

# Solitary Watch

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://solitarywatch.org/2018/05/17/solitary-voices-journalists-and-advocates-uncover-a-dark-corner-of-the-u-s-criminal-justice-system/>**

## Campaign and Advocacy

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by [Jean Casella](#) | May 17, 2018

Al Jazeera English's media show, [The Listening Post](#), has a feature on the challenges that journalists and advocates have faced exposing solitary confinement in U.S. prisons and jails—a hidden world that is home to some 100,000 people, but has been kept resolutely off-limits to the public and the press.

The piece features Solitary Watch's James Ridgeway discussing the hundreds of letters he receives each month from people in solitary, which provide sources for our reporting as well as the only form of human contact available to many individuals living in isolation. Advocates David Fathi of the [ACLU National Prison Project](#) and Johnny Perez of the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) (himself a survivor of solitary) discuss the importance of exposing and ending the senseless suffering caused by prolonged solitary confinement.

Watch here:

[\[su\\_youtube url=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPKYt\\_vc8AM width=896 height=504\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPKYt_vc8AM)

Jean Casella is the director of Solitary Watch. She has also published work in The Guardian, The Nation, and Mother Jones, and is co-editor of the book *Hell Is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement*. She has received a Soros Justice Media Fellowship and an Alicia Patterson Fellowship. She tweets [@solitarywatch](#).

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 [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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