Statement submitted on behalf of Ronald Cauthern, inmate 120258 on death row at Riverbend Maximum Security Institution, in Nashville, Tennessee:

When you isolate a person from family and stifle their ability to function normally, if they are not fortunate enough to find hope or inspiration to delve into positive solitary avenues (law, religion, etc.), they turn to a source of immediate aggression and amusement as a coping mechanism - fires, floods, assaults.  All of these are avenues toward mental decay, and it's justified behavior to respond to isolation this way.  It's acceptable to act like an animal in the face of a captor that labels them of no worth to human dignity.  Solitary confinement only serves one purpose.  It destroys the captor's respect for humanity and the captive's natural human instinct to evolve.