

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2012/06/09/voices-from-solitary-behind-enemy-lines/>

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by [Voices from Solitary](#) | June 9, 2012

The artist Ojore Luta was released from Trenton State Penitentiary in August 2009 by way of a court order. He maxed out after 28 years, 22 of which were spent in the Management Control Unit (solitary confinement). Luta was imprisoned after an armed robbery conviction, but he was held in the MCU because his political beliefs and his association with the Anarchist Black Cross Federation and Black Liberation Army were deemed a threat to the security of the prison. In order to keep his sanity during his internment, Luta says he abided by a strict regiment of physical exercise, meditation and study. He also began creating political art. Ojore Luta provided the following description of his artwork:

Over the years Ojore was asked repeatedly to describe the conditions that he faced on a daily basis. These requests ranged from simple curiosity as to the physical particulars of his cell and surroundings to the profound emotional pressures and struggles associated with long-term solitary confinement. Ojore began creating his political propaganda both as a way to maintain his sanity and to more adequately convey to his friends the physical and emotional reality he experienced within solitary confinement. For the last 22 years of his confinement Ojore created a wide range of art pieces offering his unique perspective.

Since his release in 2008, Ojore dedicates himself to assisting the American Friends Service Committee in its attempt to expose the true nature and extent of long-term isolation, its effect both on the prisoner individually as well as society at large. This outreach often involves speaking engagements in which he uses artwork to re-enforce his text, finding visuals often communicate more effectively than a purely oral presentation. Often after speaking, Ojore receives requests from individuals to purchase his artwork. The limited proceeds from the sale of these pieces allow Ojore to continue to volunteer his time to the American Friends Service Committee.

What follows is a small sample of Ojore Luta's work. His collages are for sale on the website www.ojorebehindenemylines.com, and he is available for art showings: e-mail kerness.b@verizon.net. Jean Casella and James Ridgeway

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COLLAGE CREATED
BY OJORE LUTALO

Psychological wounds

COLLAGE CREATED
BY OJORE LUTALO

Introduction

What is "no touch" torture?

BEHAVIOR CONTROL

YOU CALL THIS A DEMOCRACY!

TRUE THOUGHTS

PEOPLE TELL

THEIR STORIES

Grim-

Reality

Let It

Be Said:

OJORE N. LUTALO

P.O. 861-59869

SBI#00000901548

TRENTON, NJ 08625

Without controversy and
hard times, you'll never know
who you'll be when critical situa-
tions come your way. And you'll
never know who your friends are.

I was held incommunicado for six (6) days in New Jersey's Trenton State Prison draconian and nightmarish mental health unit called 1-C by prison workers and the boom-boom room by most prisoners. I was not allowed to shower, change my clothing, have soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, wash cloth or towel. I was not allowed to make telephone calls, send out or receive personal or legal mail (see attached). I was also not allowed to receive personal or legal visits or take part in any inside or outside recreational activities.

Breaking Men's Minds

Introduction

What is "no touch" torture?

BEHAVIOR CONTROL

The banal and bizarre techniques of

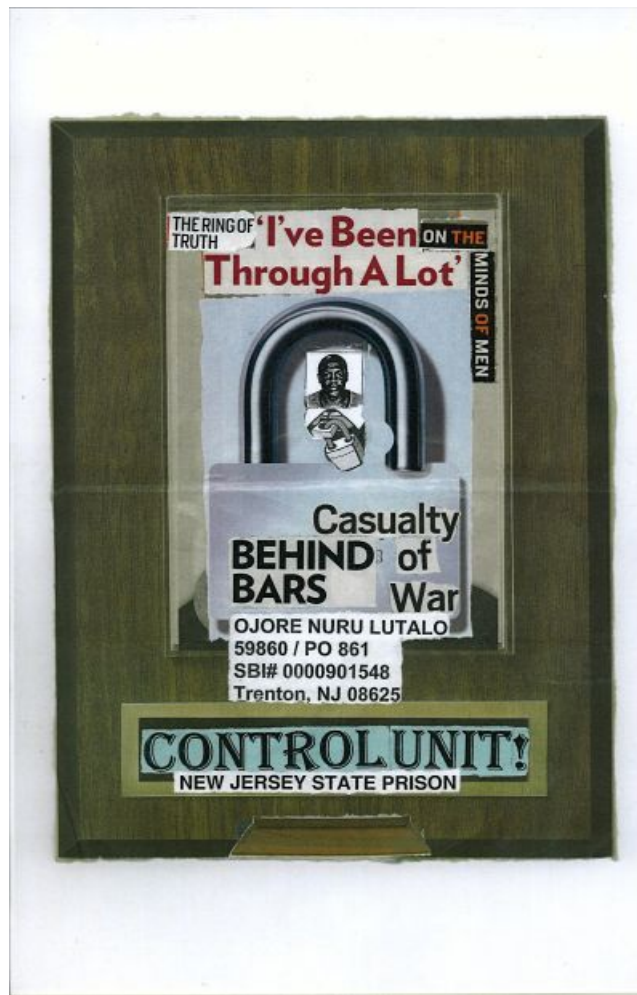
"no touch" torture

An example of "no touch" torture:

No touch torture is a set of practices used to inflict pain or suffering without resorting to direct physical violence: sleep deprivation, sensory disorientation, solitary confinement, humiliation, extreme cold or heat, extreme light or dark, intentional placement of stimuli, A systematic attack on all human stimuli.



PSYCHOLOGICAL
Violence



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Voices from Solitary

The Voices from Solitary series publishes dispatches from people surviving the lived experience of solitary confinement.

Help Expose the Hidden World of Solitary Confinement

Accurate information and authentic storytelling can serve as powerful antidotes to ignorance and injustice. We have helped generate public awareness, mainstream media attention, and informed policymaking on what was once an invisible domestic human rights crisis.

Only with your support can we continue this groundbreaking work, shining light into the darkest corners of the U.S. criminal punishment system.

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by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 30, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 19, 2022

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September 6, 2022

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