

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](#) | August 13, 2017

Six people locked up at a maximum-security prison in Arkansas stole keys from guards and [took control of an area of the facility](#). The incident was eventually resolved without major injuries.

Federal appeals judges unanimously reinstated a \$2.3 million award to a Baltimore man mistaken for the Charles Village Rapist and held in solitary confinement for more than a year beginning in 2008, reported the [Baltimore Sun](#). Marlow Humbert spent 14 months in jail beginning in 2008 for the alleged assaults, even though the Baltimore Police had DNA results exonerating him within about a month of his arrest.

The father of a woman who killed herself in a Hawaiian prison is raising questions about why she was in solitary confinement when she had a history of attempting suicide in the past. I said, 'Why was she in a single cell by herself?' Richard Fortson told [US News](#). What is the policy? If she tried this before, you'd think there's a suicide policy. Something doesn't sound right to me.

A new law to reform the use of solitary confinement in the state doesn't go far enough to protect vulnerable prisoners, according to a Connecticut civil rights panel. As [the Connecticut Mirror](#) reports, the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is preparing a final report on its recommendations to the state's criminal justice system because the 16-member bipartisan panel is concerned blacks and Latinos are overrepresented in solitary confinement in Connecticut.

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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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