

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“DYING TO LIVE” HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST LONG-TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN WISCONSIN PRISONS TO BEGIN IN RACINE AND COLUMBIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION ON MARCH 26.

MILWAUKEE, WIS. – March 26, 2019 –Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee-Milwaukee calling on to support the courageous efforts from inside Wisconsin prisons to end long-term solitary confinement.

Today, 9 people incarcerated in Wisconsin prisons (Racine and Columbia Correctional Institutions) began a hunger strike in an effort to encourage Governor Evers to put an end to the practice of long-term solitary confinement. To learn more about what solitary confinement is like inside Wisconsin prisons, go here: <https://wisconsinprisonvoices.org/solitary-confinement/segregation-article-from-inside-columbia-correctional/>

These are some of the demands mailed to the Milwaukee Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC) on 2/6/19. (for full information, visit <https://wisconsinprisonvoices.org/organizing-inside/3-26-19-hunger-strike-demands/>)

1. Complete abolishment of Solitary confinement for Juvenile Facilities.
2. Reduce solitary confinement for the DOC/DAI (Division of Adult Institutions), with the goal of eventually ending the practice:

There are two forms of solitary confinement status. This is commonly known as Disciplinary Segregation and Administrative Confinement. We petition a reduction to solitary confinement for the State’s DOC/DAI by eliminating loopholes that permit prison officials use “enhancer factors” to issue lengthening sentences beyond the maximum base for disciplinary infractions. And, by placing “mandatory caps” on the use of administrative confinement.

(a) [...] We are petitioning a change to the (Discipline) CH.DOC.303.ADM.Rules Disciplinary guidelines base for major infractions to 90 days max period! This will stop prison officials continuing to exploit the DAI policy enhancer factors. Also, by changing the CH.DOC.303.ADM. rules rather than the DAI policy we eliminate the problem, since ADM rules supersede DAI policies.

(b) As it currently stands prisoners in administrative status may be kept in solitary confinement indefinitely! We petition for a six month cap on the use of Administrative Confinement (AC) for non-violent cases and a one (1) year max for prisoners presenting a substantial risk of serious harm to another person as exhibited by resent homicidal, assaultive and other repetitive violent behavior. [...]

And, the AC procedures shall be changed for prisoners on AC status, in segregation, pending conduct report (CRs), shall be considered time served for disciplinary penalty purposes.

(c) We petition that any days spend under Temporary Lock Up (TLU) status, in segregation, pending conduct report (CRs), shall be considered time served for disciplinary penalty purposes.

(d) Currently, prisoners in solitary confinement are permitted to come out of their cells for a minimum of four(4) hours per week. We petition that prisoners in solitary confinement shall receive a minimum of two(2) hours of daily out of cell leisure time.

(e) Studies have shown that the mental health of prison officials working in solitary confinement for prolonged periods of time can deteriorate as much as that of prisoners confined within it. Many of those prison officials also become extremely predatory towards prisoners. We petition that no correctional officer shall work in solitary confinement for four(4) months in a twelve(12) month period.”

Please help our brothers to end the demeaning practices in Wisconsin prisons by calling today and every day this week with wellness checks for the participants, whose names are listed below. Your calls and emails will help to fight against retaliation and support their courageous fight. Details on what number to call and sample script are [here](#). You can find out more information on how to do this kind of phone call [here](#) as well as how to [spread phone zaps](#). Also check out [victories](#) achieved through using this tactic.

Cordiaral West #445074 CCI
Rory Kuenzi #484610 CCI
Donelle Jones #426032 CCI
Nathan Malcore #626042 RCI
Bryan Hudson #202442 RCI

Miguel Sanchez #640443 RCI
Cesar De Leon #322800 RCI
David Greenwood #363177 RCI
Aarron Petersen #569397 RCI

To write to the hunger strikers, use the following addresses.

Name DOC #
Racine Correctional Institution (RCI)
P.O. Box 900
Sturtevant, WI 53177-0900, or

Or Name DOC #
Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI)
PO Box 900
Portage WI 53901

If you do call, please let me know what days you call and what the response is so we can track how many people are doing this, and what the impact is. You can respond by email iwoc.milwaukee@gmail.com. Contact IWOC/Milwaukee if you have questions

Please share this information, and help spread the word.

Thank you. An injury to one is an injury to all.