

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/08/09/california-prison-hunger-strike-now-33-days-in/>

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by [Sal Rodriguez](#) | August 9, 2013

The statewide California prison hunger strike has now lasted 33 days. As of yesterday, 193 hunger strikers have refused meals the entire 32 days since the strike began on July 8th. In total, there were 349 hunger strikers yesterday, up from 346 the day before. CDCRs Terry Thornton confirmed that some hunger strike participants who had ended their participation are resuming their hunger strike activity. Prisoners are only considered to be on hunger strike if they refuse nine consecutive state issued meals, so it is possible that there are many others who are also refusing meals but are not considered on hunger strike.

The California medical receivers office, through spokesperson Joyce Hayhoe, confirmed that, as of Wednesday, 31 hunger strikers had lost more than 10% of their body weight, and 57 had refused to be weighed. While there were two hospitalizations on Wednesday, there were reportedly no hospitalizations of hunger strikers on Thursday.

The CDCR has resumed the case-by-case reviews of SHU prisoners in facilities that have ended hunger strike participation. Reviews, which began in October 2012, will be conducted on all gang validated prisoners in the SHU or in ASUs pending SHU cell openings. The reviews will determine whether or not SHU housing is necessary, and could lead to placement immediately in general population or to various stages of the Step Down Program, through which SHU prisoners may hypothetically be able to transfer out of the SHU in four to five years. This process, described in documents [here](#), would hypothetically allow someone to get out of the SHU without debriefing.

At present, 415 case-by-case reviews of validated SHU prisoners have been completed with 230 endorsed for general population and 122 placed in various stages of the Step Down Program. The remainder are retained in SHU due to safety concerns, a presently undefined category that seemingly includes SHU prisoners who have instead chosen to debrief.

Meanwhile, the members of the hunger strike mediation team, a group of activists including the mother of one hunger striker Dolores Canales and attorney Marilyn McMahon, visited the hunger strike leaders at Pelican Bay yesterday. The mediation team [released](#) the following statement:

All of the members of our mediation team were able to speak with hunger strike representatives at Pelican Bay for two-and-a-half hours. All four representatives are totally united and resolute. They were clear that this peaceful protest is not about them it is about making real, fundamental changes to an incredibly unjust system.

They haven't eaten for 32 days but they are cogent, focused, and committed.

We were able to work together to develop new ideas about how to move forward, which we will be acting on over the next few days. The mediation team will be staying in contact with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and issuing statements daily.

Sal Rodriguez was Solitary Watch's first and most prolific intern. Based in Los Angeles, he served as an editorial writer and columnist for the Orange County Register and the Press-Enterprise, and is now the opinion editor for the Southern California News Group.

Accurate information and authentic storytelling can serve as powerful antidotes to ignorance and injustice. We have helped generate public awareness, mainstream media attention, and informed policymaking on what was once an invisible domestic human rights crisis.

Only with your support can we continue this groundbreaking work, shining light into the darkest corners of the U.S. criminal punishment system.

by [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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thanks, sal, for your excellent reporting. im a singer/songwriter by trade, and just wrote a song based on your recent articles:
http://youtu.be/XX2E5h2_WF4

WELCOME TO HELL SWEET-not HORRENDOUS CELL.

The hunger strikers are an epic example of there honor being their loyalty!

BRAVO to these BRAVE men who are VICTIMS of an EXTREMELY messed up and INHUMANE prison system.

May God have mercy on the souls of the people responsible for the torture they feel is justified on these men.

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