

# Solitary Watch

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/07/07/fourteen-days-in-solitary/>

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by [Jean Casella and James Ridgeway](#) | July 7, 2013



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

In response to a federal lawsuit on behalf of prisoners held in solitary, the state of North Carolina filed a motion claiming that prison guards used minimal force in altercations with handcuffed inmates that left several with broken bones and one confined to a wheelchair, [reports the Associated Press](#).

Psychiatrist and longtime critic of solitary confinement Terry Kupers appeared on [KPFAs Against the Grain](#) to discuss What Prisons Say About Us.

[American Public Medias The Story](#) covered advocates effort to convince architects not to design spaces intended for execution or for torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, including prolonged solitary confinement.

California corrections officers sought standing in the current lawsuit filed on behalf of men held in solitary in Pelican Bay State Prison. As the [Los Angeles Times reports](#), the prison guards union argues that limiting isolation jeopardizes the security of the institution and [their] membership, and would lead to increased violence throughout prisons in California.

After conducting a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind survey, Hope Metcalf and a team from [Yale Law School published](#) Administrative Segregation, Degrees of Isolation, and Incarceration: A National Overview of State and Federal Correctional Policies.

The Department of Defense released a report on the suicide of Adnan Latif, who died in solitary confinement at Guantanamo last fall. The report was analyzed in detail by [Jeff Kaye on Firedoglake](#).

A bill placing restrictions on the use of solitary confinement in California youth facilities passed a committee vote in the California Assembly, [reports bill sponsor](#) Senator Leland Yee.

A lawsuit asserts that men held in solitary in a prison in St. Louis were forced to fight for the amusement of the guards, according to a [CBS News report](#).

According to [Courthouse News Service](#), Two teenagers held for months in isolation, under close, constant watch and without educational materials or medical treatment, can pursue negligence claims, a federal judge ruled.

The father of a 19-year-old jailed for threats made on Facebook [told NPR](#) that his son has been beaten in prison, and has been put in solitary confinement, nude, for days on end because he's depressed.

Legislators in Massachusetts held a briefing after introducing a bill that would limit the use of disciplinary segregation to 15 days, according to a commentary by Jean Trounstein in [Boston Magazine](#).

A group of prisoners held in isolation on Louisiana's death row filed a lawsuit challenging heat conditions as cruel and unusual; the state countered their claims, asserting that the temperature on death row could not have exceeded 120 degrees, the [Baton-Rouge Advocate](#) reports.

The force-feedings of detainees on hunger strike will be synchronized with the fasting for Ramadan, according to the [Miami Herald](#).

Updates on the California prison hunger strike, set to begin tomorrow, will appear on the [Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity](#) site as well as on Solitary Watch.

James Ridgeway (1936-2021) was the founder and co-director of Solitary Watch. An investigative journalist for over 60 years, he served as Washington Correspondent for the Village Voice and Mother Jones, reporting domestically on subjects ranging from electoral politics to corporate malfeasance to the rise of the racist far-right, and abroad from Central America, Northern Ireland, Eastern Europe, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia. Earlier, he wrote for The New Republic and Ramparts, and his work appeared in dozens of other publications. He was the co-director of two films and author of 20 books, including a forthcoming posthumous edition of his groundbreaking 1991 work on the far right, Blood in the Face. Jean Casella is the director of Solitary Watch. She has also published work in The Guardian, The Nation, and Mother Jones, and is co-editor of the book Hell Is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement. She has received a Soros Justice Media Fellowship and an Alicia Patterson Fellowship. She tweets @solitarywatch.

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 [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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