

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/11/17/seven-days-solitary-111713/>

Campaign and Advocacy

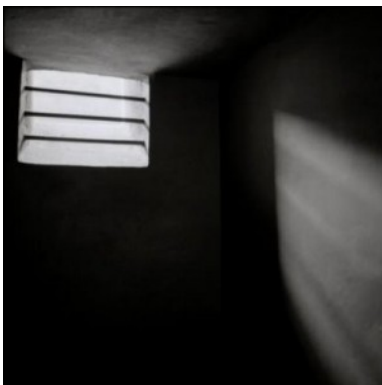
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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | November 17, 2013



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.

The ACLU reports on a [landmark ruling by a Virginia federal court](#) in a case brought by death row prisoner Alfredo Prieto. According to the story, District Court Judge Leona Brinkema has ruled that the states automatic placement of death-row prisoners in solitary confinement violates the right to due process guaranteed by the Constitution.

The *Associated Press* reports that a [federal judge has rejected](#) efforts by the state of North Carolina to dismiss a lawsuit over prisoner beatings that took place in Central Prisons solitary confinement unit. Your case is about sunlight, where you claim there were systematic violations, Boyle told the lawyers for the inmates. What we need to do with this lawsuit is not bury it in a deep, dark hole and proceed with discovery.' Solitary Watch reports on the case [here](#).

The Advocate reports on [Albert Woodfoxs November 13 hearing to end daily strip and cavity searches](#), stating that U.S. District Judge James J. Brady took Wednesdays evidence and testimony under advisement.

The Atlantic reports on [the story of Sam Mandez](#), who has been held in solitary confinement in the state of Colorado for the past 16 years for non-violent, petty prison rule violations. [M]ade severely mentally ill by prison policies and practices, left untreated in that condition year after year by state officials, Mandez personifies the self-defeating cruelty of Americas prisons today. Mandez story is featured in a new film by the ACLU, [Out of Sight, Out of Mind](#), about mentally ill prisoners held in solitary confinement.

In a piece entitled [Swallowing the Mentally Ill Whole](#), a blogger for Psych Central discusses the inhumane treatment of prisoners with mental illness in U.S. prisons. Underscoring the detrimental effects of solitary confinement, the post states, Because man, at his very core, is a social animal, [UCLAs Steven] Cole believes that theres no greater risk to health problems, including mental health problems, than isolation.

Lisa Dawson served as an assistant editor, social media manager, and contributor at Solitary Watch. She continues to support prisoners and their family members who need help navigating re-entry. She is on Twitter [@endsolitary](#).

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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