

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2013/06/02/seven-days-in-solitary-6213/>

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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | June 2, 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 *Guardian* [reports](#) on an open letter written by hunger strikers at Guantanamo Bay, stating [t]he signatories protest that the forced feedings administered by military physicians at Guantanamo are extremely painful and in violation of the ethics of your profession.'

The *Winston-Salem Journal* [reports](#) that the warden of Central Prison in North Carolina has been promoted and given a 15 percent raise, despite recent reports on a lawsuit alleging his failure to stop the systematic beatings of handcuffed and shackled inmates held in solitary confinement at the Raleigh facility. Solitary Watch [covers](#) the federal lawsuit, which was filed on behalf of eight people held in solitary at Central Prison.

ABC News [reports](#) that a [federal civil rights investigation](#) by the U.S. Department of Justice has concluded that the State Correctional Institution at Cresson in western Pennsylvania has held people with serious mental illnesses in solitary confinement for months, and in some cases, years at a time. According to the article, the Justice Department said the misuse of solitary confinement could extend to prisons statewide. The department is expanding its probe to include all state prisons.

Ceasefire Magazine [reports](#) on the extradition of British citizens Babar Ahmad and Talha Ahsan, both of whom have been held in solitary confinement at the Northern Correctional Institute in Connecticut since October of 2012. In an effort to define what constitutes solitary confinement, (and mentions Solitary Watch's recent visit to London.)

The ACLU [reports](#) on the federal lawsuit it has filed along with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Law Offices of Elizabeth Alexander on behalf of people incarcerated at East Mississippi Correctional Facility (EMCF), which the article describes as a cesspool. According to the ACLU, [the] conditions at EMCF are blatantly unconstitutional and we fully expect to prevail in the lawsuit.

The Ella Baker Center [reports](#) that SB61 has passed the California Senate floor, stating that SB 61 will provide a uniform definition of solitary confinement, prohibit its use for punitive reasons, require data collection, and encourage the inclusion of family members on local juvenile justice commissions to help monitor such practices.

The Life of the Law [discusses](#) the ethics of designing prisons with the intention of isolating people, suggesting that architects should have an ethical code that takes into account human rights in prison design.

A [letter to the editor](#) in the *Albany Times-Union* references a lawsuit on behalf of a woman who was forcibly raped by a correctional officer while she was incarcerated for a minor offense. Forced by a supervisor at the prison to relate the incident to him, the woman was then placed in SHU for eight days and nights, where she was deprived of her clothing, reading materials and medications. The piece responds to a [commentary](#) claiming that solitary is reserved for people who have inflicted suffering on another.

The *American-Statesman* [reports](#) on the high suicide rate among people held in solitary confinement in Texas, stating that [b]etween

2007 and 2012, the 8,000 to 9,000 state prisoners housed in administrative segregation made up between 5 and 6 percent of the total prison system census. Yet in a given year their suicides have accounted for as high as 40 percent of the self-inflicted deaths.

The *American-Statesman* [reports](#) on the heavy use of solitary confinement by Texas prisons compared to other states, stating that Texas relies on its maximum custody status more than others.

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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

Solitary Watch encourages comments and welcomes a range of ideas, opinions, debates, and respectful disagreement. We do not allow name-calling, bullying, cursing, or personal attacks of any kind. Any embedded links should be to information relevant to the conversation. Comments that violate these guidelines will be removed, and repeat offenders will be blocked. Thank you for your cooperation.

As a ex-con myself having served seven behind the all and another 20 on probation or parole. It may be that my replies do not fit with the philosophy on this site. I have worked in the field of prisoner advocacy for fifty years, but I do not coddle or feel pity for snivelers that do wrong and talk about how they are mistreated. I am about facing what you have done and going forward in changing your life. Im not about the do-good-er-set

Last three times I tried to leave a reply it did not go in..

We have not blocked any of your comments. We have been having server problems this weekend with the site going down for a few seconds at a time. This has happened several times in the past few weeks and we are looking into it. Apologies for the technical difficulties. We absolutely do not censor comments.

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