

# Solitary Watch

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Search

close

close

Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | May 15, 2016

A Bronx woman is [suing New York City](#) for \$10 million after spending more than two years in solitary confinement on Rikers Island. Candie Hailey, 32, also alleges she was subject to physical and sexual abuse by guards before eventually being acquitted on attempted murder charges and released.

In its continuing coverage of solitary confinement, [the Guardian](#) covered the daily experiences of Tyreik Gilford, who is locked up in the Special Housing Unit in the Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone, New York. I can see outside and the sky, Gilford wrote in a letter. Unfortunately, from the position of the window, I cannot see the sun rise, set, or the moon at night.

Jailed rancher Cliven Bundy has [filed a lawsuit](#) against Barack Obama, as well as US judge Gloria Navarro and Nevada senator Harry Reid, for the charges he is facing as well as his placement in solitary confinement. Bundys lawyer said the isolation is affecting his client. Its getting him depressed. He never sees the sun. Here is a rancher who spent his whole life outdoors and now he is confined in a box.

A ten-day strike over unpaid labor and poor prison conditions ended in Alabama state prisons. Kinetik Justice, the co-founder of the Free Alabama Movement and one of the primary organizers of the strike, spoke to [Democracy Now](#) about what has been happening on the inside. Kinetik is currently serving his 28th month in solitary for organizing a similar action in 2014.

Colorados state legislature has [passed a bill](#) that places strict limits on the use of isolation in juvenile facilities. The legislation puts in place permanent guardrails and oversight measures to ensure that the Colorado Department of Youth Corrections never again resorts to using long-term solitary confinement to manage or punish children, [said the ACLU of Colorado](#).

A man in his 36<sup>th</sup> year of solitary confinement in a Pennsylvania prison [has filed a federal lawsuit](#) for the extreme, unusual and cruel conditions he has faced. Arthur Johnson, who has a developmental disability, has been living in a cell smaller than many cages used to hold animals at zoos, according to the suit.

The Supreme Court could consider a Texas death penalty case in which a defendant was judged to be competent based on a 23-year-old definition of intellectual disability, according to his lawyers. The legal team for Bobby James Moore has also argued that their clients constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment [have been violated](#) by the years he has spent in solitary confinement on death row.

New York Citys Department of Corrections announced it will be implementing a new [Secure Unit](#) to hold a small number of 18 to 21-year-olds, supposedly an alternative to isolation for young adults with the most persist and violent behavior. In the [Gothamist](#), journalist Victoria Law considered, Is Rikers New Secure Unit Just Solitary Confinement By Another Name?

[Nebraska](#) is in the process of creating a new set of rules for placing and holding people in solitary confinement. A working group on segregation, established by recent legislation, is supposed to provide input on the policy and advise on treatment and care of offenders in long-term segregation.

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.

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by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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