

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | December 14, 2014



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.

According to a lawsuit filed in federal court last week, solitary confinement conditions inside one New Mexico county jail were so inhumane [they drove one woman with a history of mental illness to suicide](#). According to court documents, Raynbow Gignilliat, 39, was kept in isolation without treatment even after stripping naked, smearing feces and urine on herself and her solitary cell, hallucinating and screaming for hours during the day and night.

Wisconsin's Department of Corrections is [planning to make significant changes to its disciplinary code](#), according to a memo obtained by the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. The memo also specifies, Long-term segregation placements have been shown to be ineffective in terms of discipline and do not serve our corrective or rehabilitative goals.

[The New York Daily News](#) published an article entitled, Prisoner advocates slam plan to create Enhanced Supervision Unit for Rikers most dangerous inmates. The plan, which would allow people to be kept in isolation for 17 hours a day, has yet to be approved by the Board of Corrections.

Researchers at the 2014 American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual meeting hosted Angola 3 member Robert King and [discussed the psychological and physical impacts of solitary confinement](#).

Susan Greene of [The Colorado Independent](#) published a profile of Unique Taylor, a transgender woman held in solitary confinement at the federal supermax facility, Florence ADX.

[CounterPunch](#) ran an article by a member of California Families Against Solitary Confinement, entitled An End to Solitary is Long Overdue.

[This week a trial will begin for the former Rikers guard](#) who allegedly ignored the medical needs of a prisoner who died in a solitary confinement cell after swallowing a ball of highly toxic soap. Terrence Pendergrass is facing one count of deprivation of rights under color of color.

[The Providence Journal](#) published a long investigation into the treatment of people with illness inside the states prison system, especially focusing on the use of extended isolation.

After a string of inmate deaths in the state, including several in solitary confinement, the US Department of Justice is gathering

information and [considering an investigation into Floridas Department of Corrections](#).

On Human Rights Day, [LGBT and immigrant rights groups called for an end to the placement of transgender women in male detention facilities](#). Many trans women are placed in isolation while in immigration detention facilities, allegedly to keep them safe from sexual violence.

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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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