

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | October 26, 2014



The following roundup features noteworthy news, reports and opinions on solitary confinement from the past week that have not been covered in other Solitary Watch posts.

[Dissident Voice](#) published a profile of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Jeremy Hammond, two political prisoners who have faced time in solitary confinement.

Undocumented immigrants currently and formerly held at a detention center in Colorado have [filed a class-action lawsuit against the private company that runs the facility](#). The individuals allege that they were threatened with solitary confinement if they refused to assist in cleaning or operating the facility, work for which they were paid less than \$1 a day.

The widow of Colorado's former prison chief, Tom Clements, urged a candidate in the state's gubernatorial race to stop using her family's loss for [his] personal and political gain. Her husband was murdered by Evan Ebel in 2013, after he was released directly from solitary confinement.

Gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have [filed a class-action lawsuit against San Bernardino County and its sheriff](#), claiming that they are kept in isolation on an LGBT-specific unit and denied access to programming that would enable them to secure earlier release dates. One plaintiff said, I shouldn't have to choose between my safety and my sexual orientation. That's pretty much the choice you have to make.

Colorado's Department of Corrections may be considering giving those on death row additional about four hours out of their cells daily, [according to one source](#). In Colorado and across the country people on death are held in solitary confinement regardless of their behavior on the inside.

As part of a [settlement agreement](#) reached with Prisoners Legal Services, New York's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision will provide much greater protections to children facing solitary confinement following a disciplinary hearing. The settlement also restricts the amount of hours young people can spend in isolation to 18 hours a day during the week and 22 hours a day over the weekend.

Aviva Stahl is a Brooklyn-based reporter who writes about science/health at the intersection of mass incarceration, national security, and trans rights. She's written for the New York Times, Wired, BuzzFeed News, Solitary Watch, and other outlets. Find her [@stahlidarity](#) and at [stahlidarity.com](#).

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.

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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