people, news articles show. In a struggle with the man, Holly pulled his revolver and shot the man.

**He is a former police chief in Red Oak and Wilburton.** He was elected sheriff in 1996, and won re-election in 2000, the first sheriff in 40 years to win back to back terms in Latimer County.

In 2005, former Latimer County Sheriff Melvin Holly received a **25-year sentence in a federal prison** for sexually assaulting female inmates and employees. A year later, county officials settled out of court with 16 women for a combined \$665,000 — money added to the property tax rolls and paid out over the next three years.”