THE EDGE OF ENDURANCE
PRISON CONDITIONS IN CALIFORNIA’S SECURITY HOUSING UNITS

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I WANT TO HELP
THE EDGE OF ENDURANCE
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Hundreds of prisoners have been confined in California’s high-security segregation units (SHUs) for 10 or more years – in some cases for decades – in conditions of severe isolation and reduced sensory stimulation.

This report describes Amnesty International’s concerns about these conditions and includes findings of a research visit to three SHU units in November 2011. It also examines recent proposals put forward by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reform the method for assigning prisoners to the units and to provide a route out of SHUs through a protracted four-step process lasting at least four years.