

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](#) | March 20, 2016

A Nebraska outlet [profiled the experiences of Jacob Rushner](#). As a teenager, Rushner was kept in solitary confinement for 41 days at the Douglas County Youth Center in Omaha.

A prison captain who was fired in the wake of Michael Kerr's 2014 death [cannot get his job back](#), a North Carolina Court of Appeals had ruled. Kerr died of thirst while in solitary confinement. The prison captain Shawn Blackburn had ordered he be handcuffed in his cell, and he was left like that for days.

Two parents are [suing Galveston County](#) for \$25 million after their son, Jesse Jacobs, 32, died while serving 30 days in jail for a DUI. Jacobs was allegedly denied his anti-anxiety medication and suffered withdrawal seizures as a result; he was then placed in solitary confinement, where he was later found unresponsive and without a pulse.

A federal appeals court heard arguments from Center for Constitutional Rights lawyers, that the Bureau of Prisons restrictive Communication Management Units (CMUs) [pose a significant hardship](#) to their clients. People held inside CMUs cannot touch their relatives during visits and are completely segregated from those in general population. The majority of those held in CMUs are Muslims, and people spend long periods of time there from three to five years, on average.

For the first time in the states history, a New Jersey court has [ruled the state can force-feed a prisoner](#) on hunger strike. William Lecuyer, 37, went on year-long hunger strike in 2012 to protest his placement in solitary confinement; he revived his hunger strike in July and his weight has since dropped below 100 pounds.

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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