

# 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 5, 2017

The Allegheny County Jail has eased up on discipline and worked towards releasing incarcerated pregnant women, according to an article published in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#). Five people locked up at Allegheny sued the jail last December, on allegations that they had been placed in solitary, sometimes for weeks, for minor offenses like having too many pairs of shoes.

[Forbes](#) published an opinion piece from the non-profit Prison Lives about who lives in solitary confinement. From an outside perspective, solitary confinement is necessary to control the prison scene. But if you look a little closer, you find an environment that unnecessarily produces ill-effects, including the violence we imagine.

Men took over Delaware's largest prison, the Vaughn Correctional Center, and by dawn the next morning the police had stormed the facility. Writing in [Jacobin](#), Attica uprising scholar Heather Ann Thompson penned that at Vaughn prison and elsewhere, we should demand transparency and stand with the inmates who dare to affirm their humanity.

A Maine Superior Court judge has [ruled](#) that a man's due process rights were violated when he was unduly placed in solitary confinement at Maine State Prison for nearly two years. The judge also ruled that the Department of Corrections should refund monetary sanctions imposed against the prisoner, Doug Burr, and restore any good lost time.

Inside Delaware prisoners, people perceived to be unruly including some who may be in solitary confinement are [still fed the loaf](#) instead of actual meals. It's not something you swallow easily, said Kevin Dickens, who was once placed on the diet for five straight weeks. After you take two or three bites, you want to gargle and barf. Other states, like New York, have moved away from the practice.

Photos of maximum-security prisons in Norway and the US reveal the extremes of prison life, read a headline published in [Business Insider](#). The outlet compared and contrasted living conditions inside the federal supermax facility in Florence, Colorado and Halden Prison in Halden, Norway.

Former Black Panther Jalil Muntaqim was [transferred](#) to Southport Correctional Facility, a supermax prison south of Elmira, New York. Muntaqim, who was teaching a class on Black History, was sentenced to four months in solitary confinement for allegedly encouraging others to engage in gang activities. Muntaqim has disputed the prison's account and said that he encouraged gangs to get organized and get away from criminal behavior.

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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Typo in the beginning. Eased up on disciple? Kinda changes the meaning of the sentence. .

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