

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

<https://solitarywatch.org/2010/01/08/become-a-solitary-watcher/>

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by [James Ridgeway](#) | January 8, 2010

Now that Solitary Watch has gone public on search engines, listservs, and the like, we invite the community of readers to help us with this collaborative (and thus far, all-volunteer) endeavor. Here is what you can do to participate in this effort to bring the issue of solitary confinement in the United States out of the shadows and into the public square:

- > **Learn** more about the Solitary Watch project on the About page.
- > Subscribe to Solitary Watch News by email. (Sign up in the sidebar.)
- > Subscribe to Solitary Watch News feed in a reader. (Ditto.)
- > Follow Solitary Watch News on Twitter. (Click on Twitter Updates in the sidebar.)
- > Forward Solitary Watch News to friends and associates (especially the ones who are up in arms about Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib, but may not know about what's going on in their own state prisons).
- > Share Solitary Watch News with former inmates (and current ones, as restrictions allow), as well as their families, friends, lawyers, and advocates.
- > Comment on posts to share information and perspectives.
- > Email or write us with your stories, ideas, resources, links, and suggestions for how to make Solitary Watch News best serve the community on which it depends. (See the Contact page for details.)

Thank you for your interest and participation in Solitary Watch News.

James Ridgeway (1936-2021) was founder and co-director of Solitary Watch. An investigative journalist for over 60 years, he served as Washington Correspondent for the Village Voice and Mother Jones, reporting domestically on subjects ranging from electoral politics to corporate malfeasance to the rise of the racist far right, and abroad from Central America, Northern Ireland, Eastern Europe, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia. Earlier, he wrote for The New Republic and Ramparts, and his work appeared in dozens of other publications. He was the co-director of two films and author of 20 books, including a forthcoming posthumous edition of his groundbreaking 1991 work on the far right, *Blood in the Face*.

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 [Jean Casella](#)

December 29, 2021

by [Jean Casella](#)

December 23, 2021

by [Events and Announcements](#)

December 3, 2021

Solitary Watch encourages comments and welcomes a range of ideas, opinions, debates, and respectful disagreement. We do not allow name-calling, bullying, cursing, or personal attacks of any kind. Any embedded links should be to information relevant to the

conversation. Comments that violate these guidelines will be removed, and repeat offenders will be blocked. Thank you for your cooperation.

Shawna Forde was been held in solitary confinement in JAIL for 7 months, based on the administrations claim that they have no other way to keep her safe from the other inmates in the general population. Yet her trial date is ONE YEAR+ away! She is being punished before being convicted of a crime.

Thanks for being there. Shawna is now going on 7 months in solitary confinement of what will probably be an 18 mo. imprisonment in jail prior to her trial. They already asked for the Death Penalty before the trial date was even set, and there is NO EVIDENCE against her.

This is a great endeavor. Thanks to all responsible.

Excellent, needs doing.

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