

Der **Hungerstreik** ist eine Form des passiven [Widerstands](#). Ein Einzelner oder eine Gruppe verweigern dabei die [Nahrungsaufnahme](#) mit dem bewussten Risiko, Schaden zu nehmen.

- Der Hungerstreik wurde weltweit schon früh als Form des politischen Widerstands praktiziert. Wie jede [Streikaktion](#) ist der politische Hungerstreik eine öffentliche [Demonstration](#) mit einem konkreten Ziel. Das unterscheidet den Hungerstreik vom [Fasten](#), dessen Ziele entweder spirituell oder medizinisch gesteckt sind.

## Folgen [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

Ein Hungerstreik hat drastische Folgen, da die Nahrungsverweigerung bereits ab etwa drei bis vier Wochen zu ernsthaften, zum Teil bleibenden gesundheitlichen Schäden bis hin zum [Tod](#) führen kann.

Einige hungerstreikende Menschen haben 50 bis 70 Tage überlebt. [Bobby Sands](#), ein Mitglied der [IRA](#), starb nach 66 Tagen. [Holger Meins](#), Mitglied der Rote Armee Fraktion, starb nach 57 Tagen im Jahre 1974.

Gelegentlich wird der Hungerstreik durch Zwangsernährung mittels [Magensonde](#) gebrochen.

## Geschichte des Hungerstreikes [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

### Politischer Hungerstreik [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

[Mahatma Gandhi](#) in Indien verweigerte in den 1930er und 1940er Jahren mehrfach wochenlang die Nahrungsaufnahme, um sein Volk von einem Bürgerkrieg abzuhalten, zu dem es dann tatsächlich nicht kam.

[Louis Lecoin](#) (1888-1971) trat in seinem 1958 begonnenen, auch von [Albert Camus](#) unterstützten Kampf für Legalisierung der Kriegsdienstverweigerung am 1. Juni 1961 in einen Hungerstreik, der bald von der großen Presse (besonders der satirischen Zeitung [Canard enchaîné](#)) unterstützt wurde. Am 22. Tag brach er das Fasten aufgrund eines Einlenkens von Premierminister [Georges Pompidou](#) ab, aber erst auf Androhung eines erneuten Hungerstreiks zwei Jahre später kam es zum Nachgeben der Regierung und schließlich im Dezember 1963 zum Erlass eines Gesetzes und zur Freilassung der inhaftierten Verweigerer. Seine Nominierung für den Friedensnobelpreis ließ er 1964 zugunsten von [Martin Luther King](#) zurückziehen.

1967 protestierte [Fritz Teufel](#) gegen seine [Verhaftung](#) nach dem [Schah-Besuch](#) mit einem politischen Hungerstreik.

Die inhaftierten Mitglieder der linksextremistischen Terrororganisation [Rote Armee Fraktion](#) setzten ab 1972 in Westdeutschland den Hungerstreik massiv als politisches Mittel ein, um ihre Haftbedingungen zu verbessern. Die Justiz ging auf einige Forderungen ein, die wichtigste Forderung nach Zusammenlegung aller RAF-Häftlinge wurde jedoch nie gewährt. Die RAF-Häftlinge führten bis 1994 insgesamt zehn kollektive Hungerstreiks durch, an deren Folgen zwei Gefangene starben. Vor allem der Tod von [Holger Meins](#) 1974 wurde von der RAF als Märtyrertum bezeichnet und trug dazu bei, dass eine zweite Generation entstand.

Der Tübinger Lehrer [Hartmut Gründler](#) setzte zwischen 1975 und 1977 mehrfach das Druckmittel des Hungerstreiks ([Saftfasten](#), [Wasserfasten](#)) ein, um in [Wyhl](#), Tübingen und Kassel gegen vermeintliche „Falschinformation“ in der Atomenergiepolitik, speziell zur [Endlagerung](#), zu protestieren.

## **Hungerstreik gegen Werks- und Grubenschließungen** [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

In Deutschland kam es in den 1960er Jahren im Zusammenhang mit der Schließung verschiedener Steinkohle-Zechen mehrfach zu Hungerstreikaktionen, die zwar großes Medienecho hervorriefen, aber die Schließungen nicht verhindern konnten.

## **Hungerstreik gegen Haftbedingungen** [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

Wegen angeblicher Schikanen gegen Gefängnisinsassen befanden sich, nach Angaben des Organisations, seit dem 1. August 2008 mehr als 550 Häftlinge aus insgesamt 49 bundesdeutschen Gefängnissen in einem einwöchigen Hungerstreik. Aus Solidarität mit ihnen verweigerten auch einige wenige Gefängnisinsassen aus Belgien, Frankreich, den Niederlanden, der Schweiz und Spanien für eine Woche die Nahrung. Unabhängige Bestätigung dieser Zahlen liegt nicht vor. <sup>[1]</sup>

## **Positionen zur Zwangsernährung** [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

Artikel 6 der Erklärung von Tokio<sup>[2]</sup> der [World Medical Association](#) von 1975 hält klar fest, dass Ärzte sich nicht an Maßnahmen zur Zwangsernährung beteiligen dürfen.

In der [Deklaration von Malta](#) von 1992 erneuerte der [Weltärztebund](#) seine Forderung an die Ärzteschaft, Zwangsernährung nicht zu unterstützen. Die "Declaration on Hunger Strikers" wurde 1996 und 2006 überarbeitet und aufgrund der vermehrten Anwendung von Zwangsernährung im US-Gefängnis [Guantanamo](#), im Wortlaut weiter verschärft.

Ärzte im deutschen Sprachraum sind durch ihre Mitgliedschaft in der deutschen [Bundesärztekammer](#), der [Österreichischen Ärztekammer](#) bzw. der [Verbindung der Schweizer Ärztinnen und Ärzte](#) (FMH) an diese Erklärung gebunden. Dennoch wird im deutschen Sprachraum über die Zwangsernährung von hungerstreikenden Asylbewerbern diskutiert.

Ähnliches gilt für die Debatte über die Zwangsernährung von hungerstreikenden Gefangenen durch US-amerikanische Ärzte im [Internierungslager](#) in [Guantánamo](#).

## **Siehe auch** [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

- [Hungerstoffwechsel](#)
- [Isolationshaft](#)

## **Quellen** [\[Bearbeiten\]](#)

1. ↑ <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/28/28468/1.html> Vgl dazu auch die [WebPage des Strafvollzugsarchivs](#).
2. ↑ [The World Medical Association Declaration of Tokyo](#)

Von „<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungerstreik>“

Kategorien: [Ernährung](#) | [Streik](#) | [Politisches Instrument](#) | [Suizid](#)

- [\*\*Hungerstreik – Wikipedia\*\*](#)

Der *Hungerstreik* ist eine Form des passiven Widerstands. Ein Einzelner oder eine Gruppe verweigern dabei die Nahrungsaufnahme mit dem bewussten Risiko, ...

[de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungerstreik](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungerstreik) - [Im Cache](#) - [Ähnlich](#)

- [\*\*Hungerstreik: Den eigenen Körper zur Waffe machen - Hungerstreik ...\*\*](#)

24. Apr. 2008 ... Den *Hungerstreik* ist das letzte Mittel für alle Verzweifelten und angeblich Verzweifelten – die RAF nutzte die Art der Propaganda besonders ...

[www.focus.de/.../hungerstreik-den-eigenen-koerper-zur-waffe-machen\\_aid\\_297093.html](http://www.focus.de/.../hungerstreik-den-eigenen-koerper-zur-waffe-machen_aid_297093.html) - [Ähnlich](#)

- [\*\*Tierrechtler verstarb im Hungerstreik: Vegi-Info 4/2001\*\*](#)

Tierrechtler verstarb im *Hungerstreik*: Zum Tod von Barry Horne.

[www.vegetarismus.ch](http://www.vegetarismus.ch) › [Vegi-info](#) › [2001-4](#) - [Im Cache](#) - [Ähnlich](#)

- [\*\*News-Ergebnisse für Hungerstreik\*\*](#)



[Hartz IV: Hungerstreik wegen Behördenwillkür](#) - Vor 1 Tag

Maritta Scavelli und Günter Melle treten ab Sonntag in einen *Hungerstreik* aufgrund von Hartz IV Behördenwillkür. Die Betroffenen benötigen unsere ...  
[gegen-hartz.de](http://gegen-hartz.de) - [3 weitere Artikel](#) »

[Menschenrechte: Kuba bittet Dissidenten um Ende von Hungerstreik](#) - ZEIT ONLINE - [80 weitere Artikel](#) »

- [\*\*Hungerstreik light - jetzt.de - Leben - jetzt.de\*\*](#)

10 Einträge - 9 Autoren - Letzter Eintrag: 10. Febr.

Asylbewerber wollen Bewegungsfreiheit und Essen, das ihnen schmeckt - deswegen protestieren sie.

[jetzt.sueddeutsche.de/texte/anzeigen/497219](http://jetzt.sueddeutsche.de/texte/anzeigen/497219) - [Im Cache](#)

- [\*\*TP: Das kubanische Hungerstreik-Problem\*\*](#)

2. März 2010 ... Nach dem Hungertod von Orlando Zapata versucht die Opposition in Kuba die Lage zuzuspitzen.

[www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/32/32177/1.html](http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/32/32177/1.html) - [Im Cache](#)

- [\*\*Hungerstreik - Marigny de Grilleau\*\*](#)

28. März 2010 ... Deklaration: Wir treten in den *Hungerstreik*! Gegen Rechtsbeugung und Behördenwillkür: Am Montag, den 29.03.2010 werden wir, zwei von.  
[grilleau.blog.de/.../hungerstreik-ankuendigung-8259872/](http://grilleau.blog.de/.../hungerstreik-ankuendigung-8259872/) - vor 16 Stunden gefunden

- [\*\*Hartz IV: Hungerstreik wegen Behördenwillkür Hartz IV 4, ALG II ...\*\*](#)

27. März 2010 ... Zwei Oldenburger Hartz IV Betroffene treten in einen unbefristeten *Hungerstreik*. Hiermit dokumentieren wir eine Erklärung von zwei Hartz IV ...  
[www.gegen-hartz.de/.../hartz-iv-hungerstreik-wegen-behoerdenwillkuer-7412.php](http://www.gegen-hartz.de/.../hartz-iv-hungerstreik-wegen-behoerdenwillkuer-7412.php) - [Im Cache](#)

- [\*\*Tierquälerei in der Lachszucht: Hungerstreik gegen Fischmästerei ...\*\*](#)

14. Febr. 2010 ... Tierquälerei in der Lachszucht. *Hungerstreik* gegen Fischmästerei. Norwegens Lachsfarmen sind nicht bloß Tierquälerei, sie schädigen auch die ...  
[www.taz.de/1/zukunft/konsum/artikel/.../hungerstreik-gegen-fischmaesterei/](http://www.taz.de/1/zukunft/konsum/artikel/.../hungerstreik-gegen-fischmaesterei/)

- [\*\*Contergan Hungerstreik\*\*](#)

[www.conterganhungerstreik.de/](http://www.conterganhungerstreik.de/) - [Im Cache](#) - [Ähnlich](#)

- [\*\*de.indymedia.org | Hungerstreik minderjährige Flüchtlinge Lesbos\*\*](#)

20. Aug. 2009 ... August 2009 befinden sich 160 minderjährige Flüchtlinge im Internierungslager Pagani auf Lesbos im *Hungerstreik*. Sie fordern ihre sofortige ...  
[de.indymedia.org/2009/08/258657.shtml](http://de.indymedia.org/2009/08/258657.shtml) - [Im Cache](#) - [Ähnlich](#)

- [\*\*Ergebnisse Bildersuche nach Hungerstreik\*\*](#)

A **hunger strike** is a method of [non-violent resistance](#) or pressure in which participants [fast](#) as an act of political [protest](#), or to provoke feelings of [guilt](#) in others, usually with the objective to achieve a specific goal, such as a policy change. A notably successful hunger strike was that of Mitch Snyder in 1984 who, as a member of the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), undertook a hunger strike lasting 51 days which resulted in the U.S. government donating a federal building which became a 1,400-bed Washington DC Federal City Shelter. Most hunger strikers will take liquids but not solid food. A hunger strike cannot be effective if the fact that it is being undertaken is not publicized so as to be known by the people who are to be impressed, concerned or embarrassed by it. Hunger strikes have sometimes been forcibly ended through the use of [force-feeding](#) and by force.

## [\[edit\]](#) Early history

Fasting was used as a method of protesting injustice in pre-Christian [Ireland](#), where it was known as *Troscadh* or *Cealachan*. It was detailed in the contemporary civic codes, and had specific rules by which it could be used. The fast was often carried out on the doorstep of the home of the offender. Scholars speculate this was due to the high importance the culture placed on hospitality. Allowing a person to die at one's doorstep, for a wrong of which one

was accused, was considered a great dishonor. Others say that the practice was to fast for one whole night, as there is no evidence of people fasting to death in pre-Christian Ireland. The fasts were primarily undertaken to recover debts or get justice for a perceived wrong. There are legends of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, using the hunger strike as well.<sup>[1]</sup>

In [India](#), the practice of a hunger protest, where the protestor fasts at the door of an offending party (typically a debtor) in a public call for justice, was abolished by the government in 1861; this indicates the prevalence of the practice prior to that date, or at least a public awareness of it.<sup>[2]</sup> This Indian practice is ancient, going back to around 400 to 750 BC. This can be known since it appears in the [Valmiki Ramayana](#), which was composed around that time. The actual mention appears in the Ayodhya Kanda, (the second book of the Ramayana), in Sarga (section) 103. [Bharata](#) has gone to ask the exiled [Rama](#) to come back and rule the kingdom. Bharata tries many arguments, none of which work, at which point he decides to do a hunger strike. He announces his intention to fast, calls for his charioteer [Sumantra](#) to bring him some sacred [Kusha grass](#), (but Sumantra won't do it since he's too busy looking at Rama's face, so Bharata has to get the grass himself), lies down upon it in front of Rama. Rama, however, is quickly able to persuade him to abandon the attempt. Rama mentions it as a practice of the [brahmanas](#).

## [\[edit\]](#) Medical view

In the first 3 days, the body is still using energy from [glucose](#).<sup>[citation needed]</sup> After that, the liver starts processing [body fat](#), in a process called [ketosis](#). After 3 weeks the body enters in "[starvation mode](#)". At this point the body "mines" the muscles and vital organs for energy, and loss of [bone marrow](#) becomes life-threatening. There are examples of hunger strikers dying after 52 to 74 days of strike<sup>[3]</sup>.

## [\[edit\]](#) Recent instances

### [\[edit\]](#) Thileepan – Fast to Death



"I am confident that our people will, one day, achieve their freedom. It gives me great satisfaction and contentment that I am fulfilling a national responsibility to the nation."

*Main article:* [Thileepan](#)

On 15 August 1987 at 9.30 a.m at the [Nallur Murugan Temple](#), Thileepan began his fast. His main objective was to bring awareness and action to a list of public demands made by himself and the [Tamil Tigers](#), considered<sup>[4]</sup> to be a terrorist group.

The publicly stated goals of his fast were:

- All [Tamils](#) detained under the [Prevention of Terrorism Act](#) should be released.
- The [colonisation of Sinhalese in Tamil areas](#) under the guise of rehabilitation should be stopped.
- All such rehabilitation should be stopped until an interim government is formed.
- The Sri Lankan government should stop opening new Police stations and camps in the [Northeastern](#) province.
- The [Sri Lankan Army](#) and Police should withdraw from schools in Tamil villages and the weapons given by the Sri Lankan government to 'homeguards' should be withdrawn under the supervision of the Indian army. Just prior to his fast the relationship between the LTTE and the IPKF administration was its lowest point.

Although several groups requested Thileepan as well as the local [IPKF](#) administration to intervene and stop the fast, Thileepan died on the 26th of September 1987. There was widespread grief in Tamil areas. Thousands of people from the North and East flooded [Jaffna](#) as news of his death spread<sup>[[citation needed](#)]</sup>. His death created an anti-Indian mood in Jaffna, which had been pro-India till then.

### **[[edit](#)] Tibetan freedom fighters**

[Tibetans](#) who had tried to cross into [Tibet](#), but were stopped in their quest have started a hunger strike unto death in Kathmandu, Nepal.<sup>[[5](#)]</sup>

A unique hunger strike without food and water started on July 28, 2008, led by [Tibetan Youth Congress](#) started in Indian Capital, [New Delhi](#) in protest against the Chinese occupation of Tibet.<sup>[[6](#)]</sup> The 6 monks on hunger strike were in a critical situation and therefore the Indian police forcefully hospitalized them.<sup>[[7](#)]</sup>

### **[[edit](#)] Gandhi**

[Mohandas Gandhi](#) was imprisoned in 1922, 1930, 1933 and 1942. Because of Gandhi's stature around the world, [British](#) authorities were loath to allow him to die in their custody. It is likely Britain's reputation would have suffered as a result of such an event. Gandhi engaged in several famous hunger strikes to protest [British](#) rule of India. Fasting was a non-violent way of communicating the message and sometimes dramatically achieve the reason for the protest. This was keeping with the rules of [Satyagraha](#).

In addition to Gandhi, various others have used the hunger strike option during the Indian independence movement. Such figures include [Jatin Das](#) and [Bhagat Singh](#).

After Indian Independence, freedom fighter [Potti Sreeramulu](#) used hunger strike option to get a separate state for telugu speaking people.

### **[[edit](#)] British and American suffragettes**



Clipping from *World Magazine*, September 6, 1914.

In the early 20th century [suffragettes](#) frequently endured hunger strikes in British prisons. [Marion Dunlop](#) was the first in 1909. She was released, as the authorities did not want her to become a [martyr](#). Other suffragettes in prison also undertook hunger strikes. The prison authorities subjected them to [force-feeding](#), which the suffragettes categorized as a form of [torture](#). Mary Clarke, Jean Hewart, Katherine Fry and several others died as a result of force-feeding.

In 1913 the [Prisoner's Temporary Discharge of Ill Health Act](#) (nicknamed the "Cat and Mouse Act") changed policy. Hunger strikes were tolerated but prisoners were released when they became sick. When they had recovered, the suffragettes were taken back to prison to finish their sentences.

Like their British counterparts, American suffragettes also used this method of political protest. A few years prior to the passage of the [Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#), a group of American suffragettes led by [Alice Paul](#) engaged in a hunger strike and endured forced feedings while incarcerated at the [Occoquan Workhouse](#) in Virginia.

### [\[edit\]](#) Irish republicans



"This Mural Is Dedicated To The H Block & Armagh Prison Struggle And In Memory Of Bobby Sands, Kevin Lynch, Frank Hughes, Kieran Doherty, Raymond McCreesh, Tom McElwee, Patsy O'Hara, Michael Devine, Martin Hurson, Joe McDonnell."

Hunger strikes have deep roots in Irish society and in the Irish psyche. Fasting in order to bring attention to an injustice which one felt under his lord, and thus embarrass him into a solution, was a common feature of society in [Early Irish](#) society and this tactic was fully incorporated into the [Brehon](#) legal system. The tradition is ultimately most likely part of the still older Indo-European tradition of which the Irish were part.<sup>[8]</sup>

The tactic was used by Irish republicans from 1917 and, subsequently, during the [Anglo-Irish War](#), in the 1920s. Early use of hunger strikes by republicans had been countered by the British with [force-feeding](#), which culminated in 1917 in the death of [Thomas Ashe](#) in [Mountjoy Prison](#).

In October 1920, the [Lord Mayor](#) of [Cork](#), [Terence MacSwiney](#), died on hunger strike in [Brixton](#) prison. Two other Cork IRA men, [Joe Murphy](#) and [Michael Fitzgerald](#), also died on hunger strike in this protest along with Monaghan native, [Conor McElvaney](#) who lasted 79 days before death. The [Guinness Book of Records](#) lists the world record in hunger strike (without forced feeding) as 94 days, which was set from August 11 to November 12, 1920 by John and Peter Crowley, Thomas Donovan, Michael Burke, Michael O'Reilly, Christopher Upton, John Power, Joseph Kenny and Seán Hennessy at the prison of Cork. [Arthur Griffith](#) called off the strikes after the deaths of MacSwiney, Murphy and Fitzgerald.

After the end of the [Irish Civil War](#) in October 1923, up to 8000 IRA prisoners went on hunger strike to protest their continued detention by the [Irish Free State](#) (a total of over 12,000 republicans had been interned by May 1923). Two men, [Denny Barry](#) and [Andrew O'Sullivan](#), died on the strike. The strike, however, was called off before any more deaths occurred. The Free State subsequently released the women republican prisoners. Most of the male Republicans were not released until the following year.

Under the [de Valera Fianna Fáil](#) government three hunger strikers died in the Republic of Ireland in the 1940s. They were [Sean McCaughey](#), [Tony d'Arcy](#) and [Sean \(Jack\) McNeela](#). Hundreds of others carried out shorter hunger strikes during the deValera years with no sympathy from the Government.

The tactic was revived by the [Provisional IRA](#) in the early 1970s, when several republicans such as [Sean MacStiofain](#) successfully used hunger strikes to get themselves released from custody without charge in the [Republic of Ireland](#). [Michael Gaughan](#) died after being force-fed in a British prison in 1974. [Frank Stagg](#), an IRA member being held in a British jail, died after a 62-day hunger strike in 1976 which he began as a campaign to be repatriated to Ireland.

*[\[edit\]](#) Irish hunger strike of 1981*

*Main article: [1981 Irish hunger strike](#)*

In 1980, seven Republican prisoners in the [Maze Prison](#) launched a hunger strike as a protest against the revocation by the [British government](#) of a [prisoner-of-war](#)-like [Special Category Status](#) for [paramilitary](#) prisoners in [Northern Ireland](#). The strike, led by [Brendan Hughes](#), was called off before any deaths, when Britain seemed to offer to concede their demands; however, the British then reneged on the details of the agreement. The prisoners then called

another hunger strike the following year. This time, instead of many prisoners striking at the same time, the hunger strikers started fasting one after the other in order to maximise publicity over the fate of each one.

[Bobby Sands](#) was the first of ten [Irish republican paramilitary](#) prisoners to die during a [hunger strike](#) in 1981. There was widespread support for the hunger strikers from Irish republicans and the broader [nationalist](#) community on both sides of the [Irish](#) border. Some of the hunger strikers were elected to both the [Irish](#) and [British](#) parliaments by an electorate who wished to register their support for the hunger strikers. The ten men survived without food for 46 to 73 days,<sup>[9]</sup> taking only water and salt. After the deaths of the men and severe public disorder, the British government granted partial concessions to the prisoners, and the strike was called off. The hunger strikes gave a huge propaganda boost to a severely demoralised [Provisional IRA](#).

A press release on 25 March 2008 from Republican Sinn Féin announced that Republican prisoners in Maghaberry Gaol commenced a 48 hour hunger strike from Easter Sunday. The press release claims this action is in response to prisoners being put into solitary confinement after being found to be wearing Easter Lilies. Lilies are worn all through Ireland during Easter to remember all that have died for Irish freedom. The press release states that Loyalist prisoners and prison guards are allowed to wear poppies during Remembrance Day where the poppy is a symbol to honour those who have died for Britain in times of war, particularly World War I and that this is tolerated and not punished in a similar way to the alleged treatment of Republicans who wore Lilies.<sup>[1]</sup>

## [\[edit\]](#) Cuban dissidents



[Guillermo Fariñas](#)

See also: [Human rights in Cuba](#) and [Censorship in Cuba](#)

On April 3, 1972, [Pedro Luis Boitel](#), an imprisoned poet and dissident, declared himself on hunger strike. After 53 days on hunger strike, receiving only liquids, he died of starvation on May 25, 1972. His last days were related by his close friend, poet [Armando Valladares](#). He was buried in an unmarked grave in the [Cólon Cemetery](#) in [Havana](#).

[Guillermo Fariñas](#) did a seven-month hunger strike to protest against the extensive [Internet censorship in Cuba](#). He ended it in Autumn 2006, with severe health problems although still conscious.<sup>[10]</sup> [Reporters Without Borders](#) awarded its cyber-freedom prize to Guillermo Fariñas in 2006.<sup>[11]</sup>

[Jorge Luis García Pérez](#) (known as Antúnez) has done hunger strikes. In 2009, following the end of his 17-year imprisonment, Antúnez, his wife Iris, and Diosiris Santana Pérez started a hunger strike to support other political prisoners. Leaders from Uruguay, Costa Rica, and Argentina declared their support for Antúnez.<sup>[12][13]</sup>

On February 23, 2010, [Orlando Zapata Tamayo](#), a dissident arrested in 2003 as part of an crackdown on opposition groups, died in a hospital while undertaking a hunger strike that had been ongoing for 85 days. He had declared the hunger strike in protest of the poor conditions of the prison in which he was held.<sup>[14]</sup>

## **[edit]** Political prisoners in Turkey

Inspired by the Irish Republicans,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> Turkish [political prisoners](#) developed a tradition of hunger strikes, which continues to this day. After the suppression of rising civil socialist movements by a [military coup](#) in 1980, many militants as well as civil activists were imprisoned under highly inhumane conditions. In response to torture and mistreatment of political prisoners, the first hunger strike was launched in 1984, taking the lives of 4 [Dev-Sol](#) militants, Abdullah Meral, Haydar Başbağ, Fatih Öktülmüş and Hasan Telci.

In the following years, socialist movements have been increasingly marginalized and moved underground. However, many militant Marxist/Leninist groups have survived. For this reason, the number of political prisoners has always been high. In 1996, when the [nationalist minister](#) of the [Islamist/conservative](#) government launched a policy on segregation of political prisoners from each other, another hunger strike broke down, with the participation of several leftist militant groups. The strike lasted 69 days, took 12 lives, and the indifferent attitude of the government provoked a strong public protest. As a result, with the initiative of intellectuals including [Yaşar Kemal](#), [Zülfü Livaneli](#), and [Orhan Pamuk](#), a deal was achieved between the government and prisoners. The prisoners took most of their rights back, which they recall as a victory.

The last wave of hunger strikes in Turkey, which has become chronic in recent years, was started against F-type prisons, which were designed for efficient segregation of political prisoners. The project was developed starting in 1997, and the strike was started on October 20, 2000, demanding F-type prisons not to be opened, by a large coalition of militant groups, this time including the Kurdish-separatist militants of [PKK](#). The result was tragic. On December 19, 2000, the now democratic left-extreme nationalist coalition decided to break the strike using force, which was named "Back to life" operation. The operation was faced by a well-organized resistance of prisoners, resulting in the death of 28 prisoners and 2 soldiers. Since then, both F-type prisons and related hunger strikes have become an issue of daily life. According to the organization of prisoner relatives, 101 prisoners have died and above 400 have suffered from unrecoverable disease, particularly [Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome](#). The governments have consistently denied claims about mistreatment of prisoners, and president [Ahmet Necdet Sezer](#) has been pardoning diseased prisoners, only to be criticized by the extreme right, since many of the released militants have been seen in different demonstrations against F-type prisons. The government maintains that 189 hunger strikers received presidential pardons since 2000.

## **[edit]** Animal rights

British animal-rights activist [Barry Horne](#) died on November 5, 2001 after a series of four hunger strikes, the longest of which lasted 68 days from October 6 to December 13, 1998, leaving him partially blind and with [kidney](#) damage.

## [\[edit\]](#) **Fathers' rights**

American [fathers' rights](#) activist John Murtari engaged in an action throughout his jail sentence, which he described as "not a hunger strike", but which involved complete non-cooperation, including refusing to eat or drink. <sup>[2]</sup> Other fathers' rights activists in Canada and elsewhere have staged hunger strikes after being unable to see their children for extended periods of time. <sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

## [\[edit\]](#) **Akbar Ganji**

[Akbar Ganji](#) is an [Iranian](#) journalist imprisoned in [Evin prison](#) since April 22, 2000. Ganji was on a hunger strike between May 19, 2005 <sup>[3]</sup> and early August, 2005, except for a 12-day period of leave he was granted on May 30, 2005 ahead of the [ninth presidential elections](#) on June 17, 2005. He is represented by a group of lawyers, including the 2003 [Nobel Peace Prize](#) Laureate, [Shirin Ebadi](#). While on hunger strike Ganji wrote two letters to the free people of the world: [1](#) [2](#). On July 12, 2005 the White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in a statement that the US president, [George W. Bush](#), called on Iran to release Ganji "immediately and unconditionally." "Mr. Ganji is sadly only one victim of a wave of repression and human rights violations engaged in by the Iranian regime", "His calls for freedom deserve to be heard. His valiant efforts should not go in vain. The president calls on all supporters of human rights and freedom, and the United Nations, to take up Ganji's case and the overall human rights situation in Iran." "Mr. Ganji, please know that as you stand for your own liberty, America stands with you", the statement said.

## [\[edit\]](#) **Mother Poopathy – Fast to Death**

*Main article:* [Poopathy Kanapathipillai](#)

## [\[edit\]](#) **Guantánamo Bay hunger strikes**

*Main article:* [Guantánamo Bay hunger strikes](#)

During the middle of 2005, detainees held by the [United States](#) at the [Guantanamo Bay detention camp](#) initiated two hunger strikes.

On December 30, 2005, the military reported that there are eighty-four strikers as of Christmas Day, forty-six having joined that day.

In the April 14, 2008, edition of the New Yorker magazine, Jeffrey Toobin reported that there are currently only about ten hunger strikers at Guantanamo.

## [\[edit\]](#) *Force-feeding*

On 9 February 2006, [The New York Times](#) reported that hunger strikers in Guantánamo were being strapped into restraining chairs for hours a day for force-feeding and to prevent vomiting up the food as attempts at suicide. An officer said the number of strikers peaked at

131 around September 11, 2005. Reportedly there was concern over the international impact if a striker were to die. Detainees' lawyers called the methods brutal and inhumane, and said other coercive methods were used, such as being placed in cold air-conditioned isolation cells. The assistant secretary of defense for health affairs said it was a moral question: allow suicide, or take steps to preserve life.<sup>[15]</sup> On 21 February 2006, the military commander at Guantánamo conceded that the authorities were using restraining chairs as reported earlier. (NY Times 22 February)

The September 28, 2006 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* contained an article examining the [medical ethics](#) of physician-supervised [force-feeding](#) of hunger-striking detainees. The article questioned the legal and ethical foundation for physician participation in the force-feeding, writing that "...military physicians cannot follow military orders to force-feed competent prisoners without violating basic precepts of medical ethics never to harm them by means of their medical knowledge."<sup>[16]</sup>

On April 9, 2007, the *New York Times* reported that according to military officials and detainees' lawyers a new hunger strike has broken out at Guantanamo, with thirteen detainees being force-fed daily. In the April 14, 2008, edition of the New Yorker Magazine, Jeffrey Toobin reported that two detainees are currently being force-fed.

### [\[edit\]](#) **Sami Al-Arian**

On December 6, 2005, a federal jury acquitted Dr. [Sami Al-Arian](#) on 8 of 17 counts against him, while deadlocking 10–2 in favor of acquittal on the other 9.<sup>[17]</sup> On March 2, 2006, Al-Arian pled guilty to one count of [conspiracy](#) to contribute services to or for the benefit of the [Palestine Islamic Jihad](#), a [Specially Designated Terrorist](#) organization, and was later sentenced to the maximum 57 months in prison [\[4\]](#)<sup>[18]</sup> The deal came after 11 years of FBI investigations, wiretaps, and searches, 3 years of trial preparation by federal prosecutors, and a 5-month trial, during which time Al-Arian spent more than three years in jail, most of it in solitary confinement, which counted toward the time he was sentenced to. [\[5\]](#) [Amnesty International](#) said Al-Arian's pre-trial detention conditions "appeared to be 'gratuitously punitive' " and stated "the restrictions imposed on Dr Al-Arian appeared to go beyond what were necessary on security grounds and were inconsistent with international standards for humane treatment." These include: 23 hour cell-confinement, routine shackling, deprivation of tools and communication to prepare for his defense, and a third of the cell space required by UN international standards.<sup>[19]</sup>

Al-Arian was subpoenaed three times to testify in terrorism-related investigations before Virginia federal grand juries between 2006 and 2008. Each time, he refused to testify. He maintained that in a verbal agreement that appears in court transcripts, federal prosecutors agreed that Al-Arian would not have to testify before the grand jury.<sup>[20]</sup> He challenged the initial subpoena in four different federal courts, each of which held that he was in fact required to testify. On January 22, 2007, Al-Arian began a hunger strike to "protest continued government harassment" after he was held in [contempt of court](#) for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury.<sup>[21][22]</sup> He was imprisoned for 13 months for civil contempt for failing to testify in compliance with the first subpoena. He is awaiting trial as well for criminal contempt for his failure to testify in compliance with the second and third subpoenas.

### [\[edit\]](#) **Legal situation**

Article 6 of the 1975 [World Medical Association](#) Tokyo Declaration states that doctors can undertake force-feeding under certain restricted rules and only where a second, independent physician is consulted and agrees to the move:-

"Where a prisoner refuses nourishment and is considered by the physician as capable of forming an unimpaired and rational judgment concerning the consequences of such a voluntary refusal of nourishment, he or she shall not be fed artificially. The decision as to the capacity of the prisoner to form such a judgment should be confirmed by at least one other independent physician. The consequences of the refusal of nourishment shall be explained by the physician to the prisoner."

The World Medical Association recently revised and updated its Declaration of Malta on Hunger Strikers (see: <http://www.wma.net/e/policy/h31.htm>). Among many changes, it unambiguously states that force feeding is a form of inhuman and degrading treatment in its Article 21.

The [American Medical Association](#) is a member of the [World Medical Association](#), but the AMA's members are not bound by the WMA's decisions, and neither organization has formal legal powers.

The [Code of Federal Regulations](#) rule on inmate hunger strikes states, "It is the responsibility of the Bureau of Prisons to monitor the health and welfare of individual inmates, and to ensure that procedures are pursued to preserve life." It further provides that when "a medical necessity for immediate treatment of a life or health threatening situation exists, the physician may order that treatment be administered without the consent of the inmate."<sup>[23]</sup>

## [\[edit\]](#) See also

- [Independent Royalist Party of Estonia](#) held an *eating strike* to ridicule a hunger strike, widely deemed ridiculous, by [Riigikogu](#) members Lebedev and Petinov.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>
- [Fasting](#)

## [\[edit\]](#) References

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The *op. cit.* construct is less problematical, as long as it clearly and specifically refers to a particular source citation which is present in the article.

1. ↑ David Beresford. *Ten Men Dead*, (New York: Atlantic Press, 1987), 7. [ISBN 0-87113-702-X](#)
2. ↑ Ibid., 8.
3. ↑ See, e.g., the [1981 Irish hunger strike](#).
4. ↑ <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/ns/le/cle-eng.aspx#LTTE%23LTTE>
5. ↑ [Tibetans sit on hunger strike unto death in Kathmandu](#)
6. ↑ [Conditions deteriorate as TYC hunger strikers complete a week](#)
7. ↑ [Police Take Hunger Strikers to Hospital for Medical Care](#)

8. <sup>^</sup> [D.A. Binchy](#), "A Pre-Christian Survival in Mediaeval Irish Hagiography," in *Ireland in Early Mediaeval Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 1982), pp. 168–178; [Rudolf Thurneysen](#), "Das Fasten beim Pfändungsverfahren," *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie* 15 (1924–25) 260–275.
  9. <sup>^</sup> [The Starry Plough on 1981 Irish hunger strikes](#)
  10. <sup>^</sup> ["Guillermo Fariñas ends seven-month-old hunger strike for Internet access"](#). Reporters Without Borders. 1 September 2006. [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=16397](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=16397).
  11. <sup>^</sup> ["Cyber-freedom prize for 2006 awarded to Guillermo Fariñas of Cuba"](#). Reporters Without Borders. [http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=20125](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=20125).
  12. <sup>^</sup> ["Additional Latin American Leaders Join in Solidarity with Antúnez"](#). [http://www.directorio.org/pressreleases/note.php?note\\_id=2389](http://www.directorio.org/pressreleases/note.php?note_id=2389).
  13. <sup>^</sup> ["Young Uruguayans Support Antúnez, Cuban Political Prisoners"](#). [http://www.directorio.org/pressreleases/note.php?note\\_id=2357](http://www.directorio.org/pressreleases/note.php?note_id=2357).
  14. <sup>^</sup> ["Cuban prison hunger striker Orlando Zapata Tamayo dies"](#). BBC News. 2010-02-24. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8533350.stm>.
  15. <sup>^</sup> Tim Golden (February 9, 2006). "Tough U.S. Steps in Hunger Strike at Camp in Cuba". *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/02/09/politics/09gitmo.html>. Retrieved 2009-05-09.
  16. <sup>^</sup> Annas GJ (2006). "Hunger strikes at Guantanamo—medical ethics and human rights in a "legal black hole"". *N. Engl. J. Med.* **355** (13): 1377–82. doi:10.1056/NEJMhle062316. PMID 17005959.
  17. <sup>^</sup> Laughlin, Meg; Jennifer Liberto and Justin George (December 7, 2005). "8 times, Al-Arian hears 'Not guilty'". *St. Petersburg Times*. [http://www.sptimes.com/2005/12/07/Tampabay/8\\_times\\_Al\\_Arian\\_hear.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/2005/12/07/Tampabay/8_times_Al_Arian_hear.shtml). Retrieved 2007-03-26.
  18. <sup>^</sup> ["Ex-professor gets over 4 years in Florida Jihad case"](#), Reuters, May 1, 2006
  19. <sup>^</sup> [Amnesty International raises concern about prison conditions of Dr Sami Al-Arian](#)
  20. <sup>^</sup> [Gaunt Al-Arian shocks family](#) by Meg Laughlin. *St. Petersburg Times*. March 20, 2007.
  21. <sup>^</sup> [Witness Is Silent in Terror Probe: Ex-Professor Says Grand Jury Testimony Would Endanger Him](#). *Washington Post*. November 14, 2006.
  22. <sup>^</sup> [Family says inmate's hunger strike not near end](#). *Wilmington Star* (NC). February 17, 2007.
  23. <sup>^</sup> [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=6d4a56492db450206fc427b40751ae2a&rgn=div6&view=text&node=28:2.0.3.3.21.5&i\\_dno=28](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=6d4a56492db450206fc427b40751ae2a&rgn=div6&view=text&node=28:2.0.3.3.21.5&i_dno=28)
- [Mahatma Gandhi and India](#)
  - [Brains, Courage, Integrity](#)
  - [1981 Irish Hunger Strike](#)
  - [ACTivist Magazine Fast for Peace 2003](#)
  - [Turkey Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – 2004](#)

## **[[edit](#)] External links**

- [\[6\] Striking Differences: Hunger strikes in Israel and the United States](#)
- [Infoshop News](#) – Palestinian Strike
- [Women's Suffrage](#)
- [How Long Can You Go Without Food? Hunger strikes 101](#), *Slate* magazine, June 10, 2004
- [Scandal of force-fed prisoners](#) Hunger strikers are tied down and fed through nasal tubes, admits Guantánamo Bay doctor ([The Guardian](#), January 8, 2006)
- [Guantanamo and Medical Ethics](#), *JURIST*
- [\[7\] Fasting as a Method To Demand International Protection For the People of Darfur, Sudan](#)

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