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**NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER DECRIES TREATMENT
OF HUNGER STRIKERS IN BASILE, LOUISIANA**

**Detainees Demanding Their Rights Face Punitive Isolation,
Says New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice**

LOS ANGELES – The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) joined advocates across the country today in condemning U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for placing detainees who had been working as human rights monitors in solitary confinement. Facing deplorable conditions in the detention facility, the immigrant detainees acted as human rights monitors, lodged complaints, and declared a hunger strike. The New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice has reported that ICE retaliated by sentencing seven perceived leaders of human rights monitoring to solitary confinement for up to 60 days each.

“These brave men should be praised for having the courage to expose the abuses they have suffered in Basile. Instead, they have been punished and sentenced to solitary confinement,” said Marielena Hincapié, executive director of NILC. “Retaliating against human rights monitors in detention is a shameful practice that must end. DHS should immediately release the hunger strikers from solitary confinement and allow a delegation of national leaders to visit the detainees.”

As one of seven organizations that sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano decrying conditions at the Basile, LA, immigration detention center, NILC is dismayed at the administration's response. Rather than take the violations of detainees' rights seriously, DHS has so far not responded to the detainees' demands to improve conditions and increase transparency at the facility.

The detainees have also asked that both a leadership delegation and Dora Schriro, special advisor to ICE, visit the facility.

More than sixty detainees have participated in hunger strikes over the last month to protest conditions at the immigration detention center in Basile, Louisiana, which is operated by the contractor LCS Corrections Services Inc. and ICE.

To read the report in which 100 ICE detainees chronicle abuses they suffered while detained in Basile, Louisiana, visit the website of the New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice: <http://www.nowcrj.org/>.

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