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Start of Block: Consent



Q1.1

### International Affairs Survey

This research is being conducted by Dr. Brian Greenhill from the Department of Political Science at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and Dr. Dan Reiter from the Department of Political Science at Emory University. It is a study of public opinion on issues relating to international affairs.

Your participation is voluntary. Participation involves taking an online survey that lasts approximately 10 minutes. You may choose to not answer any or all questions.

The information collected will be maintained anonymously. Names and other identifying information will not be used in any presentation or paper written about this project. As part of this study, you will read an article. Some information about the article will be withheld initially, but will be provided at the end of your participation.

Questions about this project may be directed to: Brian Greenhill, Associate Professor of Political Science, University at Albany, SUNY. Email: [bgreenhill@albany.edu](mailto:bgreenhill@albany.edu). Phone: 518 442-5238.

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University at Albany Institutional Review Board and the Emory University Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions concerning your rights as a research participant or if you wish to report any concerns about the study, you may contact the University of Albany's Research Compliance Officer at [rco@albany.edu](mailto:rco@albany.edu) or 1-866-857-5459, or the Emory University Institutional Review Board at 404-712-0720, toll-free at 877-503-9797 or by email at [irb@emory.edu](mailto:irb@emory.edu).

Do you consent to participate in this survey?

- Yes, I consent (1)
- No, I do not (2)

End of Block: Consent

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Start of Block: Introduction

Q41

On the next page we're going to ask you to read a newspaper article about the use of solitary confinement in US prisons.

Please try to read the article as carefully as possible. Once you have finished, we'll ask you some questions to get your reaction to the some of the issues raised in the article and to see how much of the information you are able to recall.

End of Block: Introduction

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Start of Block: Control

control **Does Long-Term Solitary Confinement Violate International Law?**

**By Peter Hughes, Justice Correspondent**

**July 12, 2019**

When corrections officials talk about solitary confinement, they describe it as the prison within the prison, and for good reason. For 23 hours a day, inmates are kept inside a cell that is approximately 80 square feet, smaller than a typical horse stable. Cells are furnished with a bed, sink and toilet, but rarely much else. Food is delivered through a slot in the door, and each day inmates are allowed just one hour of exercise.

For most of the 20th century, a typical stay in solitary amounted to just a few days, or several weeks in more extreme cases. Today, it's not unusual for inmates to spend years at a time in solitary. Supporters say the practice helps keep prisons safe, but according to the medical literature, solitary confinement can also take a heavy mental toll.

Researchers studying the impact of long-term solitary confinement have found that it can lead to hallucinations, panic attacks, paranoia, a loss of impulse control, and hypersensitivity to external stimuli. Some inmates lose the ability to maintain a state of alertness, while others develop crippling obsessions.

Legal experts are now weighing in on the question of whether this amounts to torture and needs to be stopped. Some point to the fact that the US has signed on to the Convention Against Torture, an international agreement that defines torture as "any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person."

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Q3.2 Timing

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## US Govt **Does Long-Term Solitary Confinement Violate International Law?**

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When corrections officials talk about solitary confinement, they describe it as the prison within the prison, and for good reason. For 23 hours a day, inmates are kept inside a cell that is approximately 80 square feet, smaller than a typical horse stable. Cells are furnished with a bed, sink and toilet, but rarely much else. Food is delivered through a slot in the door, and each day inmates are allowed just one hour of exercise.

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Legal experts are now weighing in on the question of whether this amounts to torture and needs to be stopped. Some point to the fact that the US has signed on to the Convention Against Torture, an international agreement that defines torture as “any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person.”

However, the US government takes a different view. The US State Department has argued that the use of solitary confinement does not inflict the “severe pain or suffering” that would put the US in violation of the its obligations under torture convention.

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Q85 Timing

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UN

## **Does Long-Term Solitary Confinement Violate International Law?**

**By Peter Hughes, Justice Correspondent**

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When corrections officials talk about solitary confinement, they describe it as the prison within the prison, and for good reason. For 23 hours a day, inmates are kept inside a cell that is approximately 80 square feet, smaller than a typical horse stable. Cells are furnished with a bed, sink and toilet, but rarely much else. Food is delivered through a slot in the door, and each day inmates are allowed just one hour of exercise.

For most of the 20th century, a typical stay in solitary amounted to just a few days, or several weeks in more extreme cases. Today, it's not unusual for inmates to spend years at a time in solitary. Supporters say the practice helps keep prisons safe, but according to the medical literature, solitary confinement can also take a heavy mental toll.

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International organizations have strongly criticized the US for its use of long-term solitary confinement, citing both humanitarian and legal concerns. The United Nations has argued that the practice is not only inhumane but puts the US in violation of its obligations under the torture convention.

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Q89 Timing

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INGO

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For most of the 20th century, a typical stay in solitary amounted to just a few days, or several weeks in more extreme cases. Today, it's not unusual for inmates to spend years at a time in solitary. Supporters say the practice helps keep prisons safe, but according to the medical literature, solitary confinement can also take a heavy mental toll.

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International organizations have strongly criticized the US for its use of long-term solitary confinement, citing both humanitarian and legal concerns. Major human rights nonprofits, such as Amnesty International and Physicians for Human Rights, have argued that the practice is not only inhumane but puts the US in violation of its obligations under the torture convention.

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Q87 Timing

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UN + DoJ

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International organizations have strongly criticized the US for its use of long-term solitary confinement, citing both humanitarian and legal concerns. The United Nations has argued that the practice is not only inhumane but puts the US in violation of its obligations under the torture convention.

However, the US government takes a different view. The US State Department has argued that the use of solitary confinement does not inflict the "severe pain or suffering" that would put the US in violation of its obligations under torture convention.

Q205 Timing

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INGO + DoJ

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Q131 Timing

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End of Block: INGO + US Govt version

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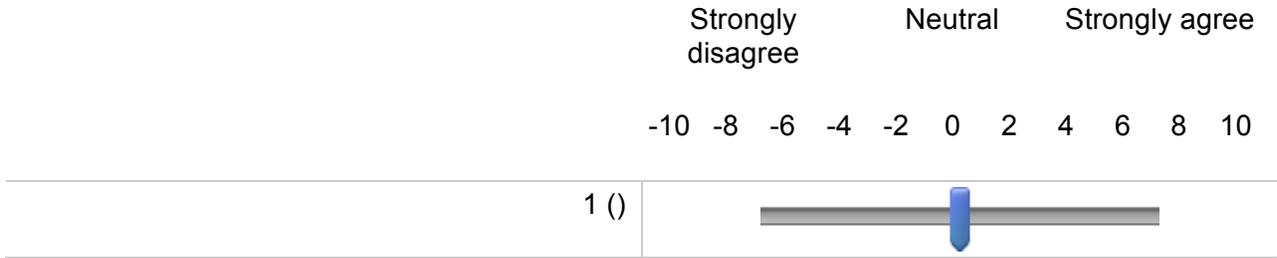
Start of Block: DV

Q55 We're now going to ask you some questions about your opinions on the use of prolonged solitary confinement in US prisons.

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Q73 Please use the sliding scale below to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement: **The US should STOP using prolonged solitary confinement in its prisons.**

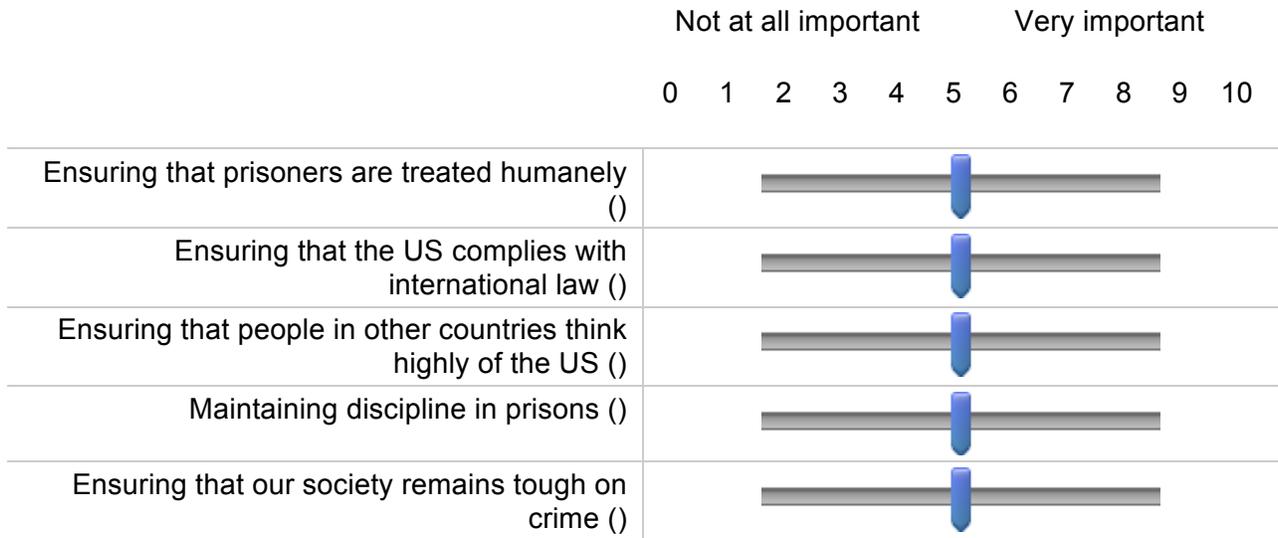


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Q46 How important were each of the following factors in shaping your opinion on the use of prolonged solitary confinement?



Page Break

Q74 If you would like to elaborate on your responses to the questions about the use of prolonged solitary confinement, please do so here.

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Page Break

Display This Question:

If Please use the sliding scale below to indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the... [ 1 ] >= 0

Q61 Would you be interested in learning about actions you can take to help end the use of prolonged solitary confinement in US prisons?

(If your answer is "yes", we'll direct you to some relevant resources at the end of the survey.)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

End of Block: DV

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Start of Block: Attention/Manipulation Check

Q46 Based on what you can remember from the information you just read, please try to answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

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Q50 What was the topic of the article you just read?

- Air pollution in US cities (1)
  - The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement (2)
  - Solitary confinement in US prisons (3)
  - The rise of nationalist movements in Europe (4)
-

Q48 Which (if any) of the following organizations do you recall being mentioned in the article you read? Please check whichever boxes apply.

- The United Nations (1)
- The US State Department (2)
- The US Environmental Protection Agency (5)
- Amnesty International (3)
- Physicians for Human Rights (4)
- The World Wildlife Fund (6)
- None of the above (7)

End of Block: Attention/Manipulation Check

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Start of Block: Knowledge of international affairs

Q78 We would now like to ask you a few general knowledge questions about international affairs. Please try to answer these to the best of your ability.

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Page Break

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Q79 Who is currently serving as the Prime Minister of Canada?

- Theresa May (1)
  - Justin Trudeau (2)
  - Stephen Harper (3)
  - Malcolm Turnbull (4)
- 

Q80 How many countries currently belong to the European Union (EU)?

- 4 (1)
  - 8 (2)
  - 14 (3)
  - 28 (4)
- 

Q81 Who is currently serving as the President of China?

- Xi Jinping (1)
  - Hu Jintao (2)
  - Mao Zedong (3)
  - Jiang Zemin (4)
-

Q82 Which one of the following countries is a member of the NATO alliance?

- Mexico (1)
  - Turkey (2)
  - Russia (3)
  - China (4)
- 

Q83 Which country signed an agreement in 2015 to stop developing nuclear weapons?

- Iran (1)
  - South Africa (2)
  - France (3)
  - Venezuela (4)
- 

Q84 Which of the following countries has been undergoing a civil war since 2011?

- Paraguay (1)
- Syria (2)
- Romania (3)
- Botswana (4)

**End of Block: Knowledge of international affairs**

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**Start of Block: Follow-up Questions**

Q85 We would now like to ask you a few questions about yourself.

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Q88 What is your age?

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Q89 What is your gender?

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Q14.8 In which state do you currently live?

▼ Alabama (1) ... I do not reside in the United States (53)

Q14.7 Were you born in the United States, or in another country?

- United States (1)
- Another country (2)

Q14.11 Do you have any children?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q14.9 Which of the following describes your racial or ethnic origin? (You can select as many as apply.)

White (non-Hispanic) (1)

Hispanic (7)

Black or African-American (2)

Asian or Asian-American (3)

Native American / American Indian / Alaska Native (4)

Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islanders (5)

Other (please specify) (6) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q14.14 What is your present religion, if any?

- Protestant (for example, Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, etc.) (1)
  - Roman Catholic (2)
  - Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS) (3)
  - Orthodox (such as Greek, Russian, or some other Orthodox church) (4)
  - Jewish (5)
  - Muslim (6)
  - Buddhist (7)
  - Hindu (8)
  - Atheist (9)
  - Agnostic (10)
  - Something else (please specify) (11)
- 
- Nothing in particular (12)

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Q14.10 What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- High school incomplete or less (1)
  - High school graduate or GED (includes technical/vocational training that doesn't count towards college credit) (2)
  - Some college (some community college, associate's degree) (3)
  - Four year college degree/bachelor's degree (4)
  - Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree (5)
  - Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree (6)
- 

Q60 Have you ever served in the military?

- Yes (1)
  - No (2)
- 

Q14.2 What was your total income in 2018 from all sources before taxes?

- Less than \$20,000 (1)
- \$20,000 to \$39,999 (2)
- \$40,000 to \$59,999 (3)
- \$60,000 to \$79,999 (4)
- \$80,000 to \$99,999 (5)
- \$100,000 to \$150,000 (6)
- More than \$150,000 (7)

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Q14.12

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, and Independent, or something else?

- Republican (1)
  - Democrat (2)
  - Independent (3)
  - Another party (please specify) (4)
- 
- No preference (5)
  - Prefer not to say (6)
-

Q14.13 In general, do you think of yourself as...

- Extremely liberal (1)
- Liberal (2)
- Slightly liberal (3)
- Moderate, middle of the road (4)
- Slightly conservative (5)
- Conservative (6)
- Extremely conservative (7)
- Don't know (8)
- Prefer not to say (9)

#### End of Block: Follow-up Questions

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#### Start of Block: Debrief

Q90

Thank you for answering these questions. Before you complete the survey, please take a moment to read the following debriefing message.

Debrief: In order to properly test our hypotheses about how information from different sources affects public opinion on the use of prolonged solitary confinement, we created a series of fictitious newspaper articles. The article you read at the beginning of this survey was one of these. The content used to write the article was based in part on an actual article that appeared online (see [here](#)), but we altered it for the purposes of our research. Specifically, this involved making up information about the positions that various organizations have taken on the use of prolonged solitary confinement. We chose not to tell you this at the time in order to ensure that your reactions to the information presented in the article were spontaneous and were not influenced by your prior knowledge about the purpose of this study.

To learn more about the actual positions that organizations that may have been mentioned in the article have taken on the issue of prolonged solitary confinement, please see the following:

1. A US Department of Justice report on solitary confinement from 2016 ([here](#)), as well a report from 2017 by the Inspector General of the US Department of Justice on the overuse of

"restrictive housing" in federal prisons ([here](#)). Note, however, that these do not discuss the implications that the use of these practices might have with respect to US obligations under the Convention Against Torture. To the best of our knowledge, the US government has not published a report that directly addresses that particular question.

2. A 2013 statement from the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on torture on the use of solitary confinement in US prisons ([here](#)), and the discussion of it in the United States' 2015 Universal Periodic Review by the United Nations Human Rights Council ([here](#)).

3. A 2014 report from Amnesty International on the use of solitary confinement in US federal prisons ([here](#)).

4. A 2013 report from Physicians for Human Rights on the use of solitary confinement in the US prison system ([here](#)).

The information we collected from this survey will be maintained anonymously. Names and other identifying information will not be used in any presentation or paper written about this project.

If you have any questions or concerns about this study please contact: Brian Greenhill, Associate Professor of Political Science, University at Albany, SUNY. Email: [bgreenhill@albany.edu](mailto:bgreenhill@albany.edu). Phone: 518 442 5238.

End of Block: Debrief

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