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## **Retaliation by Geo Against Hunger Strikers Leaves Two injured**

At least two cases of assault by Geo guards have been reported by people refusing to eat

Tacoma, WA – At least 2 people on hunger strike reported being assaulted by Geo guards for refusing to eat as their right to express their demands was met with beatings, leaving one person with a black eye and one with a neck injury. At least 5 units have reported joining the hunger strike that began on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to protest the abuses they face inside the facility, which is owned and operated by GEO Group, a private prison company, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In an attempt to document the injuries and assault, legal counsel from NWDC Resistance grassroots group was denied entrance to the facility this morning. “This morning I was denied access to two people that called us requesting my visit so I could document the assault they were victims of. Geo guards claimed ICE is not on site and that I have to wait to talk to them until Monday showing a clear effort to deny these people access to outside witness of their injuries” said Toby Joseph legal counsel member of NWDC Resistance.

The partner of one the persons injured met with Mr. Joseph outside the facility this morning telling him she was able to visit her partner and saw through the glass in the visitation area his injuries of a black eye and neck injuries.

The supporters of the strikers are calling for a rally tomorrow **Sunday at 1PM** outside the gates of the facility.

NWDC Resistance activists and allies will mobilize to support strikers at the Northwest Detention Center. For live updates on the strike, visit <https://www.facebook.com/NWDCResistance/>

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***NWDC Resistance** is a volunteer community group that emerged to fight deportations in 2014 at the now-infamous Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA. NWDC Resistance is part of the #Not1More campaign and supported people detained who organized hunger strikes asking for a halt to all deportations and better treatment and conditions.*