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Contact: Maru Mora Villalpando, (206) 251 6658
maru@latinoadvocacy.org

A Dozen Continue on Hunger Strike in NWDC
Cuban Asylum Seekers Face Force Feeding and Solitary Confinement

Tacoma, WA – About a dozen Cuban asylum seekers imprisoned at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington have joined or resumed a hunger strike that started last week demanding their immediate release. Strikers report threats of being placed on IV and force-feeding. At least two people have been sent to solitary confinement today. Hunger strikers report that GEO administrators continue not monitoring their vitals or physical health.

This is the fifth hunger strike at the NWDC so far in 2017, which Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and GEO Group claim is a model immigration detention facility. All asylum seekers have reported they arrived at the US after harrowing travels that included unsafe boat rides and even surviving kidnapping over the course of months or even a year. Immigration authorities have certified all but one of them as having “credible fear” of returning to Cuba and most having family members waiting to receive them in the US. Hunger strikers were told they would be released, but they have found themselves in a state of “psychological torture” where nobody will tell them how long they will be imprisoned. Manuel Riveron Pina, one of the strikers said “A hunger strike seems to be the only way to have an interview with ICE about our cases and to pressure them to release us as we were told it would happen”.

Hunger strikers stated that ICE has been giving different excuses for not releasing them, everything from striking will slow their case and they are about to be released soon to not being sure if they are Cuban at all, and some people not even receiving court dates or interviews with ICE authorities.

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. 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.

#Not1More #NoEstánSólos