

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](#) | September 18, 2016

The Kansas Court of Appeals has [ordered a lower court](#) to consider the constitutionality of extended stays in administrative segregation. Cledith Bohanon, who filed the lawsuit, has been in the box at Hutchinson Correctional Facility for the past 850 days.

[The Daily Beast](#) told the story of Benjamin Van Zandt, who at 17 was sentenced to 12 years in prison for setting a house on fire, and sent into New Yorks prison system. There he was raped, extorted, forced to mule drugs, sent to solitary confinement, and deprived of the medication required to keep him stable and ultimately committed suicide.

A medical examiner has [determined](#) that a Black man who died in solitary confinement in a Milwaukee prison last April suffered from severe dehydration. Terrill Thomas, 38, had a history of mental illness; the water tap in his cell was reportedly shut off because he had previously flooded his cell. Terrills death was ruled a homicide.

A new virtual reality project will seek to make a series of videos about life on the inside to foster empathy with people in prison. [TakePart](#) reports: Based on true stories of Americans affected by incarceration, the videos, [project co-manager Jamie] Wong said, explore the four most pivotal moments that define the prison experiencevulnerability, sentencing, lockup, and solitary confinementthrough the eyes of different characters.

A UK court has ruled that alleged British hacker Lauri Love [will face extradition](#) to the United States, a move which has greatly concerned his family and support network. Lauri has very severe and very well-documented mental health issues, his lawyer said in the past. In the U.S., when youre on suicide watch, they put you into 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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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