

EXPOSING WAR CRIMES IS NOT A CRIME

Veterans For Peace stands with Chelsea Manning. What Manning released through WikiLeaks was evidence of the routine killing of civilians by US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the routine cover-up of these war crimes.

The Army's persecution of Manning coincides with the Obama Administration's crackdown on whistle-blowers and journalists alike. Over twice as many people are being prosecuted under the 1917 Espionage Act than in all previous administrations combined.

"We are both proud of [her] actions, and angry at [her] sentence," said Patrick McCann, President of Veterans For Peace. "Reporting war crimes is not a war crime... Manning swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, and is now being penalized for doing just that."

References:

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3. "The inhumane conditions of Bradley Manning's detention" *Salon Media Group*. http://www.salon.com/2010/12/15/manning_3/
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VETERANS FOR PEACE



Free Private Manning

*Exposing War Crimes is
Not A Crime*



**Exposing the True Costs of War
and Militarism Since 1985**

WHO IS PRIVATE MANNING?

Chelsea Elizabeth Manning (born Bradley Edward Manning) is a United States Army soldier who was convicted in July 2013 of violations of the Espionage Act and other offenses, after exposing U.S. war crimes and human rights violations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Manning was sentenced in August 2013 to 35 years confinement with the possibility of parole in eight years, and to be dishonorably discharged from the Army. Manning is a trans-woman, who, in a statement the day after sentencing, said she had felt female since childhood, wanted to be known as Chelsea, and desired to begin hormone replacement therapy.

WHAT INFORMATION DID MANNING EXPOSE?

The information that Manning gave to the public exposed the unjust detainment of innocent people at Guantanamo Bay, showing the true human cost of our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no evidence that anyone died as a result of the leaked information. Through WikiLeaks Manning revealed:

- **The Collateral Murder** video, exposing the killing of unarmed Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalists by U.S. Apache helicopter crew
- **The Afghan War Diary**, revealing uninvestigated civilian casualties and contractor abuse
- **The Iraq War Logs**, revealing civilian casualties and uninvestigated reports of torture
- **The U.S. diplomatic cables**, exposing the role that corporate interests and spying play in international diplomacy

Manning explained her actions: “I believed if the public, particularly the American public, could see this it could spark a debate on the military and our foreign policy in general as it applied to Iraq and Afghanistan. It might cause society to reconsider the need to engage in counter terrorism while ignoring the human situation of the people we engaged with every day.”

UNLAWFUL PRE-TRIAL PUNISHMENT

Soldiers are promised fair treatment and a speedy trial under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). However, PVT Manning was arrested in April of 2010 and waited in pre-trial confinement for over three years before her trial finally began.

Manning was kept in solitary confinement for the first 8 months of her incarceration; she was denied exercise, social interaction and sunlight. On a number of occasions, she was forced to remain completely naked. These conditions were unique to Manning and are illegal under U.S. military law, as they amount to extreme pre-trial punishment.

“I believed if the public could see this it could spark a debate on the military and our foreign policy in general as it applied to Iraq and Afghanistan.”

-Sergeant Manning



MANNING TIMELINE

2010

April 5- WikiLeaks releases “Collateral Murder” video

May 29– Manning arrested, placed in pre-trial confinement at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait

July 29– Manning moved to prison in Quantico, VA, where she is held in maximum security solitary confinement for 23 hours a day during the eight months of her detainment at that location.

2011

January 19- Amnesty International denounces Manning’s treatment at Quantico, VA.

April 7- UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez denied ability to investigate Manning’s case.

December 16- US v. PFC Manning: Manning’s Article 32 hearing begins; 4/5ths of defense witnesses denied.

2012

August- Prosecution turns over evidence revealing that Manning’s torture at Quantico came from a higher command.

2013

January 8-11- Pretrial hearing with Judge Lind, ruling Manning was subjected to unlawful pretrial punishment for 112 days at the Quantico marine brig.

June 3 - Court Martial begins

August 21 - Manning sentenced to 35 years in prison.

August 22 - Pvt Manning announces she is ready to move on to the next stage of her life: “I want everyone to know the real me...I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female.”

For additional information about the ongoing legal defense, please visit the Chelsea Manning Support Network at www.chelseamanning.org