

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](#) | May 22, 2016

Under a [bill](#) just signed into law by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services [will be required to report](#) annually on the number of people placed in solitary confinement.

A federal judge has [finalized the terms of the settlement](#) in *Rasho V. Baldwin*, which charged that Illinois state prisons mistreated people with mental illness. Changes to the use of solitary confinement are included in the settlement terms.

A string of suicides has hit North Carolinas prisons, according to an investigation published by [Fusion](#). Several of the inmates who committed suicide were kept in solitary confinement and were supposed to be checked on hourly by prison officials.

Disability Rights California [has released a 25-page report](#) alleging the mistreatment of some people held in the mental health unit of the Sonoma County Jail. The DRC reported a number of violations among the jails inmates with mental illness, ranging from improper medication procedures and providing inadequate mental care to relying on excessive isolation and solitary confinement.

ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer [visited a solitary confinement unit](#) on Rikers Island. She also interviewed Commission of Corrections Joseph Ponte.

The American Constitution Society [published a brief](#) entitled, How the ADA regulates and restricts solitary confinement for people with mental disabilities.

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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