

Witness Against Torture

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

<https://witnessagainsttorture.com/2013/03/20/hunger-strike-response/>

Campaign and Advocacy

We save our lengthy posts for this site. If you want quicker, more frequent updates about our actions, along with photos and videos, please head over to our [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) pages.

We will gather for action in New York City, Chicago, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Des Moines, Western Massachusetts, and other cities domestically and internationally next week to denounce the barbaric practice of torture and indefinite detention and to demand justice for the men at Guantanamo.

Joined by allies worldwide, Witness Against Torture members will fast for 7 days Sunday, March 24 through Saturday, March 30 in solidarity with the men in Guantanamo on hunger strike.

Some of us will continue fasting every Friday until President Barack Obamas promise to close Guantanamo is fulfilled.

We will try to reach the men at Guantanamo, their families, and men formerly detained to let them know that we have not forgotten their suffering.

We will continue to organize, agitate and witness in defense of human rights and the U.S. Constitution.

Join the Fast & Vigils

We invite you to join the fast for whatever period of time you can between March 24-30. Let us know you are participating (and we will send you information on a fasters reflection conference call scheduled for Thursday). [See the Events page of our website](#) to find vigil information for New York City, Chicago, Des Moines, Northhampton, Los Angeles & Washington D.C. and let us know of any vigils to add. [Print off this new tri-fold flyer to pass out at your event!](#)

Skip a meal & Send a Letter

Flood the prison with mail by [downloading and sending this letter](#) to a man detained in Guantanamo.

Skip a meal and use that time to send it, or donate the food cost to sending the letters.

Organize through social media

Take a photo of yourself in an orange jumpsuit and black hood in a public place and send it to witnesstorture@gmail.com

Change your facebook photo to [this photo](#) for the week of March 24-30 and post to your friends and networks about your protest.

[Follow Witness Against Torture on Twitter.](#)

[Visit the WAT Tumblr blog and submit photos.](#)

Call the White House and U.S. Military

Call the White House and insist that President Obama fulfill his promise to close Guantanamo: 202-456-1111, 202-456-1414 or [submit a comment online](#).

Call the U.S. Southern Command to decry the conditions at Guantanamo: 305.437.1213

Call the Department of Defense: 703-571-3343

Talking points: *I am concerned about the expanding hunger strike and I appreciate General Kellys (Southcom Commander) recent acknowledgement before Congress of the devastating situation at Guantanamo. We are concerned over the costs associated, both financially and what it does to Americas image, and concerned about the repercussions for our troops and what it means to ask young kids to force feed people we admit are innocent. I ask that, in the face of the failure of our elected officials to close Guantanamo, our Military will refuse to participate in force feedings.*

[E-mail or write Secretary of Defense Charles Hagel](#) and demand that he rapidly resume the transfers of all the men the Obama administration does not intend to charge.

Write: Secretary of Defense Charles Hagel, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301

Where is the world to save us from torture?
Where is the world to save us from the fire and the darkness?
Where is the world to save the hunger strikers?
from Hunger Strike Poem by
Adnan Latif, 37 found dead in
Guantanamo on Sept. 8, 2012

What would you do if you were imprisoned for more than ten years, without ever being charged with a crime? You were tortured and abused. You could not see your family. Your only visitors were interrogators and lawyers. And then you were cleared for release deemed by your captors to be no threat and told that the prison would close. But you remained locked up, with no end in sight. Who would hear your cries? What resistance could you mount?

This is the situation for dozens of men at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo. Fed up with their treatment and spurred by a new wave of abuses, they launched a hunger strike in February that is just now gaining attention in the U.S. press. [peekaboo_link name=whereistheworld start=hidden]Read more.[/peekaboo_link]
[peekaboo_content name=whereistheworld]

Most of the men in Camp 6, the largest in the Guantanamo prison complex, have been on hunger strike since February 6, 2013. Lawyers for prisoners say the men are protesting their indefinite confinement and what they consider intrusive searches of their Qurans. The U.S. government now admits that 21 men are refusing food, though the attorneys insist the number is much higher.

The health of those on hunger strike is deteriorating. Attorneys report that some men have lost 20-30 pounds and that at least two dozen have lost consciousness. According to medical experts, irreversible mental and physiological damage such as hearing loss, blindness, and hemorrhaging may begin to occur by the fortieth day of a hunger strike, and death follows thereafter.

The U.S. Navy reports that 8 men are being force-fed a practice condemned by some human rights organizations as itself a form of torture, and used in efforts to break prior hunger strikes at Guantanamo.

166 men remain imprisoned at Guantanamo. 86 have been cleared for release. All are being subject to indefinite detention, held at the cost of \$800,000 per year for each man, at a prison the President of the United States pledged to close on his first day of office in January 2009.

[/peekaboo_content]

[We Have Not Forgotten Your Suffering](#) *Common Dreams* (3-25-13)

[More Join Hunger Strike at Guantanamo Prison](#) *New York Times*(3-25-13)

[Food Fight: Guantanamo Captives, guards at stalemate](#) *The Miami Herald* (3-24-13)

[Number of Hunger Strikers Surges at Guantanamo](#)*New York Times*(3-20-13)

[Guantanamo hunger strike grows](#) *The Miami Herald* (3-19-13)

[How Long Can the Government Pretend that the Massive Hunger Strike at Guantanamo Doesn't Exist?](#) Andy Worthington (3-17-13)

[Attorney Letter to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel](#) Center for Constitutional Rights (3-14-13)

[Guantanamo: By the Numbers](#) Center for Constitutional Rights (3-11-13)

Witness Against Torture formed in 2005 when 25 Americans went to Guantanamo Bay to protest the detention facility. Since then, the group has organized vigils, marches, nonviolent direct actions, and educational events calling for the close of Guantanamo, an end to U.S. torture, accountability for the torturers, and justice for the victims.