

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | January 31, 2016

A Syracuse 16-year-old is suing the Onondaga County Justice Center for allegedly placing him in solitary confinement for more than two months. According to [one local site](#), Chief Onondaga County Custody Deputy Esteban Gonzalez called [the teenagers housing conditions] segregation housing in a response to the lawsuit, saying that the conditions do not meet the criteria or the level that (solitary confinement) implies.

Solitary Watch founders and co-editors Jim Ridgeway and Jean Casella were featured in a [New Yorker](#) story.

The Nation published a [groundbreaking investigation](#) into a string of deaths at the Bureau of Prisons privatized, immigrant-only facilities. One man locked up in these prisons, 28-year-old Jesus Enrique Zavala Montes, who had a known history of mental illness and self harm, committed suicide while in the SHU in March 2013.

The Guardians David Smith [addresses the culture of secrecy](#) that remains in US prisons, despite Obamas proposed crackdown on solitary confinement. The concealed nature of the practice condemned by Obama as an affront to our common humanity illustrates the scale of the challenge that remains, he writes. [The Washington Post](#) also traced the limits of the reforms.

A survivor of childhood solitary confinement, now in law school, writes about his experiences for [TIME](#). Given my experience, my response to President Barack Obamas ban on solitary confinement for juveniles and low-level offenders in federal facilities is tempered.

The Executive Director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture [addressed](#) why labor unions should heed Obamas call to reform solitary confinement.

[Advocates in North Carolina](#), and [lawmakers in New Mexico](#), are seeking state prohibitions on putting children in solitary confinement following President Obamas remarks.

Indianas Department of Corrections has [reached a settlement](#) to sharply limit the placement of people with mental illness in solitary confinement. The settlement is the result of a 2008 lawsuit brought by the states ACLU. [Covered by [BuzzFeed](#) and others].

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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