Angola death row inmates file suit over solitary confinement

Claim practices are ‘extreme’

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Three death row inmates at Angola have sued Louisiana prison officials over what they call an “extreme” practice of placing prisoners in solitary confinement for long periods, saying the policy violates their constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in federal court in Baton Rouge on behalf of all death row prisoners, claims that the defendants have violated the inmates’ rights under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

The lawsuit states that the inmates were held in solitary confinement for lengthy periods, without access to the outdoors or even the ability to communicate with other inmates.

The lawsuit also claims that the inmates were denied access to medical care and that they were subjected to daily searches and strip searches.

The lawsuit demands that the defendants immediately end the practice of solitary confinement and that they be provided with a trial on the merits of the case.

The lawsuit further claims that the defendants have violated the inmates’ rights under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The lawsuit seeks injunctive relief, a declaratory judgment, and damages.

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