

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | July 26, 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.

North Carolina [reached a \\$2.5 million settlement](#) with the estate of Michael Kerr, who died of dehydration in 2014 after being held in solitary confinement for 35 days.

According to [the Crime Report](#), legal challenges to solitary confinement practices may work their way to the Supreme Court sooner than anticipated. The article mentions three cases, including Prieto v. Clarke, which challenged Virginia's policy of automatically isolating people on death row.

[Cleveland.com](#) published an op-ed calling for strict limits on youth placement in solitary confinement in the states prisons, jails and residential treatment facilities. Although solitary confinement already has had a chilling effect on the lives of countless youths, we can act now to ensure vulnerable children are protected in the future.

Several cities held rallies to oppose the use of solitary confinement in local jails and prisons, including [New York](#) and [Chicago](#). At the Chicago protest, one individual formerly incarcerated at Tamms Correctional Center said, A supermax cell is going to exist in [a persons] mind forever They have to return to their loved ones damaged.

[The New York Times](#) published an article entitled, Critics of Solitary Confinement Are Buoyed as Obama Embraces Their Cause. Speaking about the Presidents comments, the executive director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture said, Weve been saying for decades, Its time, and it really feels now like it is time. The silence has been broken.

An article in [the Washington Post](#) examines how many people may be held in solitary confinement in Maryland, and recent advocate and legislative struggles to study and reduce the use of isolation in the state.

[A local CBS station](#) covered the plight of Jane Doe, a young Michigan woman held in an adult facility who has been in solitary confinement since May 12. This case is about what happens to youth when you do put them in an adult prison. The sexual abuse and assaults by adult prisoners and staff, the Taser, shackling and placing them in excessive solitary confinement, said one of Does attorneys.

An article published on [MuckRock](#) examines solitary confinement practices across the New England states including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island.

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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