



COURAGE TO RESIST

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Free Bradley Manning! Nov. 27 hearing critical, Feb. 4 trial set

Emma Cape, Courage to Resist.
November 7, 2012

On November 27th, Bradley Manning's defense will once again face off with the prosecution at Fort Meade. This hearing, scheduled for Nov. 27 to Dec. 2, will highlight the defense's arguments that all charges be dismissed due to "unlawful pretrial punishment."

It is now well-known that the accused WikiLeaks whistle-blower was held for nine months in solitary confinement, in conditions declared by United Nations Chief Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez to be "cruel, inhuman and degrading." Bradley's lead attorney David Coombs will present evidence that Quantico Marine Brig



psychiatrists opposed these measures, that brig commanders misled the public, and that the entire regime of torture was dictated by a Pentagon-level Lieutenant General.

abuse Bradley was subjected to. That would reduce any confinement sentence by seven years. This hearing could set military law precedent by either upholding the Uniform Code of Military Justice's "Article 13" protections against pretrial punishment—or by endorsing the military's "abuse the detainee for their own good" loop-hole.

If military judge Col. Denise Lind doesn't dismiss the charges, she could still grant up to 10 days credit for every day of illegal

Please join us at Fort Meade, Maryland, on Nov. 27 to rally for Bradley, and let the military know that we'll not forget what they did to him. If you're unable to travel to Ft. Meade, please join or organize a solidarity event in your community.

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Supporters march to Obama 2012 office in Oakland CA to join veteran led sit-in in support of Bradley Manning, 8/17/12. Photo: Jeff Paterson

The dire situation of objector Kimberly Rivera and her family

Mario Rivera interviewed by Bob Meola, Courage to Resist. October 27, 2012

Mario Rivera is the husband of Kimberly Rivera, the US Army war resister who was deported from Canada on

September 20th. He is also the father of their four children. Recently, he shared with us his family's very challenging situation as Kimberly awaits a likely military court martial. Here is their story, in his words (short edit).

Please consider a donation to the Courage to Resist hosted Rivera Family Support Fund.

Kimberly left Toronto and voluntarily crossed the border into New York and was handcuffed at the border when she told them who she was. She was turned over by border officials to Fort Drum personnel. Fort Drum

held her for one day and then they stuck her in the county jail for four days. Then Fort Carson came and got her. I heard from her when she was approaching the border and was going to turn herself in the next morning. Then I didn't hear from her for about 48 hours, until she was in county jail.

We [Mario and his four children] left Toronto on the 20th of September. We were picked up at our apartment by friends from the War Resisters Support Campaign, who then helped us pack what little stuff we could take with us in their van, and drove to the Peace Bridge by Fort Erie in New York, near Niagara Falls, about two hours from Toronto.

We tried to cross the border.

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The dire situation of the Rivera Family cont.

They asked us to park. They asked me where my passport was. I told them that I didn't have it because when I crossed into Canada, I didn't need it. I just used my driver's license. I showed them the deportation order paperwork. They had deported all of us—myself, Christian, and Rebecca. The kids and I were each issued an order. The youngest two kids were born in Canada.

We drove to Texas. The trip took about 26 hours. We stayed the first night at a little motel and then drove straight through for twenty hours.

We have four children. Christian is ten years old. Rebecca is eight. Katie is three. And Gabriel is one-and-a-half. We said good-bye to Kimberly on September 19th in Toronto and I was left with the kids. We didn't want them to be exposed to what was going to happen with her. Christian and Rebecca know what's going on. The younger ones think that Kimberly is just lost.

I explained to them that Mommy is away for a while and she will come back as soon as she can. Katie thinks she's lost and wants to go rescue her. She is anxious and nervous about it. She closes herself off from people as she's missing her mom real bad.

Gabriel too. He misses his mom real bad. He holds a picture of her and kisses it and tries to reach through the picture to grab her. He was breast fed until two months before the deportation. He was being weaned off.

Christian has ADHD. He was getting help for that back in Toronto. It's been hard to find help for him. We don't have insurance or money. He's full of energy. He has a hard time focusing. He was diagnosed with depression by the school psychologist in Toronto because

of the deportation order and his always being afraid of his mom going to jail.

He'd look upset in school and say, 'I'm scared the soldiers are going to come and take my mommy.'

We can't afford to see a doctor here. Insurance is too expensive.

Rebecca hides her feelings a little bit. She misses her mom a lot. Every time she talks with her mom on the phone, tears come out of her eyes and she looks physically sick. Her face gets flushed. She's crying but trying to hide it.

We are staying with my parents in Texas. It's pretty hard. My parents aren't a well off family. My dad struggles to find work every day. He does roofing. My mom is physically disabled. She is barely able to walk as it is.

She has diabetes, high blood pressure and dislocated discs in her back. She's trying to walk as best she can with a cane. She's not really able to. Sometimes she falls down. She doesn't want to accept that she shouldn't be standing and should be in her wheelchair. She's on pain medications. Whatever little money my parents do have is going to doctors and gas money to get to appointments.

There is one vehicle they have and it is shared between me and my dad and my two brothers. For me to get anywhere I need, with the kids, is impossible.

My two brothers, 23 and 18 years old, live in the house.

For me, it's hard to get around. I'm disabled too. I was on disability in Toronto for severe back and joint pain. It's pretty hard for me to walk around. I have nerve damage in my thigh. It feels like it's on fire—like a handful of lit matches on my thigh.

I've been on depression medications on and off for about four or five years. I will run out of my depression and my high blood pressure medication within the week. I'm going to go to the county medical facility. I'm not sure they will help me. My depression will flare up pretty bad sometimes due to my physical pain and being separated from my wife, the situation we are in food-wise, financial-wise, and transportation-wise.

We spend the food money as best we can. There are nine of us. We eat a lot of rice. My wife doesn't know how hard it is for us here. I try to keep it from her so she doesn't worry about us. The little money we had, we had to spend on the kids' uniforms for public school. The only thing they're not strict about is the shoes.

I'm 29. Kimberly is 30. If she was free, she would be able to help with the kids. But she can't. They need to get out and run and play like kids. I can't get around outside with them. She could take them out to play. I can't walk the two blocks it takes to take the kids to school. I can walk the first block and I have to sit down until the pain goes away.

We have not had much news yet on Kimberly's legal situation. Kimberly is not getting paid yet. Her lawyer has been in touch with her. But he says that the unit has not decided yet what they are going to do with her.



What you can do to help the Rivera Family

Please consider a donation to the **Rivera Family Support Fund** via **Courage to Resist** by check or online: courageto resist.org/rivera-family

Read the complete interview with Mario and write a letter to the military in support of Kimberly: courageto resist.org/kimberly-rivera



Courage to Resist staged a vigil at the SF Canadian Consulate 9/18/12 in a last-ditch effort to convince Canada to do the right thing and allow the Rivera Family to stay.

The journey of war resister Skyler James

Skyler James interviewed by Bob Meola, Courage to Resist. September 28, 2012

Skyler James joined the army in October, 2006. She experienced harassment and a death threat for being an open lesbian. After hearing soldiers brag about the inhuman and criminal things they did in Iraq, she went AWOL in 2007. Her experience seeking refuge in Canada from Afghanistan deployment can be read in our book, "About Face, Military Resisters Turn Against War." That story left off in August of 2008. This is an update in her words (short edit).

Upon deciding to return to the US from Canada this May, Courage to Resist helped me in many ways, like helping me find an attorney, assistance in finding mental health providers, financially helping me... as well as ongoing support and just altogether being excellent. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for everything!

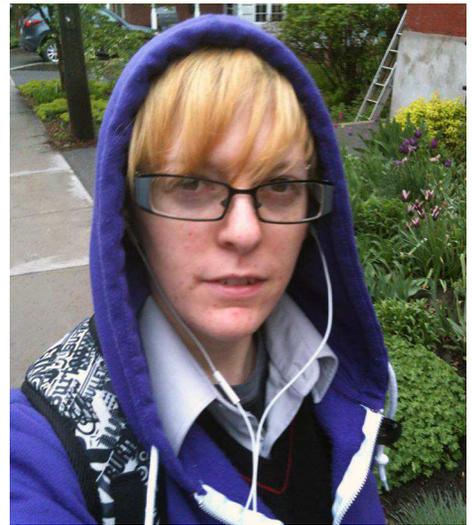
I was in Ottawa. I went to the Alexander Bay crossing into New York. I let them know that I was AWOL.

Two soldiers from my unit were there to get me [once she arrived in Nashville]. One was a soldier who had been there when I went AWOL. That was a surprise. I'd figured everyone who'd been there was gone. They drove me back to Fort Campbell [Kentucky].

I didn't have any sheets or pillow—just a mattress. I didn't know where I was. They didn't take care of me for about 48 hours. No one came to make sure I ate. For the first 24 hours, no one brought me food or water. I had a sink and a toilet. I didn't have a cup. No towels. No toilet paper. Nothing.

They took me to the in-processing, they gave me a meal card but I didn't have a way to get to the cafeteria. It was about an hour's walk or 45 minutes if you walk fast. Fort Campbell is huge. I hadn't eaten since a hot dog in the airport in Chicago two days earlier.

On the Memorial Day weekend, I was assaulted and woke up around 8 AM the next morning with scrapes and bruises all over my body. Most of the damage was on my face (right side eye). I went to the first aid station and saw medics, some of which were involved in the incident. They said that I fell and that I needed no further medical care. I wanted to speak to a real doctor, so I was then taken by my company XO to the hospital on base. I had MRIs and CTs. I had a concussion and a finger sprain that didn't heal right. I have memory issues and had vision problems for a couple months. There's not much I remember. I just remember hanging out



[with other soldiers], and then nothing until the next morning. The case was closed due to all involved collaborating a fall and no one seeing anything.

I was just going back and forth figuring out what they were going to charge me with—possible court martial and jail time. In the end, there was no court martial or jail time. After three and a half months of being back in the states [and living in legal limbo], my command finally put in the paper for the Chapter 10 discharge in lieu of court martial. About a week later, Adrian Haddad, my civilian attorney let me know that it was approved.

Free Bradley Manning cont.

On Dec. 3rd, David Coombs will give his first ever public presentation on the case (7pm at All Souls Church Unitarian, Washington, DC). Recently, he shared, "The attendance by supporters during these hearings has been nothing short of inspiring. Although my client is not permitted to engage those in attendance, he is aware of your presence and support."

Another upcoming motion also argues for dismissal of all charges based on Bradley's extraordinarily, and illegally, long pretrial confinement. The prosecution's repeated and unjustifiable delays point "unmistakably to the conclusion that PFC Manning's statutory and constitutional speedy trial rights have been trampled upon with impunity," explained Mr. Coombs.

"The processing of this case has been marred with prosecutorial incompetence and a profound lack of Government diligence. The combination

has led to an abject failure of the Government to honor PFC Manning's fundamental speedy trial rights... For these reasons, the Defense requests this Court to dismiss all charges and specifications with prejudice."

This motion will be argued before Judge Lind Dec. 10-14. By that time, Bradley will have surpassed 900 days in jail without trial. "To put this amount of time into perspective, the Empire State Building could have been constructed almost two-and-a-half times over in the amount of time it will have taken to bring PFC Manning to trial," added Mr. Coombs in the court motion.

Bradley's court martial remains on track to begin February 4, 2013, and is scheduled to go into March. Now is the time to stand with Bradley. Check bradleymanning.org for daily updates.

Photo upper-right: Iraq war veterans lead a sit-in at Obama 2012 campaign office in support of Bradley Manning, Oakland CA. 9/17/12



Bradley Manning's mailing address

Mail sent to the following address will be forwarded to Bradley:

**Commander, HHC USAG
Attn: PFC Bradley Manning
239 Sheridan Ave, Bldg 417
JBM-HH, VA 22211**

Bradley cannot receive stamps or money in any form. Photos must be on copy paper. Along with "contraband", "inflammatory material" is not allowed. Six pages max allowed.

Sgt. Micah Turner, AWOL objector hits the road

Micah Turner interviewed by Bob Meola, Courage to Resist. October 12, 2012

Army Sgt. Micah Turner went AWOL from the army last month.

The reason I joined the army was because I was 19 and I was a wild-land firefighter and I fell in love with the camaraderie, working to achieve a common goal. I wanted to serve my country in the best way I could after 9-11. I believed that we were attacked and I wanted to defend my home.

Rather than join the infantry, I decided to try to use my unique skill set. I ended up making propaganda in Psychological Operations. I have a predisposition to speech and visual art. I was interested in World War II propaganda. Bullets win battles. Words win wars.

For the most part, I was in an office trying to figure out ways to influence Afghan people. I have a combat badge for getting shot at while I was conducting a leaflet drop. I was throwing leaflets out the back of a C130 cargo plane. The only other combat experience I had was doing Product Analysis outside the FOB [Forward Operating Base] with Afghan locals. I was asking Afghans what they thought of the products I'd made—leaflets, posters, and handbills.

After four combat tours, I realized that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were not for the causes that had been stated.

Everyone who was blamed for 9-11 was dead or in jail and yet we were still subject to war. So, when returning from my post-deployment leave from my fourth tour, I went AWOL from the US Army and started speaking out at any venue I could, against the war. I left Fort Bragg, North Carolina on September 7th.

I worked with Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War. First, I went to New York and worked with IVAW and they gave me legal counsel and advised me about the consequences of my actions and speaking out against the government and the war. Then I went to Washington, DC and worked with Veterans for Peace and began speaking publicly about my experiences.

My first time, publicly speaking, was with Medea Benjamin from Code Pink at the Green Festival in DC. I spoke about my experience in the war and how it was wrong for us to be using our resources on the war when they could be used for so many better things. From there, I spoke openly for the first time about my AWOL status at Freedom Plaza on October 6th.

On the 11th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, I spoke at the Vietnam



AWOL Sgt. Micah Turner shows his military ID card

Memorial in New York City with the Veterans for Peace.

I am currently working on my Conscientious Objector paperwork and speaking out everywhere that will have me. I'm traveling with Occupy the Roads. They travel in an RV to all the different Occupies around the country.

Legacy giving

As you are making out your will, please consider a bequest to the "Alliance for Global Justice project Courage to Resist", 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610. For more information about bequest language in your estate plans, please give us a call at 510-488-3559.

In memory of Joshua Casteel (1980-2012)

By Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist. August 31, 2012

An Arabic translator, Joshua Casteel deployed to Iraq with the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion in 2004. He served as a prisoner interrogator at the now-infamous Abu Ghraib prison from June 2004 to January 2005.

During his deployment, Joshua told his command about his intention to apply for a conscientious objector discharge. His command at Abu Ghraib assigned him to the "non-combat" role of working at the massive and toxic burn pit. Into this burn pit went plastic, rubber, body parts and other medical waste, and all manner of other garbage. It burned 24/7.



Joshua Casteel (left), speaks out for fellow objector Ricky Clousing (right) during the Veterans for Peace 2006 National Convention in Seattle, Washington, 8/11/06. They had been friends since Army interrogator school. Photo: Jeff Paterson

After his return stateside, Joshua was eventually honorably discharged as a conscientious objector in May 2005.

Joshua was diagnosed less than a

year ago with stage IV lung cancer. This cancer was already present in his liver, spine and adrenals. He died in New York City a few days ago on August 25, 2012. He was 32 years old.

Joshua believed that the cancer was a direct result of his burn pit duty, yet he explained, "I have a certain sense of relief that I get to share in the sufferings of the Iraqis. We were conducting those burn pits in agricultural fields.... Americans are gaining awareness of the impacts of burn pits on soldiers, but not the impact they will have on Iraqi civilians."

Joshua's story is featured in the documentary film *Soldiers of Conscience*. He later testified at the Truth Commission on Conscience and War in NYC. His evangelical Christian upbringing informed many of his actions and outlook. Joshua's courage to resist was unsurpassed.