

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Jean Casella](#) | October 13, 2013



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.

Following the death of Herman Wallace, [United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture](#) Juan Mndez called on the United States to immediately end the indefinite solitary confinement of Albert Woodfox, who has been held in isolation in Louisiana prisonssince 1972. [Amnesty International](#) also called on the state of Louisiana to end its campaign of vengeance against Albert Woodfox.

[Angola 3 News](#) reported on the New Orleansmemorial service for Herman Wallace. U.S.Congressman John Conyers read a [tribute to Wallace](#) into the Congressional record.

Media representatives were given a rare tour of the Security Housing Unit at Californias Corcoran State Prison, yielding reports and photographs from [Southern California Public Radio](#)and the [Los Angeles Times](#), among others.

In a piece titled How Does Solitary Confinement Alter Prisoners?, [Discovery.com](#) looked atisolations profound effect on the body and mind.

Solitary Confinement Is Horrible and Inhumane. Why Is It Still Legal? is the title of a new articleon [Slates crime blog](#).

PBSs [Religion & Ethics Newsweekly](#) covered the issue of solitary with a discussion among survivors, prison officials, and a representative of the Justice Fellowship, which takes the position that solitary confinement is an un-Christian practice.

According to [The Guardian](#), The US military secretly used a variety of tactics to break the resolve of the Guantnamo Bay hunger strikers, including placing them in solitary confinement if they continued to refuse food, newly declassified interviews with detainees reveal.

As promised during this summersprison hunger strike,California state legislators this weekheld a hearing on solitary confinement.[California Healthline](#) rounded up highlights from thejoint hearing of theAssembly and state Senate public safety committees (which Solitary Watch will be reporting on in depth this coming week).

Jean Casella is the director of Solitary Watch. She has also published work in The Guardian, The Nation, and Mother Jones, and is co-editor of the book Hell Is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement. She has received a Soros Justice Media Fellowship and an Alicia Patterson Fellowship. She tweets [@solitarywatch](#).

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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P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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