

## Guantanamo Hunger Strikers Stay Defiant



**FILE \*\* A Guantanamo detainee sits alone inside a fenced area during his daily outside period, at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, Cuba. Twice a day at the U.S. military prison here, detainees Abdul Rahman Shalabi and Zaid Salim Zuhair Ahmed, who have refused to eat for nearly two years, are strapped to restraint chairs and force-fed to keep them alive. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley,**

# History of Hunger Strikes at GTMO

- Early hunger strikes in Feb-May 2002
  - Protest of detention without legal process and harsh conditions
  - Reported number of strikers 194
- June/July 2005- up to 200 strikers
  - Ended when US promised to bring detention center into compliance with Geneva Conventions



# History of Hunger Strikers at GTMO

- August 2005 Hunger Strikes
  - Began after US reneged on promises
  - 200 estimated strikers
- Use of “Emergency Restraint Chair” introduced in Jan 06
- In February 06, only 3 hunger strikers remained





# A look inside Guantanamo

# History of Hunger Strikers at GTMO

- Current strike began in February 2013
- Approximately 100 participants
- Genesis: desperation and hopelessness over indefinite detention
- New command instituted harsh policies





# Dispute over hunger strikes at Guantanamo



From left to right: Hussain Almerfedi, Said Hatim, Fayiz Al-Kandari and Yasin Ismail. They are detainees at Guantanamo who are on a hunger strike, defense attorneys said. / CBS



# Medical Ethics and Practice Challenges of Hunger Strikes in US and Military Prisons

**Monday, April 8, 2013**

Keck Center, Room 201  
500 Fifth Street NW  
Washington, D.C.

## Meeting Objectives

- Identify the challenges and opportunities in medical and psychological care of hunger strikers in detention settings.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing ethical, regulatory, and medical practice standards.
- Develop options for improvements, including articulation of a medical standard of care, use of independent medical evaluations (by both individual physicians and expert committee consultation), training, oversight/chain of command, reporting, and support of the medical profession.

# Malta

“Physicians should never condone or participate in forcible feeding or any other enforced measures which may amount to cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment”





# The Opinion Pages

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

## Gitmo Is Killing Me

By SAMIR NAJI and HASAN MOQBEL

Published: April 14, 2013 |  360 Comments

GUANTÁNAMO BAY, Cuba

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Matt Rota

ONE man here weighs just 77 pounds. Another, 98. Last thing I knew, I weighed 132, but that was a month ago.

I've been on a hunger strike since Feb. 10 and have lost well over 30 pounds. I will not eat until they restore my dignity.

I've been detained at [Guantánamo](#) for 11 years and three months. I have never been charged with any crime. I have never received a trial.



**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE:  
MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF DETAINEES ON  
HUNGER STRIKE**

**SOP: JTF-JMG # 001  
05 MAR 2013  
Page 1 of 30**

<b>JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA JOINT MEDICAL GROUP</b>	<b>SOP NO: JTF-JMG #001 TAC Memo #01 TAC Memo #02</b>
<b>Title: MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF DETAINEES ON HUNGER STRIKE</b>	
<b>SCOPE: JOINT TASK FORCE - GTMO- JOINT MEDICAL GROUP</b>	

**REFERENCES:**

**ENCLOSURES:**

- (1) General Algorithm for Hunger a Strike
- (2) Refusal to Accept Food or Water/Fluids as Medical Treatment
- (3) Hunger Striker Medical Evaluation Sheet
- (4) Hunger Striker Medical Flow Sheet
- (5) Approval Authority for Initiation of Involuntary Enteral Feeding
- (6) Clinical Protocol for the Evaluation, Resuscitation, and Feeding of Detainees on Hunger Strike
- (7) Chair Restraint System Clinical Protocol for the Intermittent Enteral Feeding of



- Regulations, policies, SOPs in conflict with ethical practices and standards of care
- Non-medical chain of command
- Lack of clinical independence- medical neutrality









## Senate Committee Discusses Guantanamo Closing