



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

L. GALE BUCKNER, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE **OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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DJJ RELEASES DESCRIPTION OF ESCAPEE FROM AUGUSTA YDC

(AUGUSTA-GA) The Department of Juvenile Justice has released the following description of the missing detainee who escaped along with four other juvenile offenders from the Youth Development Campus in Augusta early Friday night:

The escapee is described as a black male, 18 years old, tall and slender build, 5'8", 162 pounds, close cut black hair, with brown eyes. No identifying marks or tattoos. He was last seen wearing state-issue blue shorts and a white sleeved t-shirt.

Police are warning the public not to approach the youth who was believed to have driven the stolen getaway car. The Department of Juvenile Justice has secured a warrant for the 18-year-old on charges of escape and motor vehicle theft. A "BOLO" (Be On the Look Out) will be issued statewide to alert law enforcement for the escapee.

The other four missing youth were returned to state custody Friday night. None of the youth are from the Augusta area. Local law enforcement continue their search today in the general area where the five juveniles abandoned the car they stole after escaping from the Augusta YDC.

Richmond County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the stolen vehicle report Friday night and apprehended three of the youth following a brief car chase. Two other occupants ran into nearby woods. One of those youth later surrendered to a Department of Corrections canine team. No one was hurt in the round-up.

As a standard security precaution, the Augusta detention facility remains on lockdown today while investigators verify how the escape occurred. Investigators from the DJJ Office of Investigations in Atlanta are on-site at Augusta YDC conducting a facility safety review, examining the campus for security deficiencies, and looking for any policy violations which may have contributed to the escape.

(END RELEASE)