

Witness Against Torture

Torture, Former Combatants, Political Prisoners, Terror Suspects, & Terrorists

<https://witnessagainsttorture.com/2013/03/13/resisting-hell-on-earth-hunger-strike-at-guantanamo/>

Campaign and Advocacy

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The facts are stark. More than 100 men on a new hunger strike at Guantnamo, now in its fifth week.

The context is heartbreaking. More than half of the 166 men at Guantnamo have been Cleared for Release by U.S. authorities. Not charged with any crime of terrorism or violence, they linger in the prison because of the Obama administrations and Congresss callous disregard for their basic legal and human rights. All inmates at Guantnamo subjected to routine indignities and abuses are waiting for real justice: their release when innocent or the chance to plead their case in a legitimate court of law.

With no concrete hope of a return to their families and home countries, they choose resistance. They choose more suffering. They hunger strike.

DemocracyNow!, in a [story not yet covered by the mainstream press](#), reported today on the hunger strike and the dire conditions precipitating it, even as the Obama administration defends its Guantnamo record before the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#).

Center for Constitutional Rights staff attorney Omar Farah told the commission on March 12, 2013: Our clients report that most of the men at the prison are now in the fifth week of a mass hunger strike to peacefully protest worsening prison conditions, religious provocation, and the crushing reality that after 11 years in indefinite detention, there is no end in sight to their suffering. In light of the humanitarian crisis unfolding at Guantnamo, it is indefensible that the U.S. government failed to answer the Commissions simple questions about how it plans to close the prison camp.

Pardiss Kebriaei, Senior staff attorney for Center for Constitutional Rights, represents a number of men at Guantnamo. After eleven years of detention and with conditions deteriorating, she reports, some of them have lost hope and see no other way to protest their detention and treatment than a hunger strike. CCR has received reports of men coughing up blood, being hospitalized, losing consciousness, and becoming weak and fatigued. Soon, the men on hunger strike will be risking permanent physical injury and even death.

One of the detainees cleared for release, a Yemeni named Adnan Latif died in September 2012 at Guantnamo. He describes it as a piece of hell that kills everything. Witness Against Torture grieves along with the men at Guantnamo and their families for those who have already died there and for those who still endure the torture of indefinite detention. We gather this weekend in Chicago to strategize and plan and witness. Please join us if you can, please support our work. Please stand up for hope, life and justice.