

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2015/02/14/voices-from-solitary-on-hunger-strike-against-brutal-treatment-in-florida-prisons/>

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by [Voices from Solitary](#) | February 14, 2015

Jacob Barrett is an Oregon state prisoner who was transferred to Florida and has been [held for years](#) in Close Management, or solitary confinement, most recently at Florida State Prison in Raiford. On February 1, Barrett began a hunger strike not only against the conditions he himself has endured, but also against the rampant abuses in Floridas prisons. These abuses have gained notoriety in recent months due an increase in reporting, especially by the [Miami Herald](#), on the high number of prison deaths in the state. These include such gruesome cases as a man with mental illness who was locked in a scalding shower until his skin melted off, and another who was gassed to death while locked in a cell.

What follows are excerpts from a letter sent by Barrett to the [Real Cost of Prisons Project](#), which has long published his [writings](#) and [artwork](#), and a handwritten press release about the hunger strike. Barrett writes that he believes he has no alternative, and that Im not killing me, they are killing me. A practicing Druid, he cites both the Quran and the ancient Celtic tradition of the [Troskada](#) ritual fast held in protest of grievances.

After two weeks on hunger strike, Jacob Barrett, who is no longer permitted to write letters, has been transferred to a crisis unit. His supporters on the outside are urging people to write to him and to contact prison officials on his behalf, as outlined here: www.facebook.com/JacobBarrettHungerStrike. Jean Casella

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I dont believe there are any reasonable timely alternatives. My court cases will be tied up for years, all the while abuses continue and I cant even make a phone call to my family. We get punished for talking to other prisoners. It is going to force their hand. And sometimes it is the right thing to do.

I am not doing it solely for me, but other prisoners as well. I am also doing it to show solidarity for families of those who have recently been shot and murdered by police. Im tired of hearing these guard call people faggot and beat on people and get away with it.

There is a verse from the Quran that says The life of this world is but a comfort of illusion. (3:185). I dont know. All I know is I find no comfort in the Florida illusion. I know my action is extreme, however, Im not killing me, they are killing me. Its their conduction that is provoking it.

They have three choices:(1) correct their wrongs; (2) send me out of Floridawhich would negate the need for a troscad;or (3) let me die and face media scrutiny, if the media even cares.

PRESS RELEASE

DECLARATION OF PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

I, Jacob Barrett, an Oregon Department of Corrections (ODOC) prisoner being housed illegally in the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) declare that on February 1, 2015 I will begin a troscad (Hunger Strike) to the death against ODOC and FDOC officials:

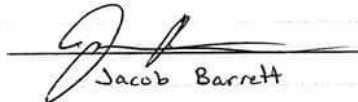
- (1) to secure religious exercise rights for myself and other prisoners;
- (2) to stop the long-term inhumane and unnecessary harsh sensory deprivation in solitary confinement in the "supermax" FDOC facilities, called Close Management (CM);
- (3) to stop prison guard brutality carried out by FDOC officials against prisoners in FDOC facilities, including disproportionate use of excessive force and homicides as a means of corporal punishment;

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(4) to stop discriminatory and bigoted treatment by FDoc guards against gay and transgender prisoners and racist treatment against black prisoners;

Please share this with others you think might be interested.

Thank you,


Jacob Barrett

The Voices from Solitary series publishes dispatches from people surviving the lived experience of solitary confinement.

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 [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 30, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 19, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 6, 2022

Solitary Watch encourages comments and welcomes a range of ideas, opinions, debates, and respectful disagreement. We do not allow name-calling, bullying, cursing, or personal attacks of any kind. Any embedded links should be to information relevant to the conversation. Comments that violate these guidelines will be removed, and repeat offenders will be blocked. Thank you for your cooperation.

I would like his address info Im his second cousin thanks

We cannot give out his address without his permission, but the addresses of most people in the Florida Prison system can be found here: <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/activeinmates/search.asp>. Hope you get in touch!

All the best to you Jacob.
Stay strong

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