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Mississippi prison guard to be charged in escape of two killers

MERIDIAN, Miss. - A guard at a privately-run prison in Lauderdale County will be charged with helping two convicted murderers escape from the facility this week, authorities say. The two were recaptured in Alabama, where the guard also was detained.

Chief Deputy Ward Calhoun said Tuesday that Tomeka Lashae Brown, a correctional officer at East Mississippi Correctional Facility, has been arrested and will be charged with two counts of accessory before the fact.

Brown was being held in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where Christopher Roy and Gregory Malone were arrested Tuesday. Roy and Malone waived their rights to an extradition hearing and will be transported to the Lauderdale County Jail at a later date, Calhoun said. He said Brown also will be returned.

Authorities said shortly after midnight Tuesday, the U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force from Birmingham, Ala., arrested Roy and Malone without incident at an Econo Lodge hotel in Tuscaloosa.

The marshals were acting on information provided by Mississippi Department of Corrections investigators.

"I cannot adequately express my appreciation to the many law enforcement officers in Mississippi and Alabama who worked tirelessly and jointly in this effort to apprehend these two escapees," Mississippi Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps said.

Roy, 24, is serving a life sentence for a homicide conviction in Jackson County. Malone, 26, is serving a life sentence for a capital murder conviction in Hinds County. Both offenders now face additional charges for escape, carrying a possible penalty of five years, Epps said.

Roy and Malone were discovered missing around 1 a.m. Monday at the private prison owned by The GEO Group Inc.

Details of the preliminary investigation reveal that inmate body counts were not taken accurately, Epps said.

"We are investigating the situation, and disciplinary action will result," Epps said.

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