

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/06/23/seven-days-in-solitary-62313/>

Campaign and Advocacy

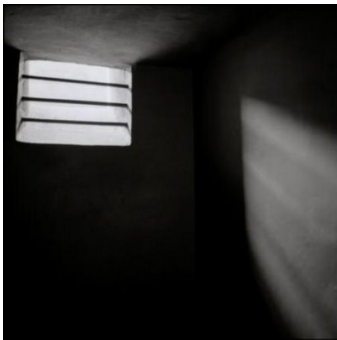
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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | June 23, 2013



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.

According to the [tally](#) kept by *The Miami Herald*, 104 of the 166 men held captive at Guantanamo are now on hunger strike, with 44 being force-fed and one hospitalized. *The New York Times* [reports](#) that the Senate Armed Services Committee has approved [a bill](#) that would lift a ban on bringing detainees into the U.S., which would give President Obama increased flexibility in implementing measures to close the detention camp.

WGBH News [reports](#) on the problems associated with putting people in prison in solitary confinement with guests Leslie Walker, prisoners rights advocate, and Jose Bou, who served 10 years in prison, two of which were spent in isolation. The show touches on the high cost of holding people in isolation, the psychological damage inflicted on those subjected and the fact that the practice is not rehabilitative.

KPFA 94.1-FM Berkeley [reports](#) that opponents of solitary confinement and other inhumane prison conditions rallied in downtown LA in anticipation of the upcoming hunger strikes, which are scheduled to resume July 8, 2013, in prisons across California.

The Boston Globe [reports](#) that lawmakers in Massachusetts have introduced [a bill](#) that would limit the use of solitary confinement in state prisons, allowing people with lengthy sentences to be given more rehabilitation. The bill would also limit isolation sentences to six months for all but the most extraordinary circumstances.

The ACLU [reports](#) that civil and human rights groups are calling on the U.S. government to allow Juan Mndez, the U.N. special rapporteur on torture, to examine the use of solitary confinement in the United States. The [coalitions letter](#), addressed to the U.S. Department of State says, We write to urge you to extend an invitation to Professor Juan Mndez to conduct a fact-finding mission to examine the use of solitary confinement.

WBAI Radio [reports](#) on the harmful effects of solitary confinement with guest Scott Paltrowitz of the Correctional Association of New York. Paltrowitz discusses the abusive use of isolation in New York prisons, common behaviors resulting in sentences to solitary (the vast majority of which are for non-violent offenses) and damaging mental health effects associated with the practice.

Lisa Dawson served as an assistant editor, social media manager, and contributor at Solitary Watch. She continues to support prisoners and their family members who need help navigating re-entry. She is on Twitter [@endsolitary](#).

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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Thank you for your article. We must band together and create change. Please forward and sign the petition. If there are other states with petitions please sign. Please find it in your heart to sign a petition that will create change in our jail system. Many people are thrown into solitary confinement for inhumane reasons. The mentally ill do not belong in jail, they belong in a hospital receiving treatment. Mental illness is a real illness. Please support this cause, forward to your friends. It will only take a minute of your time. My sister's son is mentally ill, and he needs help. If you have already signed, thank you!

Thank you,

Trish Quinci

<https://www.change.org/petitions/new-york-city-department-of-correction-end-the-use-of-solitary-confinement-in-new-york-city>

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