

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | December 7, 2014



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 Philadelphia Inquirer](#) profiled the case of Khasiem Carr, one of more than 1,000 Pennsylvania inmates with mental illness kept in isolation for 90 days or more between May 2012 and May 2013. The article also examines changes that the state has put in place in recent years to provide higher quality care.

Rasmea Odeh, a Palestinian-American community leader who has been held on immigration fraud charges since November 10, [is currently in solitary confinement](#).

Solitary Watch's James Ridgeway and Jean Casella published a commentary piece for *The Marshall Project* entitled, [What Death Penalty Opponents Dont Get](#). In it they quote from the letters of William Blake, who did not face the death penalty for his crimes but may spend the rest of his life in solitary confinement: Dying couldnt take but a short time if you or the State were to kill me; in SHU I have died a thousand internal deaths.

According to research presented at the American Public Health Association, juveniles held in North Carolina adult facilities [are more than two times as likely to be placed in solitary confinement](#). Other studies have revealed similar patterns in New York City; North Carolina and New York are the only two states where 16 and 17 year olds are automatically tried in the adult criminal justice system.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) released a new report featuring first-hand testimony from those held in Arizonas maximum-security prisons. The report, entitled [Still Buried Alive](#), was published just as the state opened a 500-bed maximum-security facility.

The editorial board of New Jerseys *Star-Ledger* [called for substantial reform of the states solitary confinement practices](#), endorsing legislation proposed by State Senator Ray Lesniak earlier in the week.

A New Mexico man whos spent the past seven years in protective custody isolation [is suing the state in federal court](#), alleging he has suffered severe physical and emotional damage. The *Sante Fe New Mexican* [published an op-ed in relation to the suit](#), which stated, New Mexico is the second worst in the nation for the use of 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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My son, Khasiem Carr spent 4 years in prison (most of the time he was in solitary confinement). He has mental health issues. He was released on September 2, 2015, only to be returned to prison because he violated his probation. The system didn't place him in the proper facility after he was released, and he was arrested while in a treatment facility. Please go to my Website to read his story:

<http://www.tlclighthouse.com>

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