

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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close

Search

close

close

Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | January 3, 2016

Coverage continues of the recent solitary confinement settlement in New York state, with articles appearing in [the New York Times](#) and [Al Jazeera America](#), among other outlets.

A Colorado State Senator [wrote about the hunger strikes](#) that occurred in Aurora and other immigration detention centers across the country. Two participants reported to [him that] all of the asylum seekers on hunger strike are held in solitary confinement, and report their sleep is consistently interrupted.

[Fusion](#) listed reforms to solitary as #3 in their list of Seven ways our criminal justice system got a little more just in 2015. They note, the most chilling punishment in the American incarceration system might be solitary confinement. This year, two states with two of the largest prison populations in the country announced major reforms of how many inmates are kept in solitary and how they're treated there.

Governor Jerry Brown [named a new head](#) to California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, former state prison guard and warden Scott Kernan. Outgoing Secretary of Corrections Jeffrey Beard oversaw a substantial reduction in the prison population and reached a settlement allowing for reductions and limitations on the use of solitary.

Colorado's Department of Corrections released a [report](#) tracking recent reforms to the use of solitary in the state. The report release was covered by [Westword](#) and prompted an editorial from the team at the [Denver Post](#).

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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