



COURAGE TO RESIST

Supporting the troops who refuse to fight!

www.couragetoresist.org
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Thank you for your support this past year! What next?

By Jeff Paterson, Courage to Resist
Project Director. December 4, 2014

Thank you for supporting Courage to Resist and Chelsea Manning this year!

Insanely, our government is on course to increase military intervention in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria, in the coming year—despite a clear and vast majority opposed to endless war in the Middle East. That means that US military service members continue to need our help.

What next?

By the time you receive this, **Iraq War resister Sara Beining** will likely have been sentenced for refusing to return to Iraq. Instead, Sara went AWOL years ago and became a well-known anti-war organizer. With your help, Courage to Resist has provided her a civilian defense attorney so that she may have the best possible outcome at her

Veterans travelled to Ferguson to stand with the people and protest the militarization of America's local police departments.

sentencing at Fort Carson, Colorado, on December 9. She faces five years in prison for her courage to resist.

Last month, **US war resister in Germany André Shepherd** received a favorable opinion from the European Union's top court. André was a US soldier before he sought political asylum in Germany. The European Court of Justice Advocate General found that those endangered by prosecution or punishment



for refusal to perform military service involving an illegal war or committal of war crimes, should be protected by the European Union. This is a best-case situation for André heading into his asylum hearing. André, upon reading the findings, declared, "The final opinion gives me new reason for optimism."

Meanwhile, **dozens of US war resisters continue to live openly across Canada**, despite the efforts of the conservative ruling government. A number of them are expected to face deportation proceedings next year.

We are also working with a number of other **conscientious objectors and war resisters** daily; however, we can't yet tell you their stories. For many, their choice to resist is a personal decision, and for some, speaking out publicly doesn't help their situation or objectives.

Chelsea Manning

Chelsea Manning's first appeals hearing is coming up next year, and the bulk of the work to prepare for those arguments before the US Army Criminal Court of Appeals is happening now. That work costs money, yet those of us tasked with supporting the legal team are very challenged to meet their needs and pay the bills in the wake of the initial trial.

"This appeal is far from a mere formality," noted Chelsea's lead attorney Nancy Hollander recently. "What the military has done to Chelsea is wrong and it is unconstitutional. Her conviction, as it stands, is nothing short of dangerous to a free society. We hope that you will support our fight to overturn this conviction through appeals, and thus prevent a deeply undemocratic and flawed precedent being set for our country's future."

I'm asking that you consider donating again, this time as part of your end-of-year gift giving, so that together we can meet the challenges ahead.

In memoriam

Tomas Young (1979-2014)

Tomas Young enlisted in the Army following the September 11 attacks, volunteering to go to Afghanistan. He was sent to Iraq in 2004, and was left paralyzed by a bullet on the fifth day of his deployment. In 2008, he explained that "many of us volunteered with patriotic feelings in our heart, only to see them subverted and bastardized by the administration and sent into the wrong country." Tomas was the subject of the great documentary *Body of War*.

Jacob George (1982-2014)

"I'm a bicycle ridin, banjo pickin, peace ramblin hillbilly from the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas!" Jacob George was also a veteran of three combat tours in Afghanistan—Operation Enduring Freedom. To overcome those demons, Jacob cycled thousands of miles. "A Ride Till the End," he called it, to promote peace and justice. He rallied fellow veterans to take political action. And he stood strong for military resisters—especially those who were prosecuted for refusing to do the things he himself had participated in. Jacob took his own life in September.

Ethan Kreutzer (1985-2014)

A member of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) Bay Area, Ethan Kreutzer was a regular volunteer at the Courage to Resist office in Oakland, California, whenever he was in town. Ethan served in the Army from 2002 to 2004, and was a veteran of the war in Afghanistan. He left a lasting impression on everyone he came into contact with and couldn't stay in one place for too long due to his wandering soul. Ethan took his own life in October, hammering home the devastating veteran suicide epidemic—12 to 22 every day.



CHELSEA MANNING SUPPORT NETWORK

Heroic WikiLeaks whistle-blower former US Army intel analyst PFC Chelsea Manning

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“You are rarely given the chance to make a difference”

By the Chelsea Manning Support Network. November 18, 2014

An interview with Chelsea Manning is the cover story of Amnesty International's Nov/Dec 2014 *WIRE* magazine. Here are some highlights:

Why did you decide to leak documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

These documents were important because they relate to two connected counter-insurgency conflicts in real-time from the ground. Humanity has never had a record this complete and detailed of what modern warfare actually looks like. Once you realize that the co-ordinates represent a real place where people live; that the dates happened in

our recent history; that the numbers are actually human lives—with all the love, hope, dreams, hatred, fear and nightmares that come with them—then it's difficult to ever forget how important these documents are.

What was it like to feel the full force of the US justice system and be presented as a traitor?

It was particularly interesting to see the logistics involved in the prosecution: the stacks of money spent. . . . It felt especially silly being presented as a traitor by the officers who prosecuted my case. I saw them out of court at least 100 days before and during the trial and developed a very good sense of who they were as people. I'm fairly certain that they got a good sense of who I am as a person too. I remain convinced that even the advocates that presented the treason arguments did not believe their own words as they spoke them.

What would you say to somebody who is afraid to speak out against injustice?

First, I would point out that life is precious. In Iraq in 2009-10, life felt cheap. It became overwhelming to see the sheer number of people suffering and dying, and the learned indifference to it by everybody around me, including the Iraqis themselves. That really changed my perspective on my life, and made me realize that speaking out about injustices is worth the risk. Second, in your life, you are rarely given the chance to make a difference. Every now and then you do come across a significant choice. Do you really want to find yourself asking whether you could have done more, 10-20 years later? These are the kind of questions I didn't want to haunt me.

Chelsea E. Manning

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First, I would like to thank you very much for your **extraordinary** contribution throughout my court-martial last year. Without your commitment, the truth might not have been nearly as visible to the public and many of the big issues that are touched on in my case would have gone unnoticed.

But now, in preparing for my appeal, I have worked with the **Chelsea Manning Support Network** to hire two great appellate attorneys, **Nancy Hollander** and **Vincent Ward** of the law firm Freedman Boyd Hollander Goldberg Urias and Ward.

Both Ms. Hollander and Mr. Ward have achieved some remarkable successes in complicated and high profile civil and criminal cases in the past, and have fought to protect our Constitution, civil liberties and social justice through their work at Guantánamo Bay, the Gulf Coast oil spill, and so many more cases. They have already begun the painstaking task of poring through the tens of thousands of pages produced at trial, and researching every possible angle of the case.

Fortunately, they have already identified some major issues that provide a realistic chance of overturning convictions based on the "Espionage Act" and "Computer Fraud and Abuse Act" that could significantly reduce the sentence. However, I still need your contributions again to continue to fund their efforts at this critical stage in the case.

My case touches on so many import issues that affect most—if not all—Americans.

I hope that you can continue contributing to my fight for Justice. The actions that lead up to my trial were motivated by my conscience and concern for the public interest. But, there are still many things that I hope I can accomplish after my release from confinement—including advocacy for transparency in government, military, and civil life, and lobbying to ensure that reforms are made, and enforced.

I encourage you to write to me, and I am looking forward to reading your thoughts, opinions, and unique feedback. I hope that we can continue to fight together to curb the government's overreach and change the course of history, for the better!


CHELSEA E. MANNING

Courage to Resist is a project of the Alliance for Global Justice (AfGJ), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, so your donations are tax deductible. The Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning Defense Fund continues to be responsible for 100% of Chelsea's legal expenses—in addition to grassroots public education efforts. Courage to Resist hosts the Defense Fund in collaboration with the Chelsea Manning Support Network. Please indicate if you want your donation to be earmarked exclusively for Chelsea Manning. Otherwise, funds may be used to support other US military war objectors as well.