



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2020, 2:30 - 3:30 pm (EST)
Press contact: Joseph Gaylin, 475-221-0879, info@stopsolitaryct.org

Release—Families with Incarcerated Loved Ones Hold a Vigil in Front of Northern C.I., Pray for the People that are at Risk of Death due Gov. Lamont’s COVID-19 Response in Prison; Advocates Call for Immediate Releases and Ban on Solitary in Response to COVID-19.

Enfield, CT – After weeks of advocacy, [an open letter from Yale Medical Faculty](#) (released 4/21), [a letter to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture](#) (released 4/22), it is clear that Governor Lamont’s failure to respond to Covid-19 in prisons will almost certainly result in preventable death. In the wake of yet another week of the Executive inaction, Stop Solitary CT supported incarcerated families from across the state by hosting a vigil outside of Northern C.I, Connecticut’s supermax prison that is currently housing the majority of covid-positive people in DOC custody.

During the vigil, Stop Solitary CT highlighted Northern C.I.’s history of human rights abuses and describe precisely why the decision to transfer covid-positive individuals to Northern is [medically unsound](#) and [incredibly inhumane](#). Stop Solitary spoke about their specific [policy proposal](#) to protect people in prison, but the majority of the vigil was dedicated to the perspectives and voices of families with loved ones locked in Northern C.I.

Standing among a solemn group of families and in front of a crowd of state troopers, police dogs, and correctional officers, Stop Solitary CT organizer Barbara Fair said “Witnessing the response from leadership to the spread of COVID19 within Corrections I came to a disheartening conclusion that incarcerated life is considered disposable life to some people. Incarcerated people and their families cries for relief have fallen on deaf ears. It’s inhumane and cruel to send sick people to a control unit under lockdown 24 hours a day.”

“[My] son is suffering the horrors of Northern simply out of retaliation by New Haven Correctional staff in response to his pleas for medical attention,” said Stacey Rivera of Waterbury.

There are human lives that need to be saved now before it’s too late.” said Tammy, who attended the vigil. “They’re all too terrified to disclose their symptoms.”

Stop Solitary CT organizers emphasized at the conclusion of the vigil that they stand ready and willing to work with the Governor should he choose to break his silence. Until he does, they indicated they would remain steadfast in their advocacy.

For more information, see www.stopsolitaryct.org or [@stopsolitaryct](https://twitter.com/stopsolitaryct) on twitter, [#freethemnowct](https://twitter.com/freethemnowct).

#####