

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Voices from Solitary](#) | November 21, 2013

The excerpts that follow come from a declaration by Mahmud Abouhalima, who was convicted of taking part in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center (a charge he still denies). Sentenced to 240 years, he initially spent most of his time in the general population at federal maximum security prisons, where he was permitted to hold a job, make phone calls, visit family, watch television, read what he chose, and pray with other Muslims.

On 9/11, Abouhalima was placed in solitary confinement, and eventually transferred to ADX Florence in rural Colorado, the federal government's only supermax prison. In 2005, after exchanging letters with a Muslim prisoner in Spain, he was subjected to Special Administrative Measures (SAMs), which ban virtually all communications with the outside world, and placed in ADX's H-Unit.

The declaration, which describes Abouhalima's life in H-Unit, was compiled for Ayyad v. Holder, a civil action filed in Federal District Court in Colorado. It challenges his confinement on the grounds that it violates his right to due process. Among other things, it claims that the FBI is deeply involved in managing prisoners in the unit, even to the point of overriding Bureau of Prisons officials. The declaration has been heavily redacted by the FBI and U.S. Attorneys Office. James Ridgeway

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Since September 11, 2001, through today, I have been in administrative detention and faced brutal and systematic mental, spiritual, and psychological cruelty. I never believed that such an unusual punishment would be extended up until today, where I have lived in a prison cell for the last ten years that is the size of a closet. I am fed like a zoo animal through a slot in the door, and manacled and chained at the hands, waist, and legs when I leave the cell. A black box with heavy lock is placed on top of my wrist chains in addition to this when I am escorted out of the unit, like to the hospital or to a visit

Sitting in a small box in a walking distance of eight feet, this little hole becomes my world, my dining room, reading and writing area, sleeping, walking, urinating, and defecating. I am virtually living in a bathroom, and this concept has never left my mind in ten years. The toilet only works if you flush it once every five minutes, so if I press the flush button twice by mistake, I have to wait for up to an hour, with the smell of urine and defecation still there, everywhere I go, sit, stand, or sleep.

For my first four years in segregation, I kept fighting paranoia. I became suspicious of everything around me. If I heard the range door open, I stood up, feeling that they were coming to take me away, even though I didn't expect to go anywhere. The one hour a day of rec outside the cell didn't heal a damn thing. I struggled with myself, telling myself that maybe next month, next year it will be better and I would be out of solitary confinement. Eventually I lost all hope of getting out of segregation.

I lost appetite and just wanted to sleep. This was the first time in my life that I experienced the brutality of force feeding. I also heard and saw other inmates being taken by guards and medical staff in combat gear and with cameras. Sometimes an inmate screamed so loud that I could hear him

I subscribed to a few magazines, like *crochet* and sports magazines, the *Nation*, and the *Atlantic Monthly*. When the first issue of the sports magazine arrived at the prison, SIS staff forwarded a copy of the magazine to the FBI office and refused to release it to me without FBI approval. The same thing happened to all of the magazines. The *crochet* and sports magazines were returned to me after a few weeks delay, with a few pages removed. However, other magazines with political articles were reduced literally to only a few pages.

For example, the first several issues of the *Nation* magazine were reduced from around fifty pages to only fifteen to twenty pages. I was told that the FBI removed all articles related to politics, as they don't want us to read anything about politics. The same thing happened with the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and other magazines. A simple book like the world almanac was rejected twice because, according to the FBI, certain information in it could be used for terrorism. I filed administrative remedies and they were all denied, because the BOP could not override an FBI decision

Over the last six years, three of my uncles, my grandfather, my aunt, and my uncle's daughter have all passed away. I submitted request after request just to send condolence letters to my family mourning these deaths. I also requested to speak with my aunt before she died of

cancer. They denied all of these requests

An incoming letter in Arabic from my mother and brother was rejected because my brother wrote that an old friend said hello to me. The letter was sent back to Egypt after sitting in the FBI office for two months

It is clear to me now that the FBI, not the BOP, is the agency that objects at each program review to my advancement into a tiny little program that would allow me to be on the same range, inside the same unit, with one or two inmates for only one hour

In or around March 2011, a member of the ADX executive staff told me that, from the BOP perspective, they have no problem approving me to Phase 3 [a lower security level], and that everything they are told by the FBI about my letters to my children are absolutely irrelevant to prison management, but because they are not in control of the SAMs, the ADX or the BOP cannot do a thing

I asked the FBI agent about the requests to contact family relatives that I had submitted over the past five or six years. She said to submit four names to her, as the FBI office had now decided that it would only approve four such requests. I asked her how long it would take for the FBI to approve the requests, and she said two months. I submitted all of the required information on the form they provided me, and resubmitted this information with additional information on March 5, 2011.

I tried to question the FBI agent on her misinterpretation in her report, but they wouldn't let me. I asked her about another FBI report I had read, commenting on one of my letters in English to my son encouraging him to respect, to love, to cherish the parents bond with their children, as a call to an illegal and criminal act. She said that she didn't remember that. I pulled the report out of a small envelope I had, but again Mr. Brieschke stopped me and said not to give her anything, because this was not the time or place to discuss such things. I was confused, and said they had told me I could ask questions

I pray that the court will order a meaningful process for these SAMs renewals and a program to follow to get the SAMs restrictions removed from me and ultimately liberate me from the indefinite solitary confinement of the ADX and into an open and less restrictive prison.

The Voices from Solitary series publishes dispatches from people surviving the lived experience of solitary confinement.

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 [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 30, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 19, 2022

by [Voices from Solitary](#)

September 6, 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.

They are getting what they had coming keep up the good work A.D.X

It'd be nice if you didn't stereotype all Muslims, thanks.

in-human stop it.

Another whining terrorist bitch Glad you are suffering every damn minute and hope it continues

look at the videos of people who forced to jump from a burning building on Sept 11. Millions of lives affected. It is par for the course. When you commit mass murder you are indeed the uncivilized animal. Let them rot in their cages, to protect the innocent.

I write to someone who has been in solitary confinement for many years who is in Adx. He has fought a no contact order for years. He committed his crimes inside and outside of prison, he was sentenced..but not sentenced to death. Adx is a slow death.

I agree with the others who say that we should still treat these men with the dignity our country's values are meant to contain. We call the enemy (real life or media created) barbaric, our society should never think this treatment is right.

We all want a better planet for our children. Slaughter and torture (physical or psychological) darkens the world no matter who commits the act

So ADMAX is not in control over conditions their prisoners should live in instead the FBI? I overheard somehow that the FBI would never use torture techniques but the brave comment above of Mahmud Abouhalima tells a very different story. The conditions in solitary confinement is torture in itself. And to deny every contact to family even in situations of mourning over a family relative or simply writing letters of comfort is torture as well. It reminds me of Nazi Germany. To me it seems that the FBI with the CIA operate in a MOB like manner. And by the way I do believe Mahmud Abouhalima if he says he is innocent. Just of now Aclu is helping three former

inmates from Gitmo to go against two Psychologists who did so called scientifically research on the field of torture in Gitmo ,clearly unusual and experimental punishment and I so hope and pray that the FBI would be investigated independently as well.

If you dont believe in it then your words are meaningless and there is nothing else to say.

If you do then expect an unpleasant reckoning for your bitter judgement once you understand the nature of the One whose judgement matters. He said that those who judge will be judged. He will say he never knew you.

Either way your hope is false. I hope you find peace.

I guess the lesson here is that you shouldnt break the law if you dont like prison. No sympathy here for this muslim terrorist. Rot and may every day be more miserable than the prior one.

This guy tried to blow up an office building with hundreds, maybe thousands, of innocents inside. My understanding is they fully anticipated and hoped that their device would cause the collapse of the towerscausing unimaginable destruction and loss of life. He wants to think himself fortunate that he hasnt already been executed. He deserves everything he gets. I hope he goes totally insane and never gets out of his tomb againnot for exercise, not for a visitnothing. Let him rot!!!!

Responding to a crime in a similar manner, makes the responder a criminal.

Boo FB whooo the poor sand rat didnt get to speak to his dying Auntie?? Well none of the people he killed got to speak before they were murdered either. Force feeding ? Let his butt rot. Do t feed them. Let them rot in their own feces. The very idea ANY civil liberties should be considered for these monsters is appalling. They have no rights you bleeding hearts, I hope their offices are never bombed !

Please examine your own heart before it is too late and you stand before your maker as I am sure these hateful horrible rants will come up before your own eternal sentencing I am truly afraid for you if you blow this off and cling to your hate-filled ways.

Human decency isnt strange. Lynns words were well said and you should consider them as well.

Excellent post

Cry us a river, you piece of garbage. Your cruelty earned you zero good will from society. You received a fair trial with abundant evidence to find you guilty, so live with what you have done.

Your tears are delicious, you terrorist scum.

Jesse- you have a great admirer there in Abdullah- why dont you give him your snail mail address so he can send even more intimate love letters to you?

This is where crooked politicians should go. Can you see Dick Cheney in that place? But first he needs to be waterboarded, to learn about his co conspirators in attacking Iraq for 911 instead of Saudi Arabia.

Waaaa, cry me a river

When you are a scheming, maiming, murderous terrorist this treatment is way too good for you.

As contemptible as terrorists and terrorism may be, terrorists are (with the exception of a few psychopaths) rational actors and dont resort to terrorism for no reason. Abusing terrorism suspects or even convicts will accomplish nothing more than satisfying our hateful lust except to sow the seeds of future radicalization. Note Abu Garahb.

We will never defeat terrorism by simply dealing with terrorists as we find them. If we desire to defeat terrorism we have to stop creating new terrorists in the first place. It comes down to what is more important to us: satisfying our hate and anger or defeating terrorism. We cant have both.

This is American evil. Execute, but not this. I am not Muslim, but i believe Sharia Law is better than American Supreme Court. American law is disgusting in so many way. I do not believe the USA is a civilized nation. I am very conservative.

If youre in America, Trump should have you deported!

You are well paid for your job of choice. I hope that you are a humanitarian that does not abuse these men in our name. You would not want to be responsible for further radicalizing those who will one day be released.

Ironically I just read this informative article while waiting for your reply.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/dec/11/-sp-isis-the-inside-story?CMP=share_btn_tw

If there was no American prison in Iraq, there would be no IS now. Bucca was a factory. It made us all. It built our ideology.

Several senior American officers who ran detention operations have admitted that the prisons had an incendiary effect on the insurgency.

The Iraqi government estimates that 17 of the 25 most important Islamic State leaders running the war in Iraq and Syria spent time in US prisons between 2004 and 2011.

Isis made an approach to the Baathist remnants of the old regime ideological opponents who shared a common enemy in the US and the Shia-led government it backed under the same premise that my enemys enemy is my friend.

For us it was an academy, Abu Ahmed said, but for them the senior leaders it was a management school. There wasn't a void at all, because so many people had been mentored in prison.

We had so much time to sit and plan, he continued. It was the perfect environment. We all agreed to get together when we got out. The way to reconnect was easy. We wrote each other's details on the elastic of our boxer shorts. When we got out, we called. Everyone who was important to me was written on white elastic. I had their phone numbers, their villages. By 2009, many of us were back doing what we did before we were caught. But this time we were doing it better.

With the help of new arrivals at Bucca, those inside the prison had been able to monitor every new development in the unfolding sectarian war. Abu Ahmed knew the environment he was returning to. And his camp commanders had plans for him. The first thing he did when he was safe in west Baghdad was to undress, then carefully take a pair of scissors to his underwear. I cut the fabric from my boxers and all the numbers were there. We reconnected. And we got to work. Across Iraq, other ex-inmates were doing the same. It really was that simple, Abu Ahmed said, smiling for the first time in our conversation as he recalled how his captors had been outwitted.

Boxers helped us win the war.

First a battle against an invading army, then a score to be settled with an ancient sectarian foe, and now, a war that could be acting out an end of days prophecy.

Thus I am not over reacting!

Alan- get ahold of yourself. They can talk all they want- they can't do anything but go back to their respective cells with the contents of their conversations. I have no problem with that. How about throwing out a little sympathy for the Officers guarding these folks?

The recent events in France and Denmark prove the danger of mixing Islamic extremists and criminals.

As CNN reports

Denmark attacks underscore links between criminal gangs and extremism

By Tim Lister and Paul Cruickshank

Mon February 16, 2015

There is a closer nexus between immigrant criminal gangs and violent extremists in Denmark than anywhere else, says Magnus Ranstorp of the Swedish National Defence College. This interface makes violent extremists more dangerous as they are able to switch between roles and skill-sets and have easier access to illicit weapons on the underground market.

From NPR

French Prisons Prove To Be Effective Incubators For Islamic Extremism

JANUARY
22, 2015

By DINA TEMPLE-RASTON

The prisoners are a vulnerable population, says Fathi, the Muslim activist, who worries about the social issues crime, poverty, substandard schools that lead to the high rates of incarceration among Muslims.

How can we avoid more Kouachi brothers coming out of prison now? she says. The government has to take some steps beyond just trying to isolate Islamists behind bars. The issues are bigger than that.

But that is the plan.

Continuing the article:

Attempts To Isolate Radical Jihadists

I was very concerned about the situation in prisons, Judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere says. We tried to separate them. When I was chief we ordered them to separate, but it is not possible anymore. The prisons are overcrowded. Inmates find ways to communicate illegally through messages and cellphones. Its impossible. We have to take these people and put them in a totally separate facility to stop this from happening.

One of the proposals now under consideration by the French government is to create a separate facility for Islamists who are trying to radicalize others.

Sound familiar?

Is it a coincidence that ISIS sprouted up following the brutality of Assad in Syria while cracking down on the participants of the Syrian Arab Spring? Why was there an Arab Spring at all? Wasn't the lack of hope for a better future under brutal repressive dictators the motivation for the Arab Spring? If so it seems that repression doesn't work long term.

Trouble is now they are knocking heavily at our gate.

The Atlantic has a good article by Graeme Wood

MARCH 2015 titled:

What ISIS Really Wants

The Islamic State is no mere collection of psychopaths. It is a religious group with carefully considered beliefs, among them that it is a key agent of the coming apocalypse.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>

The question is, Is it too late to persuade them otherwise?

@NYNighthawk

Networking with the professor? Just imagine what Kaczynski could teach that French bomb-maker David Drugeon who apparently has survived our attempt at taking him out. I bet hes pretty pissed off about that right now.

Havent we learned anything from Camp Bucca? We allowed the Baath Party generals and the Islamists to share their skill sets? Now according to you we are allowing organized crime figures and convicted foreign and domestic terrorists to exchange their ideas and beliefs. I hope that no such hybrid organization ever sprouts on the street it would be another volatile and dangerous combination.

Such a cross-pollination should be of concern to us all.

Abdullah/Jess both have come to their senses and realized I was right about the first class standards papa has. Papa spends his rec time with the Unabomber, Sammy the Bull Gravano and Ramzi Yuseff. I love to listen into those conversations.

Waa, waa, waa. So the terrorist doesnt like his accommodations? My heart bleeds for him. Perhaps he shouldve thought about what prison might be like before he tried to murder several thousand people. Just a thought.

They are being held in isolation so they cannot learn more of this jihad crap or fatwahs. They are being treated very well- read my prior post. They have baseboard heating with extra blankets in the winter- they have central air conditioning in the summer. They have all the comforts of home except for being able to commit more terrorism.

No! Total Isolation only for 24 hours is torture , plane and simple.It has nothing to do with security for the public but it has to do with secret experimentation on inmates.It will never be admitted as such of course, oh no!You do know of the Stanford Prison Experiment? Unless you are willing to do such an experimentation you do have no clue from what you are talking about.Imagine you are not hungry for exampel and the medical staff is coming and force feed you and I think this will take place in not a nice manner.They force you to open your mouth with violant technics.Afterwards you lay on the ground and your mouth is bleeding and food residues are all over you and the floor.Wether you are guilty or not is deleted in such a case and wether you are Muslim and a so called terrorist or you are Christian or any other religion does not matter anymore because that is a violation against essential human rights or not?

The prison environment is an excellent Petri Dish and any sadistic guards who are working there are an equally effective growth medium.

Take for example this article on ISIS.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/camp-bucca-the-us-prison-that-became-the-birthplace-of-isis-9838905.html>

Camp Bucca provided a unique setting for both prisoner radicalization and inmate collaboration and was formative in the development todays most potent jihadist force.

In all, nine members of the Islamic States top command did time at Bucca.

The hardened radicals were the professors, the other detainees were the students, and the prison authorities played the role of absent custodian.

Former prison commander James Skylar Gerrond wrote on Twitter in July,

Many of us at Camp Bucca were concerned that instead of just holding detainees, we had created a pressure cooker for extremism.

From the ashes of what former inmates called an al-Qaeda school, rose the Islamic State.

When those inhabitants freed in 2009 returned to Baghdad, the Post reported, they spoke of two things: their conversion to radicalism and revenge.

It is a global problem as this article illustrates.

Prison Inmate Who Planned To Kidnap Guard Found With IS Flag And Plans Of Prison

The Huffington Post UK/PA

Posted: 26/10/2014 15:01 GMT

But how can their radical message be neutralized?

Alienation of all inmates has only pushed many non-radicals into the radicals camp.

Brutalizing those innocent of crimes did not work in Iraq nor has it worked in our prison system where being unjustly labeled a member of a STG has meant years of Admin Seg for many.

I do not know which is the case with this man here but I hope it is not more injustice.

Your father is living very well; he has a clean cell- has three (3) hot meals brought to him every day- has tv -radio and a shower. He cannot be harmed by other violent prisoners who would want to punish him for his silence of what was being planned at the WTC. He gets out to exercise and is given the best medical care. How selfish you are in that you never speak about the victims your fathers silence help create!

Jesse- you are a jerk for saying that this is not the worst of crimes. Planting a bomb so innocent people can be hurt is a horrible act and for not trying to stop such behavior- leave him where he is!!!!!!!

Abdullah,

Your father is an amazing writer, and has shown great courage in resisting the cruel treatment experienced by everyone locked up in ADX Florence. No matter what he did or didnt do, nobody deserves the type of torture and degradation that people are put through there. Also, you have shown great courage by continuing to stand up for your fathers rights in spite of living in a barbaric culture like the US where a huge number of people support the abuse of prisoners (exemplified by the comments of anonymous cowards like NYNighthawk and al Mathis above). Most countries in the world do not treat prisoners like this even for the worst of crimes. I hope that your father will ultimately be released so that he can be back with his family, but barring that, I hope that he can at least get out of ADX Florence and be back in general population. Best wishes to you and your family, and please dont give up hope.

Love and solidarity,
Jesse

Jesse, I really appreciate the wonderful comments you left. I truly get happy when I find out that there are still some Americans out there who believe in human rights even for prisoners who have been implicated in the most heinous of crimes. I have visited my father five times in the past 6 years so I am acutely aware of the conditions that he must endure. In terms of my fathers guilt or innocence, it is really irrelevant now because the chances of him being freed from prison are very slim. It is worth mentioning that my father has three lawyers who have been working for him pro bono for the past 5 or 6 years defending his civil rights and essentially trying to get him out of the ADX Florence location. They were litigating his case in court for many years and unfortunately, as of two months ago, the US Appeals Court in Colorado approved the summary Judgment request of the US Federal Government and denied my fathers claim to essentially be given the right to leave the ADX Prison facility. My father is currently living under SAM restrictions, which are Special Administrative measures that severely restrict his communication with the outside world even with his own family and prevent him from being able to accelerate his ability to leave the ADX Max facility. In terms of his writing ability, I must say he has so much free time, compassion, and enthusiasm. The lawyers who are representing him are amazed at the level of mental alertness and enthusiasm that he expresses in every phone call and visit he has with them. I am truly blessed to have such a caring and wonderful father and I pray and hope that he will be transferred to another prison where he can have the chance at a more normal life. currently when visits are made at ADX, there is a glass barrier between the visitor and the inmate. So thats something I certainly would like to see change in the future. Once again, thank you for your great comments and I look forward to any future correspondence from you in the future. thank you.

YOU MUST BE INSANE!!

Your father knew what his friends were up to- he said nothing. Innocent people died and he was caught- end of story.

It may be difficult for U.S. citizens to believe that Islam is a religion of peace when horror stories about Isis abound. These warriors who fight in the name of Islam, take women and turn them into sex slaves, crucify those who do not believe in their form of Islam and show no mercy to anyone else who has the misfortune to cross their path. It is this atmosphere that creates our rationale to lock up convicted terrorists and throw away the key. Your father was convicted of crimes in a court of law here but keeping him in solitary forever may not be the answer. If he has a clean record, he should be afforded the chance to move to a slightly less restrictive environment, but because of his conviction, he cannot go free.

Thank you for agreeing that my father should be given the opportunity to live in a less restricted environment with good behavior. In fact, he never exhibited negative behavior even before the events of 9/11 yet he is being placed in solitary confinement indefinitely for no apparent reason. At this very moment, Mr. Abouhalima has a couple high profile lawyers that are working pro bono on his behalf to have his civil rights restored and not be subjected to the inhumane condition of indefinite solitary confinement. My father has been at ADX max since 2003, so its been over 10 years.

I have read a short history of your fathers life. He left Egypt because it did not offer a future for him and eventually he came here. America is a place where anyone who is willing to work hard, can have a decent life. Yet your father chose to participate in a bombing that could have killed many in New York. The wonder of this country is that if he did not agree with our policies here, he was free to leave, or, because of our free speech guarantee, he could have voiced his opinion to effect a change. Your father seems to have wasted a chance at a good, productive life.

The fact that he was placed in worse conditions without evident cause is disturbing. BTW, Im sorry for the cruel and ignorant responses of others here. They obviously do not realize the frequent failings of the vast U.S. criminal justice system. Your measured response to them does you credit.

I hope he finds peace.

Who helped creating all this so called Muslim Terror Organizations, wait a minute? The American Government? CIA? Who helped Saddam Hussein to power and Gadaffi and Osama Bin Laden? Your Government has secrets to hide you will never know. In every war there is rape and death, that is the saddest thing that happens all over the earth. Somehow soldiers in wartime are behaving like animals and think it is all allowed. It has happened in WW1, WW2 in wars like ex Yugoslavia and in other Wars. And it happens in so called Christian Wars as well.

Maybe Mahmud should have thought about the chances of getting caught before he even entered our country. He never has been known for being smart. He was caught while attempting to get his deposit back from the rented truck that blew up as he was attempting to kill thousands of people in the WTC.

Mr. Abouhalima was not the man apprehended getting back money for the Uhaul truck. That was another individual so get your facts straight.

This is my father who is providing his perspective here. I have visited him four times already and my fifth visit is coming up very soon. When my visitation with him occurs, there is no physical contact, simply a glass barrier between us and we must speak on the phone. He still maintains his innocence, even after being in prison for twenty years. I don't doubt that he may have known some of the actual perpetrators of the crime, but unfortunately he is one of the unfortunate few people who have been simply proven guilty by association. I will not go into details about his court trial back in 1993, but it's fair to say that he was convicted unanimously by a prejudiced jury, in fact, almost anybody accused of terrorism and has a Muslim background will inevitably be found guilty simply because the public is so hungry to lock them all up. The preconceived notion of Muslims being terrorists makes it impossible for people such as my father to have a fair trial in this country. Those who are quick to call him a terrorist should really think about what they are saying before they speak.

Your father doesn't deserve the pleasant conditions of supermax prison. He deserves to have his head hacked off with a machete and a video of it should be sent to you, just like the rest of the jihadists have done to other innocent Americans:

Liar

Maybe your Father should get closer to God in Jail and leave it all to God-if he really is innocent as you say.

Of course you can't let an inmate under your supervision die. It would be a political embarrassment, among other things and with far-reaching repercussions. If the inmates weren't treated in such a barbaric manner to begin with, they'd still be miserable but they wouldn't be wanting to end their lives. Suicide rates are high at the ADX. Is it any wonder? Take them out of isolation and restrict the sensory deprivation and the problem is solved. No more bad publicity. I've worked with more than one inmate who has spent time at the ADX, and calling it a cleaner version of Hell and what this particular inmate experienced is just the tip of the iceberg. I have no sympathy for any person who acted as a terrorist and caused lives to be lost. We are being judged, however, by the way we treat our prisoners and were expected to treat them in the same manner as other civilized countries do. On all counts, we have failed miserably and were not only guilty of numerous human rights violations but we've turned our federal and state prisons into bloated, fiscal nightmares that will take years to deflate in order to bring relief to taxpayers as common sense returns to our criminal justice system. Only in the past few years, have some states begun to attempt to turn things around and as usual, the feds have to be dragged by the hair, kicking and screaming up the tunnel to the light. Last year, finally, our U.S. Attorney General publicly acknowledged the problem. This week we held the second Senate Judiciary Subcommittee (on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights) hearing on the overuse and abuse of solitary confinement. Some progress. Forced feeding is extremely painful. So is sensory deprivation and the separation of senses and destruction of a person's empathy and other emotions to put anyone through this is nothing but outright torture. It's hard for a country to be a world leader and proponent of civil and human rights when hiding the shame of a nation under her skirts.

Waaaaahh Freakin terrorist should have thought a little before he tried to blow up a building with innocent people in it. I hope he suffers daily for the rest of his miserable life.

You have to remember this is an inmate's perspective, and most likely a terrorist's perspective. If any person would work in these conditions they would see why inmates like this one above are held with such restrictions. Everything is not cut and dry like the inmate states. Just because an inmate does not want to eat and just sleep does not automatically subject them to force feeding. It is a long process that is tracked and has certain guidelines. Ultimately, it comes down to the individual inmate's vital signs. Once an inmate has stopped eating for a long period of time they have their vital signs checked on a daily basis. Only when their vitals are at a critical level; where if they do not have food, and they may suffer serious health issues which could lead to death are they force fed. This is not for punishment, it is for the inmate's health. You can not simply let an inmate under your supervision die.

Can this really be happened in America. We used to think it's only Russia or Iran or some other far off place that does this..

The land of liberty is the leader of torture. Why not allow Juan Mendez from the United Nations to inspect U.S. prisons in his official capacity!

Yes please, the inspection of Juan Mendez would be much appreciated.

When did we cease to be a civilized country? What does who gain by cruel and unusual punishment like this?

We haven't ceased to be a civilized country, they have decided to be terrorist end of story! Would you want them to get health benefits and welfare checks too??? The punishment fits the crime.

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