

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | March 6, 2016

[Yes! Magazine](#) published an article about the 24 states that still put children in solitary, and the advocates that are working to change that.

Legislation to curb the use of solitary moved forward in [Rhode Island](#), where legislators have proposed limiting the use of isolation to 15 days. Its used for punishment and its used to break you down, said State Senator Harold Metts.

In [Pacific Standard](#), Jessica Pishko considers how California will enact the Ashker v. Brown settlement, which effectively ended indefinite solitary confinement in the state. How will these men adjust to a bustling prison yard when they havent even touched another human in decades?

[Dateline](#) investigated the case of Kalief Browder, who committed suicide after he was released from Rikers, where he spent several years in isolation as a child.

The [White House](#) published a follow up memo to its previous announcement with regards to solitary confinement: Limiting the Use of Restrictive Housing by the Federal Government.

On [Pix11](#), Former NYC Department of Corrections Commissioner Bernie Kerik criticized efforts to reduce the use of isolation on Rikers Island. There is a purpose for solitary confinement and a need for it. If you are a threat to an institution or an additional security risk, there is a need for solitary.

Alaska paid [\\$625,000](#) to the family of an Anchorage man whose 2014 videotaped death in solitary confinement has been widely publicized and highlighted the need for reform within Alaska prisons. Over the past decade, the state has paid nearly \$3 million to settle claims of wrongful death, inadequate healthcare or medical negligence.

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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