

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2019/12/03/support-solitary-watch-on-givingnewsday-and-your-donation-will-be-doubled/>

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Because Information Is the First and Most Powerful Antidote to Injustice

by [Jean Casella and James Ridgeway](#) | December 3, 2019

Dear Readers, Supporters, and Friends:

Today, #GivingTuesday, has become an important day for all nonprofit organizations, especially small, lean ones like Solitary Watch. **Its the day when we count on the people who read and value our work all year long** and who care about the issue of solitary confinement to give back, at whatever level they can, to help support us through the coming year.



For more than 150 nonprofit newsrooms across the country, **today is also #GivingNewsDay**. Its a day to celebrate ethical, honest, and fact-based journalism like ours and to raise the funds to make it possible.

This year, Solitary Watch has once again been selected to participate in NewsMatch, a national matching-gift campaign that drives donations to nonprofit reporting projects around the country. From now until December 31, **NewsMatch will match your new monthly donation 12 times, or double your one-time gift, up to \$1,000**. Its a unique opportunity to make your donation have double the impact that it otherwise would.

We hope to raise \$7,500 by the end of the day today. **Can we count on you to help us reach our goal?**



With a subject like solitary confinement, which depends upon secrecy and invisibility for its continued existence, information is the first and most powerful antidote to injustice. For ten years now, our work shining a light into this dark corner of the U.S. criminal justice system has had an outsized impact, leading to far greater public awareness, debate, and change.

With at least 70,000 people still in solitary confinement around the country, our work remains as crucial ever. **But it would not be possible without the support of readers and friends like you.** This #GivingNewsDay, invest in independent, mission-driven journalism that matters. Support the work of Solitary Watch.

With gratitude and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean J".

Jean Casella and James Ridgeway, Co-Directors

P.S. **Please help us spread the word about Solitary Watch's work and #GivingNewsDay** by sharing this post by email or on social

media.



James Ridgeway (1936-2021) was the founder and co-director of Solitary Watch. An investigative journalist for over 60 years, he served as Washington Correspondent for the Village Voice and Mother Jones, reporting domestically on subjects ranging from electoral politics to corporate malfeasance to the rise of the racist far-right, and abroad from Central America, Northern Ireland, Eastern Europe, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia. Earlier, he wrote for The New Republic and Ramparts, and his work appeared in dozens of other publications. He was the co-director of two films and author of 20 books, including a forthcoming posthumous edition of his groundbreaking 1991 work on the far right, *Blood in the Face*. 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 [Jean Casella](#)

December 29, 2021

by [Jean Casella](#)

December 23, 2021

by [Events and Announcements](#)

December 3, 2021

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