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Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | July 23, 2017

North Carolina inmates who break prison rules will spend significantly less time in solitary confinement under a new policy that state leaders hope will help make prisons safer, reported the [Charlotte Observer](#). Under the states new disciplinary policy, which took effect Monday, inmates who commit offenses generally cant be sent to solitary for longer than 30 days. The old policy allowed prison officials to hold rule-breakers in solitary for twice that long.

[The BBC](#) published a piece on Angola 3 member Albert Woodfox, who spent 43 years in solitary confinement. I have been learning how to live as a citizen and a free individual, because of the length of time [in solitary confinement], everything is pretty much a first time experience, he said.

As [the Marshall Project](#) reports, Arizona is set to become the latest state to move away from automatic isolation for death row inmates. Meanwhile, in Florida, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of nine people held on death row, who have been in solitary for between four and thirty years. The lawsuit asks a judge to prohibit the department from keeping death row inmates in solitary except for limited periods and for justified reasons, [reported US News](#).

A transgender woman locked up in New York state has been [released from solitary confinement](#) after a letter she wrote went viral, in which she described the abuse she experience within Franklin Correctional Facility. Eyricka Kings lawyers have demanded that she be transferred to a safer facility and be given a time cut.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois is alleging that that the states Youth Center [IYC] in Harrisburg is pushing criminal prosecution for trivial charges like spitting on, shoving or pouring water on staff. According to one [local outlet](#), ACLU lawyers believe IYC staff keep pushing the charges because they disagree with state policyto limit kids time in solitary confinement.

Christopher Zoukis, who reports from the inside as a federal prisoner, has again ended up in solitary confinement for allegedly running a business by publishing articles and books with the assistance of people on the inside. According to an article published on [the Huffington Post](#), this is the third time Zoukis has received sanctions for his writing actions, with five months in the hole being the most severe punishment to date.

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 [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 5, 2022

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