

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](#) | November 29, 2015

A San Francisco federal jury [awarded \\$25,000](#) to a Pelican Bay prisoner, Jesse Perez, whose cell was trashed in retaliation for his activism against solitary confinement. Before his cell was searched in October 2012 Perez had filed a lawsuit and published articles criticizing California's use of isolation; jurors determined that guards had violated his free-speech rights and awarded compensation for intimidation, emotional distress and punitive damages.

[The Daily News](#) covered a Brooklyn rally to protest the use of solitary confinement. It was the fifth such event organized by the Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement (CAIC), which is mobilizing for the passage of legislation that would restrict the use of isolation in the state.

[The Dallas Morning News](#) investigated a rise in suicide and attempts in Texas state and generic prisons, what amounts to a 40% increase from 2008 to 2014. Nearly one-third of the 134 suicides from January 2011 to September 2015 happened in administrative segregation. Yet solitary confinement accounts for less than 4 percent of the total prison population.

A man who was awarded a \$450,000 payout after being brutally beaten while in solitary confinement at Rikers Island [has died](#), just weeks before receiving the money. Robert Hinton, 28, was fatally shot in Brooklyn.

[City Limits](#) published an article entitled, Can NYC reform Rikers Island Without Replacing it? The article cites proposed changes to solitary at Rikers as well as concerns shared by advocates that the recently created enhancement supervision housing (ESHU) units are actually a repackaging of solitary confinement, constituting a rollback of that reform goal.

Aviva Stahl is a Brooklyn-based reporter who writes about science/health at the intersection of mass incarceration, national security, and trans rights. She's 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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