

Solitary Confinement and Isolation in Federal Prisons: Cruel and Inhuman or Necessary?

Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 7:00 PM

**Albany Law School, 80 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208
Rochester Moot Court Room (Room 209 in the Main Building)**

Rachel Meeropol Esq., Center for Constitutional Rights Staff Attorney

Aysha Ghani, Muslims For Justice, PhD Candidate, Stanford University

Jeanne Finley, Muslim Solidarity Committee

Marlene Jenkins, Mother of Tarik Shah - 33 Months in Solitary

Moderator - Stephen Gottlieb, Esq., Constitutional Law Professor, Albany Law School

Federal Prosecutors can hold defendants before trial in solitary confinement under a legal device called Special Administrative Measures (SAMs). Pre-trial solitary confinement can last for years and impair the defendants' mental ability to cooperate in their own defense or testify coherently.

Defendants may also be sentenced to isolation units called Communication Management Units (CMUs), in retaliation for expressing their constitutionally protected religious beliefs, unpopular political views, or for challenging rights violations in the federal prison system.

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