# 3 Stories Follow Prisoner Hunger Strike Grows to Nearly 12,000!

[prisonerhungerstrikesolidaritywordpress.com](http://t.ymlp47.com/qubacaumbjagaeuafahy/click.php)  
  
Numbers released by the federal receiver’s office show that on September 28th, nearly 12,000 prisoners were on hunger strike, including California prisoners who are housed in out of state prisons in Arizona, Mississippi and Oklahoma. This historic and unprecedented number shows the strength and resolve of the prisoners to win their 5 core demands and is a serious challenge to the power of the California prison system and to the Prison Industrial Complex in general.  
  
Prisoners are currently on strike in Pelican Bay State Prison, Calipatria, Centinela, Corcoran, Ironwood State Prison, Kern Valley State Prison, North Kern State Prison, and Salinas Valley State Prison. Throughout the last week prisoners at California Rehabilitation Center in Norco, Pleasant Valley State Prison, San Quentin as well as West Valley Detention Center in San Bernadino County were participating.  
  
The receiver’s office and the CDCRÂ begin monitoring prisoners who have refused food for 72 hours or for 9 consecutive meals. Representatives of the hunger strikers have previously stated that this will be a rolling strike, allowing prisoners to come off strike to regain strength. Because of this, numbers will likely fluctuate throughout the duration of the strike.  
  
[Watch a short video](http://t.ymlp47.com/quhafaumbjataeuagahy/click.php) about solitaritary confinement produced by the American Friends Service Committee.  
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# State prison officials investigate 2 advocates

by Michael Montgomery  
  
[CALIFORNIA WATCH](http://t.ymlp47.com/quwaiaumbjafaeuatahy/click.php)  
Founded by the Center for Investigative Reporting  
  
October 1, Â 2011  
  
Just days after thousands of California inmates renewed a hunger strike, two Bay Area attorneys closely involved in mediation efforts got a surprise: They were under investigation by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for allegations of misconduct and unspecified security threats.  
  
The attorneys – Marilyn McMahon, executive director of California Prison Focus, and Carol Strickman of Legal Services for Prisoners With Children – have been banned from state institutions until the investigation is resolved, according to temporary exclusion orders signed by Corrections Undersecretary Scott Kernan on Sept. 29.  
  
The investigation will determine whether the attorneys “violated the laws and policies governing the safe operations of institutions within the CDCR,” the order states.  
  
The document does not provide details about the allegations. It cites a section from California Code of Regulations that reads:  
   
"Committing an act that jeopardizes the life of a person, violates the security of the facility, constitutes a misdemeanor or a felony, or is a reoccurrence of previous violations shall result in a one-year to lifetime exclusion depending on the severity of the offense in question."  
  
Corrections spokeswoman Terry Thornton confirmed the department had banned "some specific attorneys" from one facility for alleged misconduct. She declined further comment, citing an ongoing investigation.  
  
The move is another indication that the corrections department intends to handle the current protest differently from an earlier hunger strike, which ended July 20 after officials agreed to some concessions, including a review of policies governing the state’s controversial Security Housing Units, where some inmates have spent decades housed alone in windowless cells.  
  
Since then, strike leaders have accused corrections officials of failing to carry out their promises.  
   
“CDCR has responded with more propaganda, lies and vague double-talk of promises of change in time," reads a statement from the leaders posted on an advocacy website. The inmates vowed to continue the protest indefinitely, “until actual changes are implemented.”  
  
But corrections officials say they’ve kept their commitments and claim the protests are the work of dangerous gang leaders.  
   
“Unlike in the first instance where we certainly evaluated their concerns and thought there was some merit to it, this instance appears to be more manipulative, and it certainly has the possibility of being a real disruption to the Department of Corrections and the security of its staff and inmates,” Kernan said.  
   
A memo signed by Kernan and distributed to inmates Sept. 29 warned the department was treating the new hunger strike as a “mass disturbance” and said any prisoner who joined the protest would be subject to disciplinary action.  
  
General-population inmates identified as strike leaders will be locked in special segregation units normally used as punishment for major rules violations, according to the memo.  
  
Strickman and McMahon have been involved in extensive discussions with corrections officials, including Kernan, and leaders of the strike, who are housed in Pelican Bay State Prison’s Security Housing Unit.  
  
Neither attorney was available for comment.  
  
Dorsey Nunn, executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners With Children, condemned the sanctions against the attorneys and said he expected the department would place similar restrictions on other advocates in order to further isolate leaders of the hunger strike.  
  
“They’re trying to move us out of the way,” he said.  
  
Nearly 3,400 inmates at six prisons have refused state-issued meals for three consecutive days, according to the most recent data from the corrections department.  
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# Written Statement from the Men at Calipatria State Prison ASU segregation unit, dated 9/20/2011

“Greetings to you and all. We are writing this letter in regards of the hunger strike happening on 9/26/11.  
   
This is gonna be our second time participating in the Hunger Strike and that goes for the majority of the men here in ASU.  
   
We all have experienced the dread of Calipatria’s misconduct in one way or another. We have been wrongfully validated as a prison gang ‘associate’. The evidence used against us is insufficient and untrue which majority of us are experiencing this.  
   
We are all supporting Pelican Bay and their 5 core demands, but we also have issues with this administration and all their misconduct. There’s people here who have been waiting to get transferred to Pelican Bay SHU for 3-4 years and during this wait we aren’t being allowed what we have coming as “SHU status inmates” such as our T.V.’s or Radios.  
   
Roughly, 80% of us back here in ASU are validated inmates and this administration’s only response is to “appeal it.” We aren’t even given a fair chance to even “appeal it” because the information used against us is considered “confidential” and CDCR doesn’t allow us to confront our accusers.  
   
Its being estimated that the number of participation in round 2 of the hunger strike is to be in the 100’s and that’s just counting the men in ASU here.  
   
We all stand strong together and we all strive for the rights of not only Pelican Bay and Calipatria but for ALL PRISONERS IN OUR SITUATION.  
   
Our protest is a “peaceful solid food hunger strike” and our demands coincide with the 5 core demands of Pelican Bay with the addition of us being given our appliance (T.V. or Radio) and our P.I.A. soft shoes.  
   
During the last hunger strike we were denied our liquids which we had a right to have (such as milk, juice, coffee packs, etc…) up to 3 times a day.  
   
We are committed to take it as far as we can go and some of us men in ASU are willing to die if we have too to stop our inhumane conditions we are experiencing.  
   
We all would like to remain anonymous but with this letter, we hope all turns out for the best and we thank you for your support and time.”

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