

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2012/09/12/pa-democratic-policy-committee-to-hold-hearing-on-solitary-confinement/>

Campaign and Advocacy

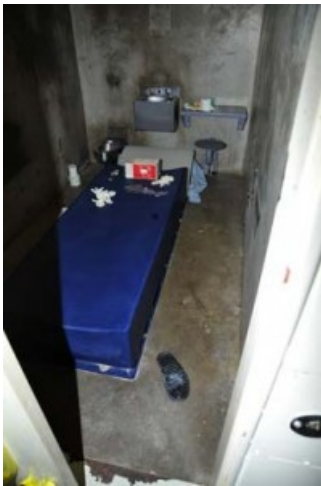
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by [Sal Rodriguez](#) | September 12, 2012



On Tuesday, September 18th the Pennsylvania House [Democratic Party Policy Committee](#) will hold a hearing entitled Effects of Solitary Confinement. The hearing will feature testimony from Dr. Terry Kupers, Dr. Craig Haney, former Restricted Housing Unit inmate LuQman Abdullah, and others. The hearing will be at 10:00 AM at Temple University, Presidents Conference Suite, First Floor, 1810 Liacouras Walk, in Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania currently holds five percent, nearly [2,500](#), of inmates in solitary confinement out of 50,000 inmates. Pennsylvanias isolation units have recently made news for the deaths of inmates in custody. In April, inmate [John Carter](#) was found dead in his cell. In July, inmate [Brandon Palakovic](#) committed suicide. Solitary Watch has also reported the case of the [Dallas 6](#), a group of inmates violently cell extracted following a non-violent protest at SCI-Greene. An interview with freed Dallas 6 inmate Derrick Stanley can be read [here](#).

Inmate [Ricardo Truth Noble](#) wrote about the experience of the RHU, In the RHU life is intense. Especially in the beginning weeks or months. As time passes your mind begins to become clouded with mixed emotions, anger, guilt, hate, paranoia, hopelessness, loneliness, and other frustrations. (The photograph shows an RHU cell at SCI-Dallas.)

Solitary Watchs Valeria Monfrini has also produced a [short documentary](#) on solitary confinement in PA, with interviews of formerly incarcerated RHU inmates and their family members.

The hearing will address the mental health and experiential effects of solitary confinement as well as the impact it has on family members and released inmates. A copy of the agenda is below.

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:10 a.m. Panel of Mental Health Experts:

* Dr. Terry Kupers, Institute Professor, The Wright Institute

* Dr. Craig Haney, Professor of Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz

10:50 a.m. Panel of Legal Experts:

* Jules Lobel, President, Center for Constitutional Rights

* Marc Bookman, Executive Director, Atlantic Center for Capital Representation

* Angus Love, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project

* Robert Meek, Managing Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Network of PA

11:50 a.m. Panel of Former Inmates in Solitary Confinement:

* Robert King

* Hakeem Shaeed (formerly Robert Molley)

* LuQman Abdullah, Senior Vice President, Back to Society, Inc.

* Shujaa Graham, Vice Chair of Board, Witness to Innocence

12:20 p.m. Panel of Testifiers with Family Members in Solitary Confinement:

* Theresa Shoatz

* Shandre Delaney

* Patricia Vickers

* Barbara Fair, Founder, My Brothers Keeper

12:50 p.m. Closing Remarks

Sal Rodriguez was Solitary Watch's first and most prolific intern. Based in Los Angeles, he served as an editorial writer and columnist for the Orange County Register and the Press-Enterprise, and is now the opinion editor for the Southern California News Group.

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 [Juan Moreno Haines](#)

October 25, 2022

by [Solitary Watch Guest Author](#)

October 13, 2022

by [Vaidya Gullapalli](#)

September 29, 2022

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I used to think that America was better than the countries whose dictators tortured. I now realize that we have always tortured. We've just lied about it, and Americans believed the lie.

from The Crime report GOP Backs Mandatory Terms, Inmate Rehab; Blasts Overcriminalization August 29, 2012 09:28:47 am

* remember Obama okayed at least 2 new Supermaxes last year. If we as Americans commit a crime prison is the punishment we are supposed to be free from torture per our Constitution. I'm sick of this. Each mind broken and battered reflects kick backs and payments, jobs. They get XX amount of dollars to keep them mentally ill, transport etc. Feed them food not grade enough for animals isolate them, infect them. call them inmates to make themselves feel better. I have spoken to many in isolation/seg/the SHU/RHU/whatever they want to call it because they say they do not have solitary confinement. Speak up people let your own Senators and reps know you do not want this in your state. Have a voice while you still can/may

Experiential Effects ? Right, They take away the food they were able to purchase to keep from going hungry , Are chained at the waist and hands AND shackled at the feet . Now where in the heck are they going ?

They suffer muscle and mental atrophy due to being confined . Our animals are taken better care of. This is beyond disgusting behavior. This has to change. Solitary continues to breed contempt and what they have let happen will come back to those who have put these policies in place.

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