

Solitary Watch

Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

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by [Jean Casella](#) | November 24, 2013



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.

The new ACLU report [A Living Death](#) describes the more than 3,000 Americans serving life without parole for nonviolent crimes. The report was the subject of a New York Times editorial entitled [Sentenced to a Slow Death](#). Included in the dozens of personal stories featured in the report are many accounts of long stays in solitary confinement.

Cyber-activist Jeremy Hammond was sentenced to ten years in federal prison for hacking a private intelligence firm, reports [Rolling Stone](#). Hammond spent months in pre-trial solitary confinement at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in lower Manhattan.

A man incarcerated at the Potosi Correctional Center in Missouri [reports](#) that 15 people in the prisons administrative segregation unit have been on hunger strike since October 13.

The [ACLU Blog of Rights](#) reports on the federal lawsuit *Coleman v. Brown*, which is the first statewide case aimed at getting all mentally ill people in California out of solitary confinement.

Fahad Hashmi, who is being held at the federal supermax ADX Florence following his controversial conviction on terrorism-related charges, has been banned from receiving an issue of [The Nation](#) that contains an article about his own imprisonment.

The [New York Times](#) reports on the extensive use of solitary confinement on adolescents with mental illness on New York's Rikers Island.

The ACLU has released a new report, [Alone & Afraid: Children Held in Solitary Confinement and Isolation in Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities](#). The report documents the psychological, physical, and developmental harm done to children subjected to isolation.

[Slate](#) recounts the history of the US Penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and its transformation from a progressive facility to an isolating and restrictive Special Management Unit, or SMU, a shift that mirrors the evolution of the U.S. prison system in general.

[BuzzFeed](#) published a feature on the Photo Requests from Solitary project, in which people held in long-term isolation are given the opportunity to request one image, and photographers volunteer to fulfill their requests.

[Common Dreams](#) documents the retaliatory measures still being faced by individuals who participated in the California Prison Hunger Strike. Many have been charged with rule violations that could extend their time in solitary or endanger their chances of parole.

The New Mexico Department of Corrections has announced that it will review the nearly 10 percent of its prisoners who are held in isolation, and seek to reduce their numbers significantly, according to the [Albuquerque Journal](#).

The [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) has released a toolkit on Confronting Solitary Confinement in an Age of Mass Incarceration, in preparation for Human Rights Day on December 10.

Jean Casella is the director of Solitary Watch. She has also published work in The Guardian, The Nation, and Mother Jones, and is co-editor of the book *Hell Is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement*. She has received a Soros Justice Media Fellowship and

an Alicia Patterson Fellowship. She tweets [@solitarywatch](#).

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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Thanx for the informative and inspiring seven day report.

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