

Our Thinking: In The News

Rock Island man fights to end solitary confinement in Illinois prisons.

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“I was tortured in solitary confinement,” Gay says. “Solitary confinement is nothing less than domestic terrorism.”

Just a few years after being released from prison, he’s fighting to make sure no one has to go through what he did.

Gay was first put in solitary for getting into a fight with another inmate.

He says he suffered immensely when he was in isolation, doing anything to get attention, even mutilating himself. And that behavior, he says, ended up with more solitary. His mental health deteriorated from being alone for so long.

“I’ve been in that ditch, and I’ve experienced that ditch and nothing speaks louder than experience and my experience is too deep for deception,” he says.

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