

## **OMNI Newsletter on Bradley Manning #1, December 6, 2011, Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace,**

See my 8 Blogs on WikiLeaks (Assange, Manning). My blog:

It's the War Department <http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/>

Newsletters <http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/>

[jbennet@uark.edu](mailto:jbennet@uark.edu)

Contents

Courage to Resist Fund

Deserves Medal of Freedom

Whistleblower and Revolutionary

UN Investigator

Misclassified to Justify Torture

Law Professors Protest

Donate to Courage to Resist

***[Help Support Bradley Manning ~ Donate to Courage to Resist! ~ A Mess](#)***

Posted by: "Frank Dorrel" [fdorrel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fdorrel@sbcglobal.net) [frankdorrel](http://frankdorrel.com)

Mon Dec 5, 2011 8:12 am (PST)

<<http://www.couragetoresist.org>>

Help us support Bradley Manning

Emma Cape <<http://couragetoresist.org/images/stories/Misc/emma-fund250.jpg>> From Emma Cape, Bradley Manning Support Network & Courage to Resist organizer. December 1, 2011

Donate to Courage to Resist. Help us support Bradley, and all GI resisters!

<<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=38590>>

### **Bradley Manning, American Hero**

Four Reasons Why Pfc. Bradley Manning Deserves the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Not a Prison Cell By Chase Madar

We still don't know if he did it or not, but if [Bradley Manning](#), the 24-year-old Army private from Oklahoma, actually supplied WikiLeaks with its choicest material -- the [Iraq War logs](#), the [Afghan War logs](#), and the [State Department cables](#) -- which startled and riveted the world, then he deserves the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) instead of a jail cell [at Fort Leavenworth](#).

President Obama recently [gave](#) one of those medals to retiring Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who managed the two bloody, disastrous wars about which the WikiLeaks-released documents revealed so much. Is he really more deserving than the young private who, after almost ten years of mayhem and catastrophe, gave Americans -- and the world -- a far fuller sense of what our government is actually doing abroad?

7/8/2011

[Read more>>>](#)

<http://americanempireproject.com/>

“Bradley Manning's Army of One” by Steve Fishman, *New York Magazine* (July 3, 2011)

Intro: "How a lonely, five-foot-two, gender-questioning soldier became a WikiLeaks hero, a traitor to the US, and one of the most unusual revolutionaries in American history."

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/97-97/6496->

[bradley-mannings-army-of-one](#)

UN Official Says US Is Breaking Rules in Torture Investigation

Eyder Peralta, NPR, July 14, 2011

Intro: "The United Nations chief torture investigator said the United States was violating UN rules, after the country denied him unmonitored access to Bradley Manning, the Army private charged with leaking among other things classified diplomatic cables to WikiLeaks."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/328-121/6607-un->

[official-says-us-is-breaking-rules-in-torture-investigation](#)

“Bradley Manning Was Mis-Classified to Allow Abuse”

Jane Hamsher, FireDogLake May 8, 1011

Excerpt: "Everyone who said that Manning was being stripped naked, held in solitary confinement and shackled in chains 'for his own good' was evidently lying. It should be obvious to everyone now that Manning's mental health status was being mis-classified as a way to abuse and punish him, in complete violation of both the Constitution and the Uniform Code of Military Justice."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/369-wikileaks/5847-bradley-manning-was-mis-classified-to-allow-abuse>

## “Private Manning’s Humiliation” April 28, 2011

by Law Professors Bruce Ackerman and Yochai Benkler

Bradley Manning is the soldier charged with leaking US government documents to Wikileaks. He is currently detained under degrading and inhumane conditions that are illegal and immoral.

For nine months, Manning has been confined to his cell for twenty-three hours a day. During his one remaining hour, he can walk in circles in another room, with no other prisoners present. He is not allowed to doze off or relax during the day, but must answer the question “Are you OK?” verbally and in the affirmative every five minutes. At night, he is awakened to be asked again “Are you OK?” every time he turns his back to the cell door or covers his head with a blanket so that the guards cannot see his face. During the past week he was forced to sleep naked and stand naked for inspection in front of his cell, and for the indefinite future must remove his clothes and wear a “smock” under claims of risk to himself that he disputes. The sum of the treatment that has been widely reported is a violation of the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment and the Fifth Amendment’s guarantee against punishment without trial. If continued, it may well amount to a violation of the criminal statute against torture, defined as, among other things, “the administration or application...of... procedures calculated to disrupt profoundly the senses or the personality.” Private Manning has been designated as an appropriate subject for both Maximum Security and Prevention of Injury (POI) detention. But he asserts that his administrative reports consistently describe him as a well-behaved prisoner who does not fit the requirements for Maximum Security detention. The brig psychiatrist began recommending his removal from Prevention of Injury months ago. These claims have not been publicly contested. In an Orwellian twist, the spokesman for the brig commander refused to explain the forced nudity “because to discuss the details would be a violation of Manning’s privacy.”

The administration has provided no evidence that Manning’s treatment reflects a concern for his own safety or that of other inmates. Unless and until it does so, there is only one reasonable inference: this pattern of degrading treatment aims either to deter future whistleblowers, or to force Manning to implicate Wikileaks founder Julian Assange in a conspiracy, or both.

If Manning is guilty of a crime, let him be tried, convicted, and punished according to law. But his treatment must be consistent with the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. There is no excuse for his degrading and inhumane pretrial punishment. As the State Department’s P.J. Crowley put it recently, they are “counterproductive and stupid.” And yet Crowley has now been forced to resign for speaking the plain truth.

The Wikileaks disclosures have touched every corner of the world. Now the whole world watches America and observes what it does, not what it says.

President Obama was once a professor of constitutional law, and entered the national stage as an eloquent moral leader. The question now, however, is whether his conduct as commander in chief meets fundamental standards of decency. He should not merely assert that Manning's confinement is "appropriate and meet[s] our basic standards," as he did recently. He should require the Pentagon publicly to document the grounds for its extraordinary actions—and immediately end those that cannot withstand the light of day.

Bruce Ackerman, Yale Law School,  
Yochai Benkler, Harvard Law School

END MANNING NEWSLETTER #1