



April 7, 2009

Special Rapporteur on Torture
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Nowak,

On October 22, 2008, our office informed you that our client William B. Coleman, a forty-eight year old British hunger-striking inmate, was being force-fed by the Connecticut Department of Corrections (DOC). Mr. Coleman voluntarily took fluids after two painful nasogastric force-feedings. A five day trial on the constitutionality of force-feeding Mr. Coleman concluded on February 11, 2009. We are currently preparing briefs and expect a decision this Fall.

On March 31, 2009, Mr. Coleman informed the DOC that he would no longer consume fluids (see attached Inmate Request Form). Mr. Coleman informed the DOC that although he does not want to be force-fed he would not resist, making restraints unnecessary. Mr. Coleman ceased taking fluids on April 1, 2009.

On April 2, 2009, Mr. Coleman was transferred to a suicide/observation cell. DOC medical and mental health staff told Mr. Coleman that he is not on suicide watch. Since being moved to the suicide cell, Mr. Coleman has been denied recreation, personal calls, and has many other restrictions. Mr. Coleman has a history of having health problems with fluorescent lighting. The light in Mr. Coleman's cell has been on from 17-24 hours a day. Mr. Coleman is suffering from headaches and is having trouble sleeping. Additionally, DOC doctors have refused to give Mr. Coleman pain relievers in a form he can take. We believe that these actions are punitive and retaliatory.

On April 6, 2009, Mr. Coleman was force-fed via nasogastric tube and IV. Mr. Coleman was put in four point restraints for both procedures. The nasogastric feeding was performed by Dr. Edward Blanchette, the Clinical Director for the DOC. Mr. Coleman does not trust Dr. Blanchette and the doctor/patient relationship is toxic. The nasogastric feeding tube was left in Mr. Coleman's nose after the force-feeding as of April 7, 2009. The IV fluid feeding was much longer and stressful than the earlier procedures. At approximately 3:00 PM, Mr. Coleman was put in four point restraints on the bed in the suicide cell. The light was left on for the entire procedure. At approximately 6:00 AM, the IV feeding concluded. We have been informed that Mr. Coleman will be force-fed by nasogastric tube and IV twice a week until he starts consuming nutrition.

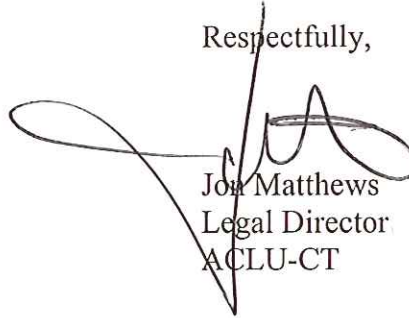
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We respectfully request that you consider these new developments under the Urgent Appeal procedure and advise the U.S. government to refrain from force-feeding Mr. Coleman and allow an independent health professional to treat and monitor Mr. Coleman's hunger strike and evaluate his medical condition in a manner consistent with international ethical and human rights standards.

Thank you for reviewing this significant human rights violation. Please feel free to contact our organization if you have any questions or would like to further discuss this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Matthews', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop on the left side and a sharp vertical stroke on the right.

Jon Matthews
Legal Director
ACLU-CT