

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | August 6, 2017

Joaquin El Chapo Guzman asked a federal judge in Brooklyn [to drop the charges against him](#) on the basis that he is being held in conditions of isolation on the 10 South unit of Manhattans Metropolitan Correctional Center that amount to torture. The Mexican Government's Consent did not contemplate that Mr. Guzman would be subject to long-term solitary confinement tantamount to torture, Guzmans lawyers said. Had Mexico been informed of this harsh confinement, it almost certainly would not have agreed to Mr. Guzmans detention and prosecution on the current charges in this District.

The Juvenile Law Center published a [new report](#) entitled Unlocking youth: Legal strategies to end solitary confinement in juvenile facilities. The report highlights the tools, tactics, case law and policy developments that can be used to reduce use youth isolation. [The New York Times](#) published an editorial about the report calling for an end to the punitive use of solitary confinement for children.

[The New York Times](#) wrote about two upstate county jails in New York state that are being sued for sending youth to solitary confinement. Amongst the allegations listed in the suits against Onondaga County and Broome County are that children were placed in solitary confinement for long stretches of time, that the cells smelled of feces and urine, and that the youngsters were strip-searched and denied sufficient recreation time.

A lawsuit was filed on behalf of two teen girls from Iowa, which alleged that the young women were kept in isolation for 22 hours a day and physically abused by staff at Wisconsin's Copper Lake facility. According to [one outlet](#) that reported on the lawsuit, The isolation rooms, which measure about 7 feet by 10 feet, have concrete floors and often lack toilets, the suits say. Girls allegedly were kept in them for 22 hours a day for weeks at a time. If they threatened to harm themselves, they were punished by having their blankets and regular clothing taken away, and were left in a cold concrete room with no heat and nothing in it.

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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