

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | August 17, 2014



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.

A man who survived three years in solitary confinement in a New Jersey prison has had his lawsuit against the states Department of Corrections [dismissed](#), on the grounds that he had not exhausted all available remedies to challenge the conditions. Lester Alford, who is still incarcerated, had alleged that he was denied legal assistance and endured deplorable conditions while held in solitary confinement.

New Yorks City Council will [shortly vote on a bill that](#), if passed, would require the Department of Corrections to compile detailed data on the use of disciplinary segregation on Rikers Island.

A Florida [NPR station](#) hosted a debate on how Florida should address the deaths of inmates in the prison system. Randall Justin-Aparo died in solitary confinement in September 2010. Investigators believe that staff may have gassed him, then covered up his death.

The UKs [Morning Star](#) published a front-page article about the experiences of Talha Ahsan, who was extradited to the US two years ago on terrorism charges and subsequently placed in solitary confinement in a Connecticut prison. Ahsan, who has been diagnosed with Aspergers, was sentenced to time served in July and is awaiting deportation back to England.

The American Civil Liberties [published a briefing paper](#), The Dangerous Overuse of Solitary Confinement in the United States, along with a [blog post](#) written by an individual whose brother has spent nearly ten years in isolation.

A Pittsburgh man [will receive a \\$30,000 settlement](#) for allegedly being placed in solitary confinement a form of retaliation, after he spoke up on behalf of another inmate whose food was being tampered with by staff. The state has paid out \$386,000 in lawsuits related to staff misconduct at the State Correctional Institution.

Writing for the [Huffington Post](#), Solitary Watch contributor Sarah Shourd describes seven audio recordings and videos recently released by Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC), in which immigration detainees experience arbitrary solitary confinement and other abuses.

After she reported being sexually assaulted by her roommate at Arizonas Eloy Detention Center, a transgender woman notified staff that she felt suicidal and [was sent to solitary confinement](#) for two days. Marichuy Leal Gamino and her supporters believe that she was being punished for reporting the assault.

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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