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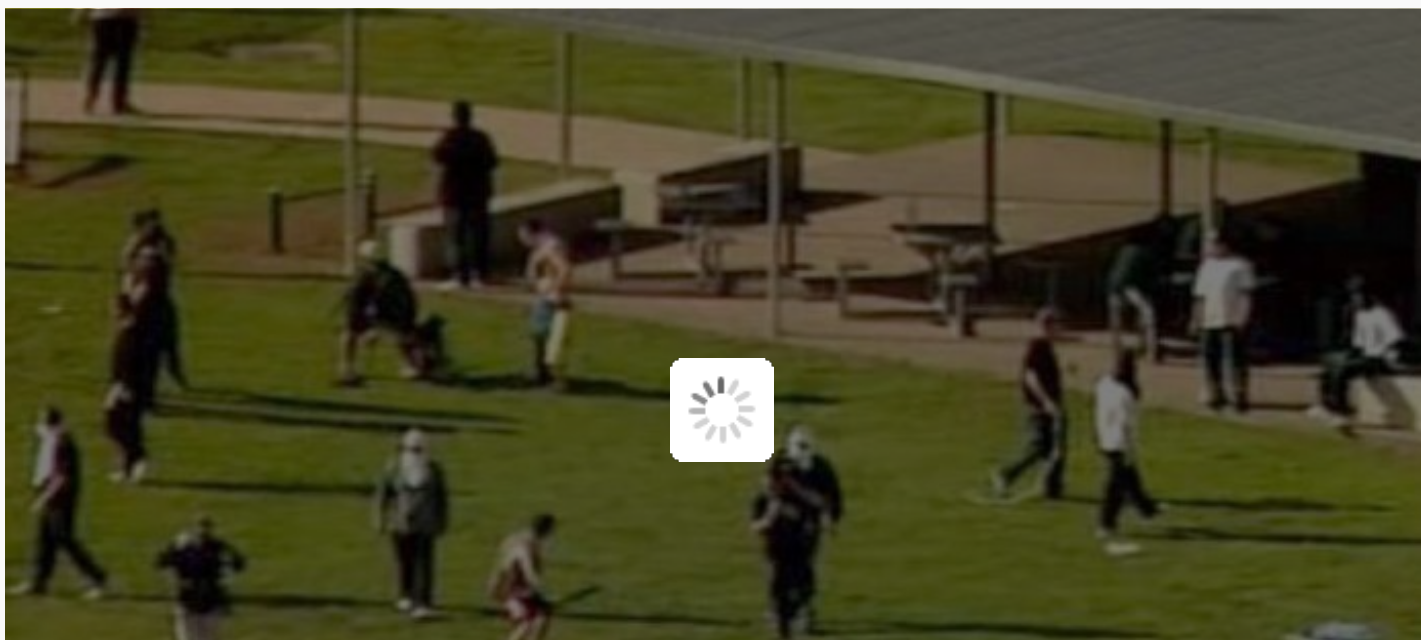
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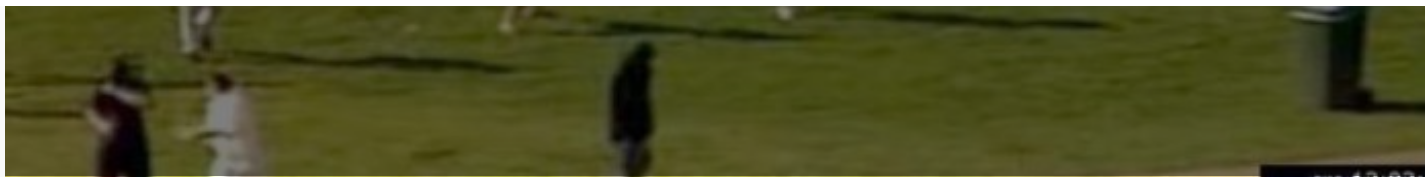
Melbourne prison riot: 300 inmates demonstrating at maximum security facility in Ravenhall

Updated 13 minutes ago



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VIDEO: [Inmates riot in Melbourne's Ravenhall prison](#) (ABC News)

Emergency authorities, including heavily armed police carrying shields, are attending a riot at Melbourne's maximum security prison, the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Ravenhall.

PHOTO: [Aerial footage of the Ravenhall prison grounds showed inmates with covered faces carrying sticks and bashing doors.](#) (AAP/Seven News Melbourne)

MAP: [Deer Park 3023](#)

Police at the scene said about 300 prisoners were involved in a demonstration which began at 12:20pm inside the prison.

Images from inside the prison show inmates with their faces covered, carrying sticks and bashing doors at the prison.

A drone was sent up to monitor the yard, with a police helicopter and heavily armoured vehicle also on the scene.

[External Link: Peta Carlyon tweet](#)

Smoke was seen billowing from the prison, but has since subsided.

All of the inmates were contained within the grounds, police said.

Corrections Victoria confirmed "a group of prisoners breached a secure inner perimeter of the Metropolitan Remand Centre".

"Parts of the prison have been locked down and Corrections Victoria is working with Victoria Police to contain the situation," a spokesperson for Corrections Victoria said.

"Police have secured the perimeter of the prison. There is no threat to public safety."

All of the state's prisons are in lockdown as a precaution.

An estimated 200 staff were evacuated from the prison, but a large number of staff returned to inside the building.

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PHOTO: Heavily armed riot police carrying shields are attending a demonstration at the Metropolitan Remand Centre in Ravenhall. (ABC News: Peta Carlyon)

The Community and Public Sector Union acting secretary Catherine Davies said "all of the staff have been accounted for and there's been no injuries".

The Metropolitan Remand Centre is a 723-bed facility, 24 kilometres west of Melbourne's CBD.

Prison smoking ban to be introduced Wednesday

There is speculation that the riot is related to a [state-wide smoking ban in Victorian prisons, which is due to begin tomorrow](#).

About 84 per cent of people going into the state's 14 prisons smoke and about 1,300 prisoners, or 20 per



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cent of the prison population, have attended quit programs up until the end of May.

CEO of the Victorian Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders Carol Nikakis said most prisoners seemed to have accepted the ban.

"[Corrections Victoria] have been very active in providing alternative therapies; they've also used the Quit program within the prison to assist people to adjust to the news," she said.

"I think it's D-Day now and people are thinking what am I going to do without my cigarettes, but they have been well prepared by Corrections."

Corrections Commissioner Jan Shuard told 774 ABC Melbourne earlier on Tuesday the prison system was "very ready" for the ban.

"This has been 18 months in the making. We've had a very long-term project in place to work with both our staff and the prisoners in preparing for [the ban]," he said.

"My advice today is we've probably got about 10 per cent of the prison population remaining to cease on [Wednesday]."

Ambulance Victoria are on stand-by at the scene, but have had no reports of injuries.

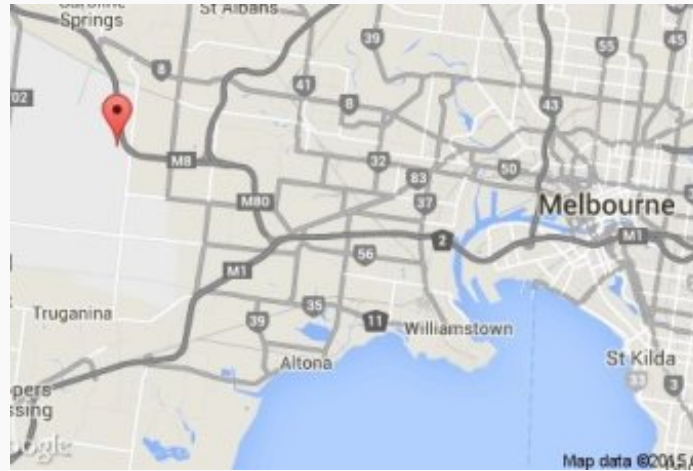


PHOTO: Melbourne Metropolitan Remand Centre, is around 24 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD. (Google Maps)





PHOTO: Firefighters being briefed outside the Metropolitan Remand Centre at Ravenhall. (ABC News: Peta Carlyon)



PHOTO: [Emergency crews at the Melbourne remand centre following a prisoner riot.](#) (ABC: Jean Edwards)

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