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Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | December 6, 2015

A California state senator announced [he would push for the passage of a bill](#) to limit the placement of children in solitary confinement. Mark Leno, a Democrat from San Francisco, plans to introduce the Stop Torture of Children Act when the legislature reconvenes in January.

Washington DC Councilmember Mary Cheh has [introduced legislation](#) to limit to use of solitary confinement in the districts jail. The Inmate Segregation Reduction Act of 2015 would create minimum out-of-time cell for people in solitary and restrict the use of solitary to only the most serious crimes, in addition to other reforms.

Corrections experts and mothers of incarcerated people [testified before New Yorks Assembly Corrections Committee](#), calling for greater oversight of the states prisons. One woman, Tama Bell said her son was beaten by guards at Mid-State Correctional after he refused an order and was penalized with 18 months in solitary confinement for behavior violations, although rules prohibit more than 30-day isolation for the mentally ill.

Albert Woodfox, the last incarcerated member of the Angola Three, [plans to file an appeal with the US Supreme Court](#) over the latest ruling in his case. A federal appeals court recently found that Woodfox, who has been in solitary confinement for over four decades, could be tried a third time for the 1972 killing of a prison guard.

The [NY Daily News](#) spoke to the mother of Kalief Browder, who was held in solitary confinement on Rikers Island for 800 days and subsequently committed suicide. He tried to lead a normal life but after being beaten, starved, being in solitary confinement for so long, that would take a toll on a grown man, let alone a child, she said.

According to [the NY Daily News](#), the number of state prison inmates tossed in solitary confinement has surpassed 4,000 for the first time in three years. Advocates attribute the rise in part to backlash from prison guards after the June escape of Richard Matt and David Sweat from an upstate correctional facility.

Several hunger strikers in immigration detention centers in Georgia and California [have been placed in solitary confinement](#) as an intimidation tactic, according to an advocacy group. At least 100 people have participated in the hunger strike, which started on Thanksgiving.

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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