Stop the Torture  
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Co-Sponsors of Statewide Actions to End Solitary

Endorsers of Statewide Actions to End Solitary

We honor Peter Collins who was a long-term activist incarcerated in Canada. He drew this Pelican for the CA Prisoner Hunger Strikes. Peter died from cancer Aug 13, 2015, having been refused compassionate release. He was an astute social critic of the structures of violence in the world around us (colonialism, racism, sexism, ableism, imperialism, transphobia, misogyny etc), a writer, artist, cartoonist, activist, scholar & organizer with a great sense of humor and humanity. He was a staunch animal rights advocate. A vegan, Peter believed in principles of ‘do no harm’ to others.

PHSS originated in the San Francisco Bay Area and is made up of grassroots organizations, family members, formerly incarcerated people, lawyers, and individuals. The coalition formed in 2011 to amplify the voices of CA prisoners on hunger strike striving to achieve their Five Core Human Rights Demands. PHSS continues to work in solidarity with CA prisoners and their families to amplify prisoners’ voices and end the torture that is solitary confinement.

PHSS participates in Statewide Coordinated Actions To End Solitary Confinement

STOP THE TORTURE

We are here today and on the 24th of each month for the 24 hours a day that people are in solitary confinement.

“We want to consider the idea of designating a certain date each month as Prisoner Rights Day...our supporters would gather in locations throughout California to expose CDCR’s actions and rally support efforts to secure our rights.”

Pelican Bay State Prison SHU Short Corridor Collective  
Human Rights Movement November 2013
Solitary Confinement is Torture

- locked in a small concrete cell 23 or more hrs a day
- little or no window or access to natural light
- little or no human contact, except by guards
- no physical human contact, except by guards
- no educational, religious, creative, cultural or healthy activity
- no parole from SHU for people with "life with parole" sentences
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Prisoner - Led Human Rights Movement

After decades of writing letters, contacting media, and protesting, prisoners in Pelican Bay State Prison SHU (solitary) made five basic human rights demands of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in 2011. These demands were: 1) the U.S. government to end the use of extreme isolation and solitary confinement for all prisoners, 2) the U.S. government to provide all prisoners with access to natural light, 3) the U.S. government to provide all prisoners with educational, religious, creative, cultural, and healthy activities, 4) the U.S. government to provide medical care and humane living conditions, and 5) the U.S. government to end the use of solitary confinement for prisoners who have been sanctioned for misconduct.

Large Hunger Strike in World History - 2011:

- The most recent strike occurred in 2013, involving 30,000 people in California and 1,000 people in other prisons. Over 600 people died from organ failure, starvation, and violent retaliation from prison guards.
- The prisoners' courageous and astute actions spotlighting solitary confinement have prompted UN and worldwide media attention, legislative hearings, proposed legislation, and national and international solidarity movements. The prisoners' demands include an end to the use of extreme isolation and solitary confinement for all prisoners, an end to the use of solitary confinement for prisoners who have been sanctioned for misconduct, an end to the use of solitary confinement for all prisoners with mental health needs, the provision of basic human rights, an end to the use of solitary confinement for prisoners who have been sanctioned for misconduct, and an end to the use of solitary confinement for all prisoners.

Agreement to End Hostilities:

In 2012, some of the same prisoners who organized the hunger strike presented the Agreement to End Hostilities. This historic document is uniting people inside and outside prison walls, from all races and geographic locations, to struggle together for human rights. While 1000's of prisoners were put in solitary by CDCR employees, the Agreement to End Hostilities is a victory for those who believe in the power of nonviolent resistance. The Agreement to End Hostilities is a call to action for all who believe in the power of nonviolent resistance.

Ashker v Gov of CA:

September 2015 landmark settlement against long-term solitary confinement in California. The settlement requires the release of over 4,000 people from solitary confinement, including those who have been in solitary for years or decades. The settlement also includes a requirement for the state to end the use of solitary confinement for all prisoners who have been sanctioned for misconduct. The settlement is a major victory for those who believe in the power of nonviolent resistance.