

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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close

Search

close

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | March 8, 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.

[Fusion](#) published a five-minute video by Molly Crabapple entitled, Why solitary confinement is a form of modern-day torture.

[The Guardian](#) published an article about Tony Lester, who had a diagnosis of schizophrenia and killed himself in an Arizona jail after being placed in solitary confinement and allegedly receiving sub-standard care.

Defense attorneys for Albert Woodfox the Angola 3 member currently awaiting a third trial in the 1972 stabbing death of a prison guard argued that he should be [released on bail](#). Woodfox has spent several decades in solitary confinement and all his previous convictions in the murder have been overturned.

A New Mexico bill to limit the use of solitary confinement was [tabled by the states House Judiciary Committee](#) in a 6-5 vote.

Solitary Watch co-founder James Ridgeway was [interviewed](#) on Ralph Naders radio hour.

Voxs German Lopez [published an investigative feature](#) entitled, Solitary confinement is terrible for youth and some places are trying to get rid of it.

Nikko Jenkins, who killed four Omaha residents in August 2013 shortly after his release directly from solitary confinement, has been [declared competent to stand trial](#). According to the article, Jenkins told a judge Monday that he wanted to be declared competent so he could face a death-penalty panel and be transferred from solitary confinement to death row, where he would at least have the company of his fellow killers.

Writing for [Truth-Out](#), Hannah Gold examines A Call for Community Review of Rikers Island Jail, including community mobilization against the newly established 250-bed Enhanced Segregated Housing (ESH) Unit.

A group of individuals are on hunger strike at Reeves County Detention Center, [according to a local outlet](#). The individuals allege they stopped eating after they were put in solitary confinement, in retaliation for seeking legal help in light of a recent lawsuit.

Lawmakers in Illinois are [pushing for the re-opening](#) of Tamms prison, the notorious Supermax facility shuttered years ago. Representative Teri Bryant filed a resolution for the governor to reopen the facility.

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 [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 5, 2022

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