

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Aviva Stahl](#) | January 11, 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.

South Carolina has paid [\\$1.2 million to the estate of an individual](#) who contracted hypothermia after spending 11 days in solitary confinement without any clothing. Jerome Laudman, who had mental health issues and developmental disabilities, was found dead in his supermax cell in February 2008.

Journalist Martha Bellisle [explores an ongoing crisis in Washington state](#) the wait lists that leave individuals with mental illness languishing in jails. People who are deemed incompetent to face charges and are ordered to undergo treatment often spend week or months in solitary confinement while they await a free hospital bed.

This week, New York City's Board of Corrections is [set to vote on new regulations](#) regarding the use of solitary confinement on Rikers Island. Included in the proposal is the creation of enhanced supervision housing units (ESHU), which would allow wardens to lock 250 inmates in their cells up to 17 hours a day a plan which has come under stinging criticism from prisoners rights advocates across the city.

Pennsylvania has [reached a settlement](#) in a lawsuit between the state's Department of Corrections and the Disability Rights Network. Prisoners with serious mental illnesses will no longer be placed in solitary confinement, and will instead be moved to treatment units that allow at least 20 hours of out-of-cell time per week.

The UK's [Telegraph](#) published an article entitled, My 19 days in solitary confinement on Alcatraz.

Mustafa Kamel Mustafa commonly referred to in the press as Abu Hamza has been sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of several terrorism-related charges. The judge in his case [rejected an appeal by Abu Hamza's lawyers](#) to have him placed in a special medical facility, as opposed to a federal supermax facility like ADX Florence, due to his physical disabilities.

Illinois officials are [investigating a death](#) that occurred on January 3, in a solitary confinement cell at Stateville Correctional Center. Shawn Craig, 40, appears to have committed suicide by hanging himself from a torn sheet, but the official cause of death is still pending.

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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