

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | November 9, 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.

[The Cap Times](#) published a feature on solitary confinement in Dane County jails, entitled *Boxed in: Fighting for changes, Sheriff Dave Mahoney calls his own jail inhumane*.

The LA Times editorial board [took a strong stance](#) against the use of solitary confinement on death row.

The University of North Carolina School of Law Immigration/Human Rights Clinic released its latest report, [Solitary Confinement as Torture](#). (Covered by the [Fayetteville Observer](#) and others).

A 21-year-old man with a history of illness [committed suicide in Fishkill state prison](#) in upstate New York. Benjamin Van Zandt had been placed in the SHU for fighting with another individual two days prior; he had originally been incarcerated on an arson conviction.

The trial of the Dallas 6 is scheduled to begin this week. The six men, all currently held in solitary confinement in a Pennsylvania prison, allege they were falsely charged with riot a felony as punishment for endeavoring to publicize and fight guard abuse on the inside. (Covered by [Truth-Out](#)).

At least 200 individuals held at the Tacoma Detention Center in Washington [have gone on hunger strike](#), the third such strike in recent years. Previously, hunger strike participants have placed in solitary confinement and threatened with force-feeding.

The family of a man who committed suicide in solitary confinement in a Pennsylvania jail has [voluntarily withdrawn from a civil lawsuit](#) brought against Armstrong County, which alleged wrongful death. An attorney for the family declined to say whether a financial settlement had been reached.

Formerly incarcerated individuals, local activists, and others [gathered in front of Rikers Island to call for reforms](#), including the end of the use of solitary confinement for all those held at the jail. One participant stressed, that at least two inmate who were incarcerated here at Rikers Island died while they were in solitary confinement.

Aviva Stahl is a Brooklyn-based reporter who writes about science/health at the intersection of mass incarceration, national security, and trans rights. Shes 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 [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 5, 2022

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