

For Immediate Release
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Contact: WA- Maru Mora Villalpando, (206) 251 6658, maru@latinoadvocacy.org
OR- Jessica Campbell, (503) 320 6878, jessica@rop.org

On National Day of Protest, Immigrant Uprising at Northwest Detention Spreads to Oregon Jail that Contracts with ICE
Immigrants Detained at NORCOR in The Dalles, Oregon join Over 70 Women on Hunger Strike in Tacoma, Washington

Tacoma, WA - As the hunger strike at the Northwest Detention Center entered its fourth week, over 70 women caged at the facility joined the protest, which has included meal refusals, a boycott of the commissary, and work stoppages. At least one protester is in solitary confinement for resisting a retaliatory transfer to NORCOR, a jail in Oregon that contracts with ICE to hold immigrants.

NWDC Resistance has confirmed that in addition to the women on strike, at least four people in solitary confinement at the detention center have stopped eating. One hunger striker confirmed in a letter that officials have told those detained, "If we protest or go on strike they will send us to NORCOR and they can bring us up on federal charges for inciting a hunger strike." He adds, "It's as if they don't want us to raise our voices so that they can continue to make their profit." ICE has carried out these threats, with at least four hunger-strikers already transferred to NORCOR. Hunger strikers demands for adequate food, lower commissary prices, and contact visits now include no retaliation: GEO should stop sending hunger strikers to NORCOR, and stop threatening hunger strikers with this transfer.

ICE's retaliatory tactic has backfired, and the protests at the Tacoma facility have spread to Oregon, with at least 3 people at NORCOR joining the hunger strike. This rural jail, which, apart from contracting with ICE, holds adults and youth from four counties in Oregon, has long been the target of protests for its inhumane treatment of those it cages. The Rural Organizing Project and the ACLU of Oregon have documented inhumane conditions at the facility, including denying detainees socks, access to no more than hot meal per day, and phone calls that cost \$0.25 per minute in a facility where detainees are not allowed to work and thus have no income. Detainees were told that if they did not like the horrifying conditions at NORCOR, they should sign voluntary deportation forms. Immigrants are now risking their health to call attention to these conditions.

May 1 at 4pm: Rally in solidarity with people detained transferred at NORCOR (211 Webber St; The Dalles, OR 97058)

Solea Kabakov, a resident of The Dalles and an organizer with community groups supporting the hunger strikers inside NORCOR says, "We are raising

awareness locally to elevate the voices of the hunger strikers. When you drive by and see the chain-link fences and the perfectly mowed lawn, you have no idea it's so deplorable inside. It's unconscionable how people are being treated in our own community and we cannot tolerate it."

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.

Rural Organizing Project (ROP) is a statewide network of 60 locally-based groups in rural and small town Oregon that work to promote human dignity: the belief in the equal worth of all people, the need for equal access to justice, and the right to self-determination. ROP has connected leaders and groups through collective action for inclusive democracy and shared organizing for racial, economic, and gender justice since 1992.