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Guantanamo Detainees Stage Hunger Strike, U.S. Military Says

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Fifty-two prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detainment camp for terrorist suspects have staged a hunger strike, U.S. military authorities in charge of the facility said in a statement. The protest involves about a 10th of the prisoners.

“Indications are that this is a temporary effort by some detainees to protest their continued detention,” the statement from Joint Task Force Guantanamo said. “All are monitored by medical professionals and have their vital signs checked daily. They continue to be offered food and water.”

Detainees who refuse food are hydrated intravenously or orally given water as well as solutions including Gatorade and nutritional supplements such as Ensure, the statement said.

The statement came a day after an Afghan man released from Guantanamo after three years said as he arrived in Kabul that 105 prisoners had gone on a hunger strike to protest “inhuman” conditions, Agence France-Presse reported.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said July 18 that the Pentagon will resume military tribunals against two suspected members of the al-Qaeda terrorist network held at the Guantanamo prison after a U.S. federal court of appeals upheld use of the panels.