

Todd Ashker

June 28, 2011

Statement 1

TODD: Okay, today is June 28, 2011. I'm meeting with the attorney Carol Strickman to talk about this, planning a hunger strike protest set to begin July 1. And I just wanted to briefly state that the basis for this protest has come about after over 25 years, some of us 30, some up to 40 years of being subjected to these conditions. For about 21 years in Pelican Bay SHU where every single day you have staff and administrators who feel it's their job to punish the worst of the worst. And they put up propaganda for the last 21 years that we are the worst of the worst, and most of us have never been found guilty of ever committing an illegal gang-related act. But we're in SHU because of a label. And all of our 602 appeals, numerous court challenges have gotten nowhere. Therefore our backs are up against the wall. A lot of us are older now, we have serious medical issues coming on, and we believe that this is our only option of ever trying to make some kind of positive changes here, is through this peaceful protest of hunger strike. And there's a core group of us who are committed to taking this all the way to the death, if necessary. None of us want to do this, but we feel like we have no other option, and we're just hoping for the best. I don't know what else to say about it, you know.

CAROL: Do you want to state your name?

TODD: Yeah, Todd Ashker.

CAROL: Okay, thanks Todd.

TODD: Alright.