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## **US Military: 29 Detainees on Hunger Strike at Guantanamo**

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico --The U.S. military said Friday that 29 detainees are participating in a hunger strike that has been going on for several weeks at the American prison for terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Among those on strike, 16 are being force fed at the prison hospital, said Lt. Tracey Frink, a spokeswoman for the detention camp on a U.S. Navy base at the eastern edge of Cuba.

All of the hospitalized detainees are in stable condition, Frink said.

The number of those participating in the strike has decreased, according to the military. Last week, a Guantanamo spokesman said 36 detainees were striking - down from a high of 131 in mid-September.

In court papers, Brig. Gen. Jay Hood, the commander of the detention center, said the doctors may use feeding tubes or intravenous methods to prevent detainees from committing suicide.

"Every attempt will be made to allow detainees to remain autonomous up to the point where failure to eat or drink might threaten their life or health," Hood said in papers filed in response to defense attorneys who have asked the federal courts to take over supervision of detainees on hunger strike.

A judge hasn't yet ruled on the request.

Guantanamo officials said this latest hunger strike began on Aug. 8 with 76 detainees protesting their confinement. Human rights groups and attorneys for prisoners have claimed that the number of prisoners on strike is higher than the military has reported.

At the detention center, the U.S. holds about 500 detainees suspected of links to the al-Qaida terror network or Afghanistan's ousted Taliban regime.