

For Immediate Release

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Seventy Detained Women Join Protest as Hunger Strike Enters Fifth Day
Rally at 6 PM Tonight to Feature Video of Hunger Striker Singing Protest Song

Tacoma, WA - Immigrant women caged at the Northwest Detention Center confirmed that they have joined the hunger strike that has grown at the facility since this past Monday in protest of conditions inside the immigration prison. Supporters continued an outside encampment, receiving constant updates from people detained.

The women's pod at the Northwest Detention Center got news out that they had joined the strike. In a statement (below, with translation), one of the women described conditions that led them to join the hunger strike, which include delayed court proceedings, and being given terrible food, and dirty, used underwear. The hunger striker, whose court proceeding has been rescheduled four times, stated, "We came here fleeing from our countries so that we could be heard and to ask for help...but we have been forgotten here." She explains that the hunger strikers are being told that there is no outside support for their efforts, but that they nonetheless vow to continue their protest.

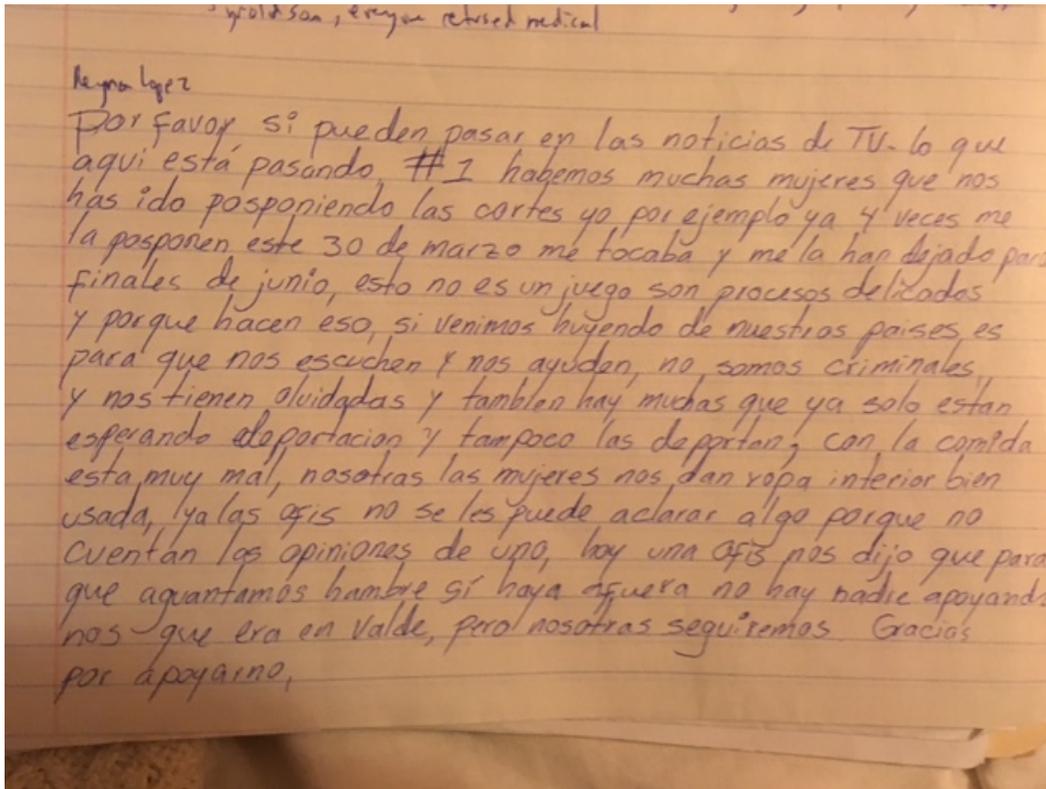
The strike comes as the Trump administration awards its first contract to a build a new detention facility to GEO Group, the private prison company that runs the Tacoma immigration prison. The deal for the construction of a new 1000 bed, \$110 million immigration prison in Conroe, Texas, to be run by the GEO Group, brought extra urgency to protest. "People are risking their health and their lives to bring to light the abuses of ICE and GEO Group. For the government to continue to expand GEO Group's capacity to cage immigrants at this time only highlights the need for the hunger striker's protest," stated Maru Mora Villalpando of NWDC Resistance.

A solidarity rally is planned for 6 p.m. tonight, with video from a hunger striker and band member from Raza Obrera singing an original protest song, and statements from family members of hunger strikers. For live updates, 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 as 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.



English translation: Please if you can pass on this information to the TV. What is happening here, first we have many women whose court dates have been postponed. Me, more example, I have had my court date postponed four times. This March 30th I was supposed to have court and they postponed it until the end of June. This is not a game, these are complex proceedings and that's why we are doing this. We came here fleeing from our countries so that we could be heard and to ask for help. We are not criminals, but we have been forgotten here. There are many here who are just awaiting their deportations and they are not being deported. The food is terrible and we women are being given old and used underwear. The officers don't accept any of our complaints because our opinions do not count. There is one officer who asked us why we are not eating, telling us there is no one outside supporting us so our efforts are in vain, but we will continue. Thank you for your support.