

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](#) | May 29, 2016

[Truth-Out](#) published an op-ed entitled, Solitary Confinement Is Used to Break People I Know Because I Endured It. Survivor Monica Cosby writes, I've been out of solitary for over 11 years, but I still smell my cell. I still hear the correctional officers clanging the bars and jingling their keys and handcuffs. Because I said no.

In the [LA Review of Books](#), Alessandro Camon tells the story of hunger strikes that pushed California to change How the most isolated prisoners in America took on the system, and won.

The Tennessee Department of Corrections has stopped sending people to the states newest prison, [apparently due to staffing and training issues](#), according to documents obtained by the AP. The memo obtained by the AP through an open records request for public documents about the taxpayer-funded facility says the guards were not in control of the housing units, were not counting inmates correctly and were putting inmates in solitary confinement for no documented reason.

Nidhi Prakash of [Fusion](#) interviewed Kalief Browders brother, Akeem, on what would have been Kaliefs 23rd birthday. He took his life through suicide, but it was really the years that he was on Rikers being tortured that took his life.

Four people have filed a class action lawsuit against Californias Shasta County Jail. According to one [local outlet](#), The lawsuit claims violations at the jail prevented disabled inmates from showering, sleeping and moving around. The lawsuit alleges some plaintiffs were put in solitary confinement or even denied cancer medication for speaking up about the problems.

The ACLU of Ohio and Disability Rights Ohio [published a report](#) calling for the state to reform its use of solitary confinement, especially when it comes to incarcerated people with mental illness. On any given day, more than a quarter of the 2,952 Ohio prisoners in solitary confinement have a mental illness, notes [an outlet](#) that covered the report release.

According to [the News & Observer](#), the North Carolina Department of Corrections is moving away from solitary confinement. Meanwhile, a young man named Devon Davis spoke to [The Modesto Bee](#) about the 1001 he spent in isolation in the states prisons. Walls close in on you. You so anxious to get out your room, but they (the guards) dont want you to come out.

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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