

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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close

Search

close

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | November 8, 2016

A 36-year-old man is said to have pleaded for his much needed seizure medication while in solitary confinement on Rikers Island, just shortly before he died, according to a [video](#) procured by Eyewitness News. The surviving family of Rolando Perez is now suing Rikers and New York City.

Akeem Browder was interviewed on [Democracy Now](#) about the shortcomings of reforms under the De Blasio administration. His brother, Kalief, spent nearly three years in solitary on Rikers Island and committed suicide in June 2015; his mother passed away 18 months later.

Nebraska holds an [alarming number of people in solitary confinement](#), according to a report recently released by the NYC-based Vera Institute of Justice. The state uses solitary at twice more than the national average, and nearly half of all people locked up in Nebraska spend at least one day in isolation.

Florida is considering changes to its use of solitary confinement. [ABC7](#) reports that the states Department of Corrections may try to shorten the length of time inmates stay in solitary continuously and find alternatives to Close Management.

The Star-Ledger Editorial Board [published an editorial](#) calling for the New Jersey Governor to sign a bill that would strictly limit the use of solitary confinement in the states prisons. If [Chris] Christie is serious about law and order, hell sign this bill to put reasonable limits on solitary in the interest of protecting not only human rights, but public safety.

Whistleblower Chelsea Manning tried to commit suicide a second time last month, as she was beginning a week long disciplinary sentence in solitary confinement. I worry about the sustainability of her current conditions and her ability to keep fighting under these relentless abuses, Mannings lawyer, Chase Strangio, told [the New York Times](#).

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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P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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