

Over 40 U.S. Inmates on Hunger Strike at Maximum Security Jail



Salt Lake City, August 5 (RHC)-- Over 40 U.S. prisoners are on hunger strike, demanding better conditions at their maximum security jail. Since July 31st, 42 inmates at Utah State Prison have refused to eat, according to the Utah chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU, Sputnik news reported Tuesday.

"The ACLU of Utah supports the striking prisoners in their requests for relief from specific conditions they and their fellow prisoners face," the ACLU said. The inmates are being kept at a section for the Special Threat Group (STG) and spend 47 of every 48 hours in their cells.

"Most of these folks are going to be coming out and released into society again," said John Mejia, with the Utah ACLU. "If you are sending someone back into the community after years of isolation and no programming and a lot of difficult conditions, it feels in a lot of ways that you're not setting up that person for success." Branded violent, the inmates are denied access to any rehabilitative or educational programs.

In a letter sent to ACLU, one STG prisoner said: "We have nothing in here... how are we supposed to better ourselves when we can't get any programming?" According to authorities at the prison, some of the conditions demanded by the inmates were being considered.

In a letter handed over to prison officials, the inmates detailed their six demands, which include the relocation of a number of gang members within the prison.

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