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Mount Carmel patient ends hunger strike after reaching agreement with hospital administration

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A 29-year-old patient at Mount Carmel Hospital has stopped a hunger strike he entered last Saturday after he reached an agreement with the hospital's management.

Daniel Lanzon had begun his hunger strike after the consultant psychiatrist his case was assigned to, Joseph Spiteri, revoked permission to carry out odd jobs at Dar Frate Jacoba in Marsascala, a home run by Franciscan friars in Marsascala which Mr Lanzon had lived in in the past.

He insisted that he should be assigned to a different psychiatrist, and that his visits to the friars' home should be allowed to continue, maintaining that these were crucial to his recovery.

But he added that **after the intervention of hospital CEO Clifton Grima and consultant psychiatrist Anton Grech, he was stopping his hunger strike** with immediate effect, but insisted that he would enter another one if things did not improve as promised.

Earlier today, Mr Lanzon made a number of allegations against Dr Spiteri, which he said he was standing by.

In a statement issued in the morning, he had said that he would continue his strike after the court failed to reach a decision, adding that the hospital's administration has been trying to influence the judicial judgment.

Mr Lanzon claimed that his permission had been revoked by **consultant psychiatrist Joseph Spiteri, who, he claimed, used his power according to who was able to pay, and that those unable to pay were threatened.**

This is not acceptable to mental health patients. I expect an investigation to be carried out," he said, insisting that he had evidence. **He also said that forensic inmates were made to pay money to get the best rooms.**

"I expect justice to be served," Mr Lanzon concluded, hours before ending his hunger strike.