

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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Our Weekly Roundup of News and Views on Solitary Confinement

by [Aviva Stahl](#) | February 28, 2016

A [new report](#) authorized by the Center for American Progress and the Movement Advancement Project examines how the US criminal justice system fails LGBT people. LGBT people are frequently placed in solitary confinement, and transgender people are regularly placed in facilities that do not conform to their gender identity.

The [Boston Globe](#) reported that the South Boston gangster James Whitey Bulger was sentenced to 30 days in solitary after he was found masturbating in his cell. A [different outlet](#) later published an article entitled, Maybe dont laugh at Whitey Bulgurs masturbation punishment.

[CNN](#) reported that the drug kingpin Joaquin El Chap Guzman is willing to accept extradition to the United States if he can serve his time in a medium security prison. Guzman, who was recently recaptured after a high-profile escape from a Mexican high-security prison, has since allegedly been subject to physical and mental torture by guards.

[The BBC](#) published a thirty-minute documentary on Nutraloaf, the compressed food stuff served to people in solitary confinement who are deemed be breaking additional rules or posing a security threat.

Coverage continued of Albert Woodfox's release from prison, including by [The New Yorker](#) and [Democracy Now](#).

A professor of criminal law at Northeastern [condemned](#) the lack of solitary confinement reforms in Massachusetts. He writes that the state has stood on the sidelines, failing to reform its use of disciplinary segregation (punishment for violating prison rules) or administrative segregation (removal from the general population for non-disciplinary reasons).

[KTUU](#) outlined the findings of a [new report](#) about Alaskas overcrowded, understaffed, and dangerous prisons. Anchorage resident Davon Mosley died in solitary confinement in April 2014 after medical staff refused to treat Mosley as a mental health patient, despite the requests of guards.

[City officials in Florence, Colorado fear](#) that Guantanamo detainees may be incarcerated in the city's federal supermax. The prison, which houses people in arguably the most austere conditions of isolation, was once described by a former warden as a clean version of hell.

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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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