

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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close

Search

close

close

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | April 26, 2015

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.

Three women held at Kernes County Residential Center [have sued Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as the GEO Group](#), the corporation that runs the detention center. The women allege that they were placed in solitary confinement along with their children in retaliation for going on hunger strike.

A 2012 video just [published by the New Yorker](#) documents the guard abuse experienced by Kalief Browder, a teenager then held at Rikers Central Punitive Segregation Unit. Browder spent about a total of about two years in solitary confinement at the jail before the charges against him were dropped.

More than 100 advocates gathered in Albany [to lobby for the passage of an anti-solitary bill](#) currently moving through the states legislature. The bill would prohibit the placement of certain populations in isolation and set a 15-day limit for all others. State-wide actions to end solitary [also occurred in California](#).

[The Boston Globe](#) published an article on Florence ADX, the federal supermax prison where Dzhokhar Tsarnaev may serve a life sentence. Nobody can go through that experience without being scarred, said Ray Luv Levasseur, who served about five years at ADX. It deadens you emotionally. You have to withdraw like a turtle into a shell.

US Representative Chaka Fattah [reintroduced the Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment \(REDEEM\) Act](#) into the House. The bill would prohibit the placement of children in solitary confinement except in extreme circumstances.

Solitary Watch's Aviva Stahl published [an article about Ashley Jean Arnold](#), a trans woman who committed suicide in a Virginia federal prison in February. Last summer, Arnold spent 30 days in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) after various feminine items including bras, panties, makeup items, etc were found in her cell.

The US Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General [published a report on the Reeves County Detention Complex](#), called the world's largest for-profit prison. In 2009, an individual with epilepsy died in his isolation cell, sparking a riot; prison staff allegedly used solitary to punish those who complain or organize against their confinement.

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 [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 5, 2022

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P.O. Box 11374
Washington, DC 20008

info@solitarywatch.org

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