

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | April 27, 2013



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 *Queens Chronicle* [reports](#) on efforts by activists and New York City Council Members to increase transparency and place stricter limits on the use of solitary confinement in New York City's jails.

Susan Greene, in the *Colorado Independent*, [continues](#) her reporting on how years of solitary confinement may have affected Evan Ebel, prime suspect in the killing of Colorado prisons chief Tom Clements.

Albany Times Union [reports](#) on the widespread use of solitary confinement on people with mental illness in New York State. The damage caused by solitary is illustrated in the story of the formerly incarcerated Jeff Rockefeller, who to this day struggles with uncontrollable crying, difficulty sleeping and nightmares.

Human Rights Watch [reports](#) that 93 of the 166 detainees have joined the hunger strike at Guantanamo.

The *Houston Chronicle* [reports](#) on two bills currently under consideration by the Texas Legislature (House Bill 1266 and Senate Bill 1003) that would call for an examination of the state's use of solitary confinement in order to identify feasible alternatives to the practice. In the article, Texas death row exonerate Anthony Graves provides a powerful [account](#) of the torturous conditions to which he was subjected in his over 18 years of administrative segregation.

The Sidney Hillman Foundation [announces](#) Shane Bauer as a 2013 Hillman Prizes recipient for his [article](#) No Way Out: A Special Report on Solitary Confinement from Former Hostage Shane Bauer. The prize is awarded to journalists whose work highlights important social and economic issues and helps bring about change for the better.

The ACLU [reports](#) on a series of proposed bills that would restrict the use of solitary confinement on youth in Texas. The story also details the state's failure to take into account age when determining if a kid should be placed in solitary and a disregard for the mental health of children held in isolation.

KUT News [reports](#) on the abusive use of solitary confinement on youth in Texas, stating juvenile offenders in Texas were placed in solitary confinement 36,820 times last year.

Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz [speaks out](#) against the use of solitary confinement on youth, calling for support of a proposed bill in California (SB 61) that would lead the way nationally in increasing access to rehabilitation and reducing harm for our young people.

Prisoners rights group NCTT-Cor-SHU [alleges](#) that, in a blatant disregard of California state policies, administrators at Corcoran SHU instructed staff to cease all medical treatment of hunger strikers at the facility.

Angola 3 News features an [interview](#) with Teresa Shoats, daughter of Russell Maroon Shoats, who has spent 28 of the last 30 years in solitary confinement in Pennsylvania prisons, and is now the subject of an activist campaign to win his release from isolation.

Lisa Dawson served as an assistant editor, social media manager, and contributor at Solitary Watch. She continues to support prisoners and their family members who need help navigating re-entry. She is on Twitter [@endsolitary](#).

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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I am very glad to see so many articles and attention to Solitary Confinement situations being reviewed and changed and also attention regarding juveniles in solitary and the need to change that.

P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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