

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](#) | December 18, 2016

Filmmaker James Burns [voluntarily entered solitary confinement](#) in the La Paz County Jail in Parker, Arizona. Every moment of his 30 days in the hole will be livestreamed [here](#).

New York Citys Correction Officers Union announced it would be [suing the city](#) to block a new policy that would prohibit people from being held continuously in solitary confinement for more than 30 days. The union said that those held in punitive segregation compose the very few truly predatory individuals in DOC custody.

[StatNews](#) published an article on how immigration detention centers are set to fail detainees with mental illness, including because of ICE over-reliance on solitary confinement. STAT found detainees with mental illness being held in solitary confinement against the advice of prison doctors, writes journalist Max Siegelbaum. The investigation also found immigrants at clear risk of suicide being left alone with the means to make another attempt to end their lives.

In the [Gotham Gazette](#), JustLeadershipUSA founder Glenn Martin called on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to establish a Blue Ribbon Commission to investigate racial bias in the states prisons. He writes, To truly address the issue of solitary confinement, Governor Cuomo should create a timeline for discontinuing the use of all solitary confinement and punitive segregation throughout the state prison system. He should also direct the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYSDOCCS) to immediately ensure that far fewer people are placed in solitary confinement.

Coverage continued of Governor Chris Christies decision to veto a bill that would limit the use of solitary confinement in New Jerseys prisons. Both [the New York Times](#) and [the Marshall Project](#) addressed the issue.

The [trailer](#) was released for an upcoming docuseries about Kalief Browder, who committed suicide after spending about three years on Rikers Island, much of it in solitary confinement. Jay-Z produced the series, which is due to premiere at Sundance next month.

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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