

Rand beaten by inmates

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A battered Andre Rand was back on the Island yesterday and his lawyer challenged the medical examiner's report that classified Jennifer Schweiger's death as a homicide, calling such a conclusion "speculative."

The lawyer, Jerome V. Giovinazzo, predicted, based on what he knows of the evidence, that "there would be no doubt as to the outcome" if the murder-kidnapping charges against Rand were to be tried in another borough.

Giovinazzo said he plans to move for a change in venue, shifting trial of the case from Staten Island because of what he called "the massive outpouring of publicity" that would prevent his client from receiving a fair trial on the Island.

Giovinazzo made the statements at the Supreme Court arraignment of Rand on an indictment that charged him with kidnapping Jennifer Schweiger of Westerlo, a 12-year-old Down's syndrome victim, and causing her death.

Rand showed up in court with

bloodied nose and facial injuries. Giovinazzo said Rand believed he had suffered a fractured nose and ribs when set upon by a group of inmates at Rikers Island before he was scheduled to leave for court yesterday.

Giovinazzo said Rand was removed from a cell in which he was the sole occupant under what is called "administrative segregation" and placed in a cell with eight other inmates who choked and attacked him.

Thomas Antenen of the Correction Department's public affairs unit said a correction officer notified that Rand, a protective custody inmate, was bleeding when he appeared in a holding cell in the receiving room area at Rikers Island to await being transported to Staten Island at 6:30 a.m.

Antenen said Rand had been placed in a holding cell with eight other inmates, all of whom were also in protective custody to await transportation.

Antenen said that when the officer questioned Rand about his injuries he refused to make a statement or to receive medical attention. He was then shipped to

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Andre Rand leaves court and is led to a vehicle that will take him to the 120th Precinct in St. George.

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