

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](#) | June 25, 2017

Seth Ferranti, who reported on prison conditions while he was incarcerated in Bureau of Prisons custody, penned a piece [for the Huffington Post](#) about the time he was thrown in solitary, then transferred to a Communication Management Unit (CMU) for writing articles critical of the BOP. People locked up in the BOPs two CMUs face strict limits on their communication with the outside world or even fellow prisoners in general population, and CMUs been called an experiment in social isolation by the Center for Constitutional Rights.

A federal judge has ruled that the use of solitary confinement in Wisconsin juvenile facilities, poses acute, immediate and enduring harm to children and must be scaled back. U.S. District Judge James Peterson on Friday also ordered shackling juvenile inmates and the use of pepper spray be used much more sparingly than now, reported [Wisconsin public radio](#).

At a convening of the Massachusetts Legislature Judiciary Committee, family members and anti-solitary advocates shared proposals to limit the use of segregation in the states prison population. You need to make sure someone poses a threat in order to keep them in segregation, and you have to give them a pathway out, said Bonita Tenneriello, an attorney for Prisoners Legal Services of Massachusetts, in a piece published by [the AP](#). You have to give them some kind of programming to address their behavioral problems.

The US Supreme Court issued a final ruling in Ziglar vs. Abbasi, a civil rights lawsuit filed in 2002 to hold high-level Bush officials responsible for the mistreatment endured by Muslim, South Asian and Arab non-citizens arrested by the INS and FBI after 9/11. In reversing a lower courts decision, the Supreme Court found in a 4-2 ruling that the lawsuit against the officials couldnt proceed. They were charged with only civil immigration violations, explained [HuffPo](#). But the plaintiffs said they were subjected at Brooklyns Metropolitan Detention Center to 23-hours-a-day solitary confinement, strip searches, sleep deprivation, beatings and other abuses and denied the ability to practice their religion.

Akeem Browder, whose brother Kalief committed suicide after spending three years on Rikers Island, has [announced his intention](#) to run for New York City mayor. Much of Kalief Browders time at Rikers was spent in solitary confinement.

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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