

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Lisa Dawson](#) | April 4, 2013



The following roundup features noteworthy news, reports and opinions on solitary confinement from the past week.

First Run Features [announces the New York premiere](#) of *Hermans House* this week. The film, which explores the injustice of solitary confinement and the transformative power of art, will be opening April 19, 2013, at Cinema Village in New York City.

WUSA9 reports that Christopher Harper, who suffers from mental illness, [is being held in solitary confinement](#) in a maximum security prison in Pennsylvania. Harper's mother says that Harper, 40, has the mental capacity of an 11-year-old.

Truthout reports on [The US Criminal \(In\)Justice System](#) and the mistreatment of incarcerated people, citing the widespread, abusive and counterproductive use of solitary confinement as a prime example of this.

Andrew Cohen [calls into question](#) the BOP's policies in dealing with behavior frequently accompanied by mental illness, including suicide attempts and self-mutilation, pointing out that regulatory bodies' inmate policies actually call for more severe punishment of behaviors typical of people with mental illness.

Former prisoner Daniel McGowan [writes](#) of his time in Communication Management Units (CMU), a form of segregation, for his political speech.

The New York Times publishes an [editorial](#) about the use of arbitrary and abusive solitary confinement on immigrant detainees in the US, emphasizing that the unbridled use of solitary by ICE is not a model of humane incarceration.

Ian Urbana discusses the excessive use of solitary confinement on immigrant detainees in the US on the Leonard Lopate show. For those who missed the show, [listen](#) to the audio at WNYC.

The New Yorker reports that [a shocking proportion of the detainees](#) at Guantanamo are hunger striking, reaching a total of 37, or almost one in four of the 166 people imprisoned there. A [story](#) in *The Atlantic* states that the hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay will likely be ineffective since the people doing the striking are a group of foreigners whose prison is synonymous with the War on Terror, as opposed to sympathetic, politically popular characters.

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

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While reading the Daniel McGowan piece I saw this comment:

1 hour ago (1:41 PM)

This morning Daniel was taken into custody by federal marshals and is now at the federal detention center in Brooklyn getting processed.

We are still waiting to hear why this has occurred. Considering his exemplary behavior at the halfway house, approved weekend passes and the full-time job he started as soon as he was released back to the city this is all pretty insane.

P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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