

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](#) | September 11, 2016

[CNN](#) profiled changes in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections with regards to the use of solitary confinement. Inmates with mental illness are no longer held in solitary confinement. Additionally, all staff members 15,000 to 16,000 people, according to [DOC Secretary] Wetzel are trained in Mental Health First Aid.

James Holmes, who was convicted of the Aurora theater shootings, has been transferred to an undisclosed location out of state and is in solitary confinement. The [Denver Post](#) reports that Holmes sits in a prison cell for 23 hours a day, receives no forwarded mail, has no access to the internet and is given no exercise equipment.

People in prisons across the country planned to kick off a [September 9th work stoppage](#) to protest what they termed modern-day slavery. Organizers anticipated that participants could be placed in solitary confinement for engaging in the strike.

Whistleblower Chelsea Manning [went on hunger strike](#) to demand dignity and respect in prison, as well as appropriate treatment for her gender dysphoria. Manning is facing indefinite time in solitary confinement after trying to commit suicide this past summer.

Californias [KOED News](#) reports that A Year After Settlement, Hundreds of State Prison Isolation Cells Empty. According to the article, the number of male inmates in the states Security Housing Units has been cut by about two-thirds.

A federal judge has approved a settlement in a lawsuit between the Community Legal Aid and the Delaware Department of Corrections, which alleged that people with mental illness had been placed in solitary confinement without appropriate evaluation, monitoring and treatment. According to [Delmarva Public Radio](#), under the settlement approved late last week, the Department of Correction will limit the length of time that inmates spend in disciplinary housing and will increase the amount of unstructured recreation time available to inmates in certain maximum security settings.

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 [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 5, 2022

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