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Committee to end lockdown to protest

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MARION — In what has become an annual event, members of the Chicago-based Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) will hold a protest in front of the United States Penitentiary gate later today.

In a departure from previous years, the CEML will also visit two other prisons on their way to Marion.

Nancy Kurshan, spokesperson for the CEML, said that buses will leave from Chicago at 6 a.m. Saturday and will make their first stop at the only women's correctional center in the state, located in Dwight.

Rita Nitz, who was convicted along with her ex-husband Richard Nitz of the 1988 murder of Michael Miley of Murphysboro is serving her sentence at

Dwight.

From there the group will make its way to Chester where they will hold a protest at the Menard Correctional Center.

Finally, the group, which Kurshan predicted would be 100 strong, will stop at the Marion facility.

In addition to the CEML, the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War is co-sponsoring the event.

The groups claim that several Puerto Rican "Prisoners of War" have been incarcerated in the prisons.

In addition to protesting the conditions are USP-Marion, the group has begun to focus on the new level six prison being constructed in Florence, Colo., which will replace the Marion facility in holding "the worst of the worst."

The Illinois demonstration is one of many activities taking place in over 20 cities in the U.S. and Canada.