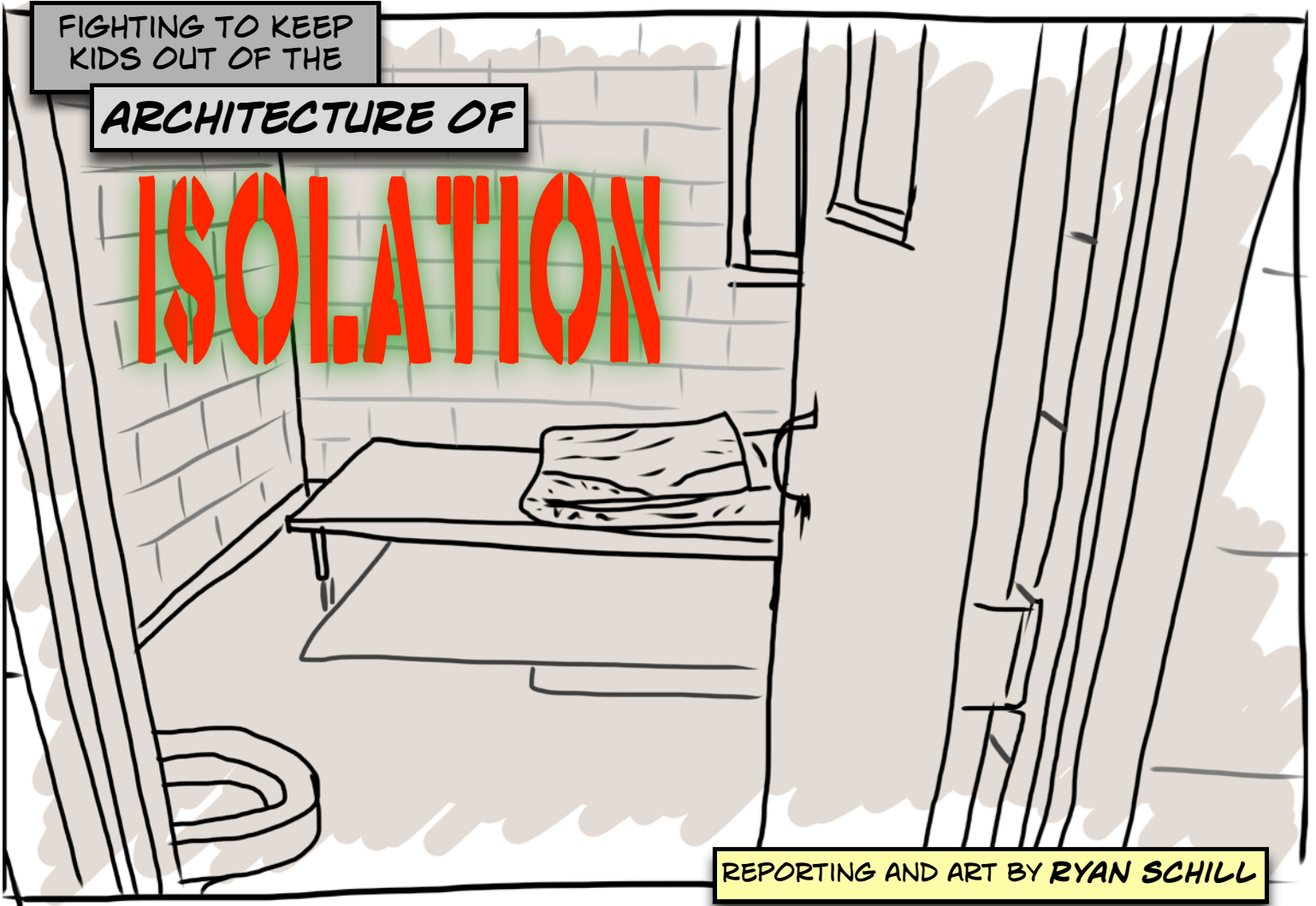


FIGHTING TO KEEP
KIDS OUT OF THE

ARCHITECTURE OF

ISOLATION

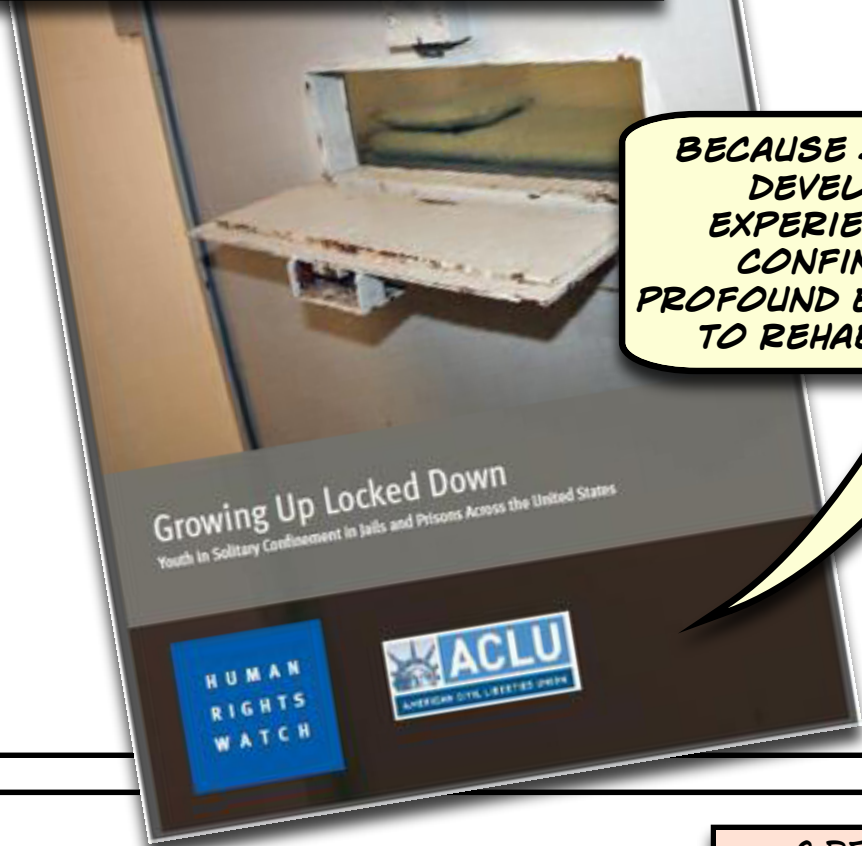


REPORTING AND ART BY RYAN SCHILL

FOR YEARS, ADVOCATES HAVE BEEN SOUNDING THE ALARM ABOUT THE DANGERS OF LOCKING YOUNG PEOPLE AWAY IN **SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**. JUVENILES CAN BE PLACED IN SOLITARY FOR MONTHS AT A TIME, OR FOR A SINGLE DAY, AND DURING THAT TIME THEY MAY SPEND AS MANY AS **22 HOURS A DAY** ISOLATED IN A SMALL CONCRETE CELL, THEIR ONLY HUMAN CONTACT WITH FACILITY STAFF. OFTEN THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED EVEN A BOOK TO PASS THE TIME. THE CELL DOOR MAY BE UNLOCKED ONCE A DAY FOR "HYGIENE" AND EXERCISE.



A 2012 REPORT JOINTLY PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, "**GROWING UP LOCKED DOWN**," FOUND THAT:



BECAUSE JUVENILES "ARE STILL DEVELOPING, TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES LIKE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT MAY HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON THEIR CHANCE TO REHABILITATE AND GROW."

"THE PRACTICE IS NOT ONLY CRUEL, BUT COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR BOTH REHABILITATION AND FACILITY SECURITY."



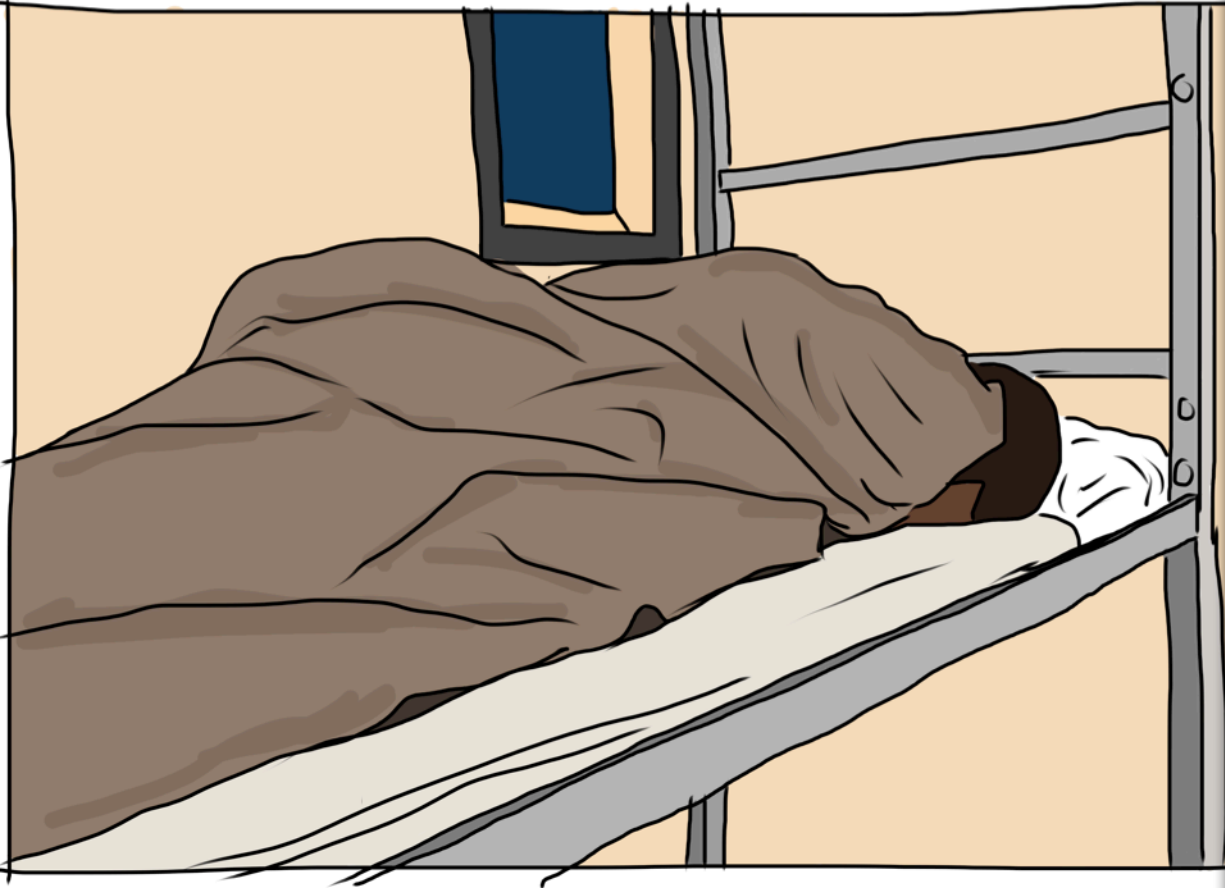
A RECENT LETTER TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER THAT WAS SIGNED BY 40 ADVOCACY GROUPS CALLED ON HOLDER TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON YOUTH IN FEDERAL CUSTODY.

WHILE MOST ADVOCACY GROUPS ARE CAMPAIGNING FOR A PROHIBITION AGAINST THE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF JUVENILES, ANOTHER ORGANIZATION IS TAKING A DIFFERENT APPROACH -- WORKING TO CEASE ENTIRELY THE CREATION OF SPACES INTENDED FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN BOTH JUVENILE AND ADULT FACILITIES.

THE CORE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR ARCHITECTS REVOLVES AROUND PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE.



RAPHAEL SPERRY, PRESIDENT OF ARCHITECTS/DESIGNERS/PLANNERS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (ADPSR)



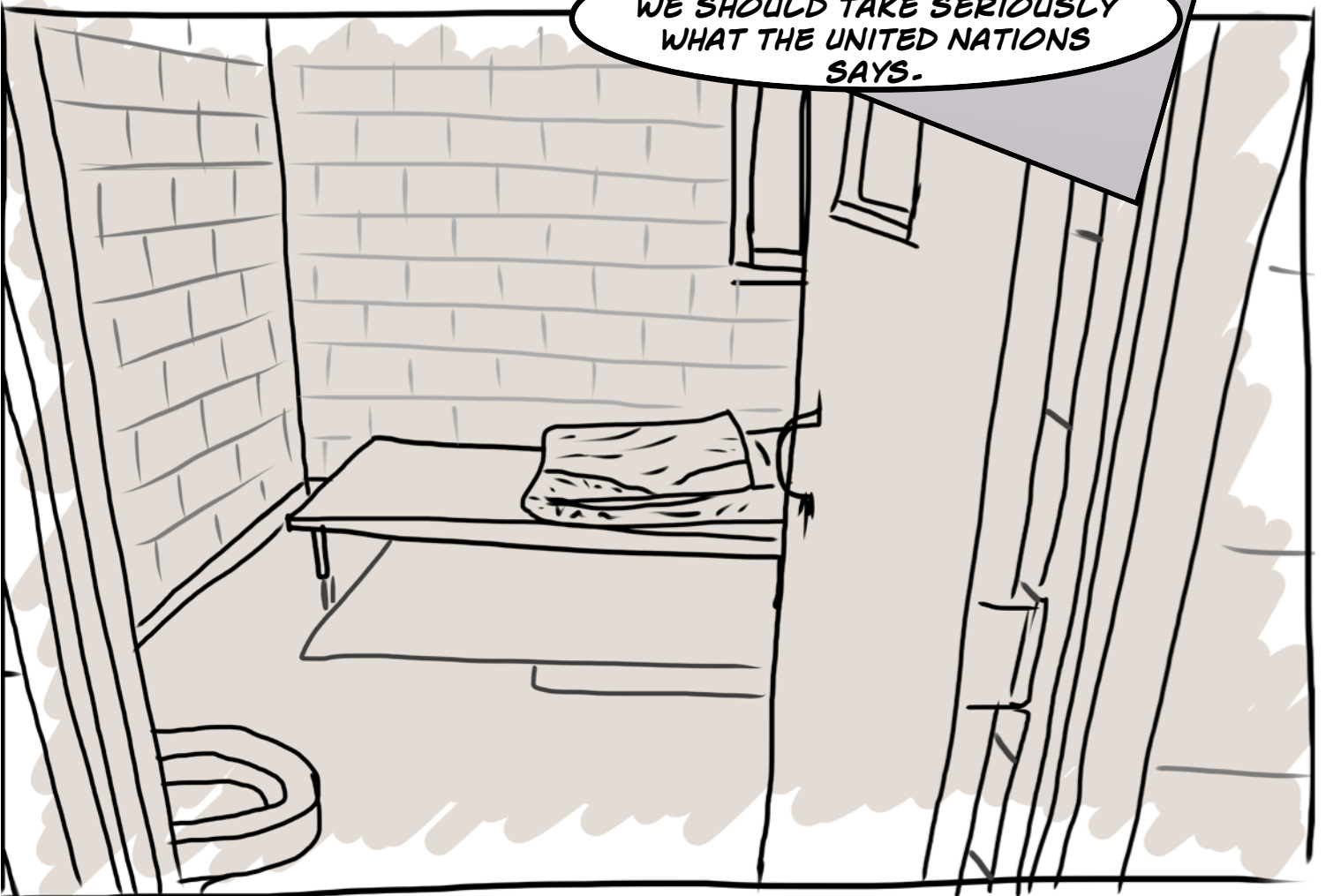
ADPSR LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN LAST YEAR TO AMEND THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' (AIA) CODE OF ETHICS TO "PROHIBIT THE DESIGN OF SPACES FOR KILLING, TORTURE, AND CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT," INCLUDING THOSE TO BE USED FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT -- WHAT SPERRY CALLS THE "ARCHITECTURE OF ISOLATION." CURRENTLY, THE AIA CODE OF ETHICS CALLS ON ARCHITECTS ONLY TO "UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL THEIR ENDEAVORS."

ESPECIALL
Y ... WHERE IT'S CLEAR
FROM THE OUTSET THAT HUMAN
RIGHTS WILL BE VIOLATED WHEN
[THE SPACE DESIGNED BY THE
ARCHITECT IS] USED AS
INTENDED.

THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE
THE SUM TOTAL OF ARCHITECTS'
RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN IT COMES TO
HUMAN RIGHTS.

IF WE ARE
COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS,
WHICH IS THE LANGUAGE THE AIA
CHOSE [AND] WHICH I STILL SUPPORT,
THAT LINKS US TO THE WHOLE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
SYSTEM.

THAT MEANS
WE SHOULD TAKE SERIOUSLY
WHAT THE UNITED NATIONS
SAYS.



**JUAN MENDEZ, U.N. SPECIAL
RAPORTEUR ON TORTURE,
SPEAKING BEFORE THE U.N.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S THIRD
COMMITTEE IN 2011.**

**SOLITARY
CONFINEMENT IS A HARSH
MEASURE WHICH IS CONTRARY
TO REHABILITATION, THE AIM
OF THE PENITENTIARY
SYSTEM**

**CONSIDERING THE
SEVERE MENTAL PAIN OR
SUFFERING SOLITARY
CONFINEMENT MAY CAUSE, IT
CAN AMOUNT TO TORTURE OR
CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR
PUNISHMENT ...**



SPERRY SAYS THAT ADDING THE ADPSR'S PROPOSED BAN TO THE AIA'S CODE OF ETHICS WOULD GIVE ARCHITECTS A SOLID FOOTING FROM WHICH THEY COULD REFUSE TO DESIGN ISOLATION SPACES, WHILE ALSO EDUCATING THEIR CLIENTS AND HELPING THEM BUILD BETTER FACILITIES.

IF THE BAN IS NOT IN PLACE A CLIENT COULD SIMPLY MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ARCHITECT.

BUT IF THEY KNOW THE NEXT GUY HAS THE SAME ETHICS CODE THAT YOU DO, THEN YOU CAN HAVE THAT CONVERSATION, AND YOU CAN PREVAIL. I THINK IT'S REALLY NECESSARY.

ULTIMATELY, I'D LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE DO MORE THAN JUST AVOID THE WORST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THAT OUR CLIENTS -- THAT JUSTICE SYSTEMS -- CAN DO.

THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO IN JUVENILE HALLS THAT ARE EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT AND THAT MAKE FOR REALLY BAD OUTCOMES FOR KIDS, AND THAT CREATE A LOT OF HUMAN SUFFERING, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IT'S NOT LIKE WE SHOULD STOP AT THE POINT OF, 'WE DIDN'T VIOLATE ANYONE'S HUMAN RIGHTS.'

