

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2010/06/02/super-secretive-supermax-prisons-last-day-to-register-opposition/>

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by [James Ridgeway and Jean Casella](#) | June 2, 2010

We've written before about [Communications Management Units](#), the federal prison wings where inmates are kept not only in solitary confinement but in a new type of extreme isolation, with severely curtailed ability to communicate with one another as well as with the outside world. The Bureau of Prisons now proposes to make these units permanent.

Today is the last day of the public comment period, during which opponents can send statements to the government. Will Potter on Green Is the New Red, who has been tracking the CMUs for some time, provides all the relevant information in [this post](#), which we are running in full. The comments section of the post includes sample statements that other readers have sent in.

The federal Bureau of Prisons has quietly submitted [a proposal to make the secretive, political prisons called Communications Management Units permanent](#).

As part of that process, there is a required public comment period, where individuals and organizations can register their opposition. This is a process required by the Administrative Procedures Act, and it should have been followed three years ago when the first secretive facility opened; knowing that the plans would be met with fierce opposition, as previous proposals had been, the CMUs were opened secretly and illegally.

With multiple lawsuits filed in opposition to the CMUs, and with public exposure increasing, the government is attempting to follow the law in hindsight.

That's why it's so important to speak up, on record, against these unconstitutional facilities.

A few points to remember, from some of the [previous coverage here at Green Is the New Red](#):

It's easy to [submit your comments online through Regulations.gov](#).

Submit your comments by June 2nd!

Again, you can find sample comments at the bottom of the [original post](#); as time is short, it may be helpful to use these as models. The ACLU's comments on CMUs can be found [here](#).

On a related subject, Green Is the New Red has also reported on the possibility that [Greenpeace activists nonviolently protesting the BP oil spill](#) could be charged as terrorists. (This follows earlier efforts by right-wing commentators to [blame the spill](#) on eco-terrorists.) Since other environmental activists have served stints in the CMUs, these protestors could conceivably become future residents.



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

Solitary Watch encourages comments and welcomes a range of ideas, opinions, debates, and respectful disagreement. We do not allow name-calling, bullying, cursing, or personal attacks of any kind. Any embedded links should be to information relevant to the conversation. Comments that violate these guidelines will be removed, and repeat offenders will be blocked. Thank you for your cooperation.

@Liza B

you are so correct. so many of our politicians have been caught out fiddling their expense sheets in some cases by tens of thousands of uk, these characters should be subject to a bit of solitary. Most of the corrupt ones are also the most vocal in their own defence. At this very moment in time we have 4 major politicians on trial for criminal fraud in relation to this scandal they have all tried to invoke a special act whereby the public should not be informed of what elected officials get up to they really are the people who should become acquainted with these buildings.

WOW>. this is AMERICA?

this is so sad,,, I hope to gawd this sort of prison is reserved for ONLY politicians and members of the BOP and corrupt prison officials and employees

I just submitted a comment on the CMUs. It looks as tho you can submit comments until June 7th.

The ACLU, joined by several other groups, including the Uptown Peoples law Center where I work, has submitted extensive comments. They are available here: <http://www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights/bureau-prisons-should-shutter-secretive-and-isolated-communications-management-unit>

It doesnt seem to me to be the right thing to do to those that havent violated any policy. a family needs the touch of their loved ones. How is this wrong? what is wrong is making these people move without reason or ways to fight it when will the BoP start looking at the human aspect and not the money?

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