

Take Action Now!

- **Write to Bradley Manning**

Better still, organise in your networks to send cards and letters collectively. Prisoner solidarity and support are crucial. Let Bradley know he isn't forgotten. Letters can be sent to Bradley Manning, c/o Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Avenue #41, Oakland, CA 94610, USA. Alternatively, you can now write directly to Bradley Manning 89289, 830 Sabalu Road, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027, USA.

- **Organise an event, leaflet in your area, hold a vigil...**

Action for Bradley Manning in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England has included vigils, stalls, rallies, benefit gigs, leafleting, public meetings, an election tour, comedy night, performances, film screenings and an 'emergency rescue' tour round the country with a fire engine. Public meetings have been held for Julian Assange, along with leafleting, vigils at the Australian High Commission, demonstrations and protests at court appearances. Feel free to copy this flyer to hand out or design your own! For ideas and inspiration, read about actions and events for Manning and Assange at: wiseupforbradleymanning.wordpress.com.

- **Make and hang a banner**

A large banner hung somewhere prominent (over a road, in a busy town centre for instance) can be visually effective and reach a lot of people. Large banners were displayed at Assange's extradition appeal hearing, appearing in mainstream media photos and referenced in media reports. Queer Friends of Bradley Manning made a large banner which was carried on the Pride London parade.

- **Contact the US Embassy**

24 Grosvenor Square London, W1A 1AE. Tel: 020 7499 9000. You could say that both Assange and Manning should be hailed as heroes, not treated like criminals. Call for the US to drop all legal action and investigations against both.

- **Write letters to the press**

Write to the editors of local and national newspapers and journals. Letters send a message to editors about public opinion which may influence future coverage.

- **Publicise the issues wherever you can**

Use whatever means at your disposal to let people know about Bradley Manning and Julian Assange. Get the message out there!

- **Donate to Manning's and Assange's Defence Funds**

Bradley Manning: This is administered in the US. For details of how to donate, go to www.couragetoresist.org/donate/bradley-manning.html.

Julian Assange: Sort code: 20-77-67, account number: 93842452. Mark payments: "FSI - Julian Assange Defence Fund".

If you'd like help publicising an event, let us know. Don't forget to send us your reports and photos afterwards. Email: wiseupforbm@yahoo.com

wiseupforbradleymanning.wordpress.com bradleymanning.org

SUPPORT WHISTLE-BLOWERS

Don't shoot the messengers!

URGENT: Bradley Manning & Julian Assange are both in peril and need our support now.

If we want to see a world where truth and transparency flourish and where lies and cover-up will not be tolerated, we need to actively support people brave enough to speak out. It is also crucial that we are alert to attempts to smear and discredit whistle-blowers, drawing on the history of such situations to help us form our views rather than uncritically accepting the line taken in reports by the mainstream media.



◀ Free Bradley Manning

The young soldier and accused WikiLeaks whistleblower is facing a life sentence or the Death Penalty if found guilty of revealing the truth about the US Empire, its wars and other nefarious activities. His pre-trial hearing is likely to be held some time this summer. Manning has been held by the US for over a year already, for much of that time in conditions that amount to torture. We need to continue to call loudly for all charges against him to be dropped and for his immediate release.

Exposing war crimes is not a crime!

Free Julian Assange ▶

The founder of WikiLeaks faces extradition to Sweden to a trial behind closed doors in a country where he has been portrayed as public enemy No.1, as well as possible extradition to the US where many public figures have made death threats against him. Assange could face life imprisonment as punishment for enabling people to speak truth to power through WikiLeaks. His life and liberty are in peril and he needs your support now.



Some Whistle-blowers' Stories

Whistle-blowers are rarely thanked for making public-spirited disclosures, whatever the government rhetoric and in spite of laws designed to protect them. Instead, they find themselves variously ignored, disbelieved, ridiculed, bullied, victimised, smeared, accused, investigated, framed, sacked and even imprisoned. Such treatment is designed to act as a deterrent to others who might be thinking of blowing the whistle on wrongdoing or injustice.

Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers

In 1969, Daniel Ellsberg made copies of the 'Pentagon Papers', which showed that the US government had lied to the American people about the ongoing war in Vietnam. When the documents were eventually published after various attempts to suppress them, Ellsberg was charged with espionage and faced decades in jail if found guilty, the case only collapsing when it became clear that the government had collected evidence against him illegally.

Mordechai Vanunu and Israel's secret nuclear weapons

In 1986, an Israeli scientist called Mordechai Vanunu blew the whistle on Israel's secret nuclear weapons programme. Vanunu was captured, taken back to Israel and tried for treason and espionage in a secret court hearing. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison, over 11 of which he spent in solitary confinement. Vanunu is still subject to punitive restrictions on his freedom: he has been denied permission to leave Israel, is not allowed to communicate with anyone except Israelis, and is not allowed to use the phone or internet.

Katharine Gun and US skullduggery before the Iraq war

A translator at GCHQ (British intelligence agency), Katharine Gun leaked top secret information about an illegal plan by the US to bug UN offices in six countries in the lead-up to the 2003 invasion and occupation of Iraq. She lost her job and was charged under the Official Secrets Act, although the case collapsed on the first day of her trial when the prosecution offered no evidence against her, possibly to avoid the risk of having to reveal government documents about the legality or otherwise of the Iraq war.

Margaret Haywood and whistle-blowing on abuse and neglect

Nurse Margaret Haywood was shocked by the appalling treatment of the elderly at a Brighton hospital where she worked. Her complaints to management ignored, she helped the BBC secretly film in the hospital in 2005. Despite support for her actions from the families of patients, the public and the RCN, she not only lost her job but was also struck off the nursing register, a decision which was eventually overturned following a High Court appeal. Director of Patient Concern, Joyce Robbins, commented: "*damage has been done. Anyone tempted to blow the whistle on unacceptable practices in the NHS will think twice before risking their career.*" This warning proved well-founded. At the mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation where hundreds of patients died because of appalling failings in the service, it transpired that just one nurse had reported her concerns to senior management, but failed to take the matter further when nothing was done to improve the situation. In the recent case of abuse at a Bristol 'care' home, the whistle-blower who reported his concerns to the parent company and later to the Care Quality Commission was also ignored. The abuse was so serious that when the BBC Panorama programme was aired in May 2011, four workers were immediately arrested. If the abuse hadn't been made public, nothing would have been done about it.

Ben Griffin and crimes committed in Iraq

Former SAS soldier Ben Griffin refused to return to Iraq and left the army in 2005, citing the illegality of the war and describing crimes committed by US forces against the Iraqi people, such as arresting farmers and sending them to the notorious Abu Ghraib prison or handing civilians over to the Iraqi authorities in the knowledge that they would be tortured. Griffin expected to be court-martialled for speaking out, but instead received a glowing testimonial from his commanding officer. However, in 2008, Griffin revealed that British involvement in 'extraordinary rendition' went way beyond allowing planes to land at UK airports, pointing out that many victims were non-combatants arrested by British SAS troops, who handed them over to the US and certain torture. Following this revelation Ben Griffin was gagged by a High Court injunction and faces prison if he makes any further disclosures.

People in Peril: Urgent Support Needed!

For Bradley Manning - accused WikiLeaks whistle-blower

Bradley Manning is a young US soldier with Welsh and Irish connections. His grandfather was from Dublin, his father is American, and his mother and maternal family are Welsh and still live in Wales, where Manning also lived as a teenager. While working as a military intelligence analyst stationed in Iraq, Manning is accused of downloading hundreds of thousands of secret US military and diplomatic files and passing them on to WikiLeaks. These include the Collateral Murder video footage (see collateralmurder.com) of two Reuters journalists and other unarmed civilians being gunned down by a US Apache helicopter in Iraq in 2006, the truth of which had been covered up by the US military, as well as the Iraq War Logs, Afghan Diary and diplomatic cables to and from US embassies around the world. In spite of President Obama's statements that whistle-blowers should be protected, Bradley Manning was held under conditions of torture for the best part of a year and now faces charges, including one of 'Aiding the Enemy', which can result in the death penalty or life imprisonment. Recent smears against Bradley Manning include a video and report by the Guardian newspaper about his mental health. We need to campaign for all charges against him to be dropped and for his immediate release. **Exposing war crimes is not a crime!**

For Julian Assange - WikiLeaks founder and publisher

Julian Assange, as founder of WikiLeaks, put the infrastructure in place to allow people to anonymously leak information into the public domain in the public interest. He is a friend to all who believe in truth, transparency and accountability as opposed to lies, cover-up and 'moving on' from one atrocity to the next. As a result, he is also an enemy of the State, and particularly the US State, which has been most exposed by WikiLeaks disclosures. Assange is subject to restrictive bail conditions in the UK pending his appeal against extradition to Sweden on allegations of sexual offences. The way these allegations have been pursued has led many to conclude that the aim is not to seek justice for the women involved but to secure Assange's extradition to Sweden and thence to the US. If extradited, Assange will be held in solitary confinement and his trial will take place in secret. In the US, a secret Grand Jury has been convened with a view to finding sufficient evidence against Assange to call for his extradition there on charges relating to WikiLeaks disclosures. Many death threats have been made against Assange by public figures in the US. It is too late now for the US to stop the leaks, but one way or another the US Empire appears to be hell bent on revenge against Assange, who this year has won both the Sydney Peace Medal and Martha Gellhorn Journalism prize. Assange needs our support. **Reporting war crimes is not a crime!**