

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](#) | October 16, 2016

Rikers Island has officially ended its placement of 19-to-21 year olds in solitary confinement, who will now instead be placed in the jails Secure Unit or Enhanced Supervision Unit. Advocates expressed concern that young people will still spend extended time in some form of isolation. Our goal has never been to eliminate the term punitive segregation, but to eliminate the unconscionable conditions that it has been used to describe, the executive director of Brooklyn Defender Services told the [Village Voice](#).

Whistleblower Chelsea Manning was [released from solitary confinement](#). She had been sentenced to seven days in isolation as punishment for attempting suicide.

A Utah mother is worried about her son, who had never been the same after experiencing a traumatic brain injury and was sent to prison after getting into a fight. According to a [local station](#), Cameron Payne has been in solitary confinement for five years largely due behavioral issues related to his injury, said his family and hasn't been able to see or call his mother in over a year.

A 41-year-old North Carolina man has been released from solitary confinement for the first time in more than 13 years. [Jason Swain](#), who has diagnosed mental health issues, was also able to visit with his mother for the first time in 17 years.

Illinois Governor Rauner announced that he was closing Stateville Correctional Centers F House, the last remaining roundhouse prison in the United States. Rauner, who said he was pursuing the closure [in the name of justice](#), said he was also working towards opening a Life Skills and Re-Entry Facility for people nearing their release dates. In September, an individual locked up in isolation at the F House wrote about his experiences for [Solitary Watch](#).

New Mexico Corrections Secretary Gregg Marcantel has [announced plans to retire](#), following an overwhelmingly no-confidence vote in him by the guards union. Marcantel had become an outspoken critic of solitary confinement during his tenure, a position that fractured his relationship with the states correctional officers.

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 [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 26, 2022

by [Caitlin Konya](#)

October 19, 2022

by [Mirilla Zhu](#)

October 12, 2022

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