

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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

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.

Coverage continued of the landmark settlement reached in California. The New York Times [published an editorial](#) supporting the development, and a [Guardian](#) story featured the stories and experiences of SHU survivors. Meanwhile, the California Assembly [put on hold](#) a bill to limit the use of isolation in juvenile correctional facilities.

The American Association of State Correctional Administrators which includes corrections leaders from each state as well as leaders of large city jails [issued a statement](#) supporting efforts to curb or end long-term solitary confinement. Prolonged isolation of individuals in jails and prisons is a grave problem in the United States.

Lawyers for Albert Woodfox, the last incarcerated member of the Angola 3, [argued in court that he is too ill](#) to survive a third trial for a 1972 murder (his two previous convictions for the offense were thrown out). During his time in prison, Woodfox has spent over four decades in isolation.

[NPR](#) hosted the head of Washington's Department of Corrections to speak about changes made to the use of solitary confinement. The [state will soon open a blue room](#) in its super-max prison, which will enable those held in isolation to spend their hour of recreation watching nature videos projected onto the wall.

The Yale School of Law and the Association of State Correctional Administrators [published a report](#) on the use of administrative segregation in America's state and federal prisons. According to the report, in 2014 80,000-100,000 men were held in isolation. [Arkansas](#) had the highest use of administrative segregation.

New York City Corrections Commissioner Joseph Ponte [announced a new plan](#) to move 18 to 21 year olds to a single facility by the end of the year, where they would attend classes and be exempt from solitary confinement.

The state of Idaho [will no longer](#) put individuals in cells that have no toilets, mattresses, or sinks, and will also reevaluate its solitary confinement policies, according to an announcement. The state has about 515 beds in segregation units and about 11 so-called dry cells.

Two New Mexico men had court hearings to [challenge their placement](#) in long-term solitary confinement in the state.

Alaska Ombudsman Linda Lord-Jenkins has found that the state's Department of Corrections [mishandled several cases](#). One person was allegedly held in solitary confinement for 2 years without ever being told why.

Aviva Stahl is a Brooklyn-based reporter who writes about science/health at the intersection of mass incarceration, national security, and trans rights. She's 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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