

“A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people”

John F Kennedy

## DEMAND TRANSPARENCY

On April 4, 2010, whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks published a classified video of a United States Apache helicopter firing on civilians, journalists, and children, in New Baghdad in 2007. A total of 11 adults were killed, including two journalist from Reuters. Two children were seriously injured when the Apache helicopter opened fire on their van.

**The video can be seen at [www.collateralmurder.com](http://www.collateralmurder.com)**

Before the release of the video, Reuters called for an investigation into the attack. In response, a spokesperson for the multinational forces in Baghdad stated: “There is no question that coalition forces were clearly engaged in combat operations against a hostile force.” This video clearly blows the whistle on officials misstating facts for their own benefit. **The American people and our Troops deserve transparency from our government.**

Three months later, on July 25, WikiLeaks released a collection of U.S. military logs kept on the War in Afghanistan. The Afghan War Diary consists of over 90,000 documents, dating from January 2004 to December 2009. The whistle blower revealed information on the deaths of civilians, increased Taliban attacks, and involvement by Pakistan and Iran in the insurgency that has been **consistently concealed by the government.**

*The Guardian* called the material "a devastating portrait of the failing war in Afghanistan, revealing how coalition forces have *killed hundreds of civilians in unreported incidents*, Taliban attacks have soared and NATO commanders fear neighboring Pakistan and Iran are fuelling the insurgency." Upon publication, the *New York Times* wrote that “deciding whether to publish secret information is always difficult...but **there are times when the information is of significant public interest, and this is one of those times.**”

A *Los Angeles Times* July 26<sup>th</sup> editorial stated “the question is whether the United States and its allies are best served by secrecy or debate. And the answer is obvious: **No democracy can or should fight a war without the consent of its people, and that consent is only meaningful if it is predicated on real information.**”

**The Logs can be viewed at [www.guardian.co.uk/world/series/afghanistan-the-war-logs](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/series/afghanistan-the-war-logs)**

## DEMAND TRANSPARENCY • SUPPORT BRADLEY MANNING

The Bradley Manning Support Network - [www.bradleymanning.org](http://www.bradleymanning.org) - [press@bradleymanning.org](mailto:press@bradleymanning.org)



## International Response

Two soldiers from the unit depicted in the leaked *Collateral Murder* video released an *Open Letter to the Iraqi People* through the Civilian-Soldier Alliance. In the letter, Ethan McCord, the soldier who pulled the children to safety after the Apache attacked, and Josh Stieber, apologized to the widowed mother of the children and the Iraqi people stating “We acknowledge our part in the deaths and injuries of your loved ones as we tell Americans what we were trained to do and carried out in the name of 'god and country.’”

Ahlam Abdelhusein Tuman, widow of Saleh Mutashar Tuman, who was killed in the video, and the mother of the children saved by Ethan, accepted the apology stating, “What the [two] soldiers are doing is very good work, and we hope they continue their good work because I would like the American people and the whole world to understand what happened here in Iraq. We lost our country and our lives were destroyed.” **Ethan and Josh have continued to speak out against the war.**

Two days after the WikiLeaks disclosure of the Afghan War Diary, the British government launched two inquiries into Britain’s role in the Afghanistan War examining civilian casualties, a timetable for withdrawal, and whether they could justify remaining involved in the 9-year old war. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Dutch announced an immediate withdrawal of their NATO troops. In the states, Sen. John Kerry stated that **the leaked documents “raise serious questions about the reality of America's policy toward Pakistan and Afghanistan.”**

## Bradley Manning

In late May 2010, Private First Class Bradley Manning, an intelligence analyst with the US Army in Baghdad, was arrested. **For his alleged whistle blowing efforts, he is charged with two counts of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including eight criminal offenses and four noncriminal violations of Army regulations.** The full charge sheet is available at [www.bradleymanning.org/3163/charge-sheet-html/](http://www.bradleymanning.org/3163/charge-sheet-html/)

His arrest was precipitated by an alleged online chat confession to well-known hacker, Adrian Lamo.

**If convicted, Manning faces up to 52 years in prison, dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and benefits and unspecified fines.** Since his arrest, Bradley Manning has issued no formal public statements.

Daniel Ellsberg, the famed whistleblower behind the Pentagon Papers, has heralded Pfc. Bradley Manning as a hero.

### **ACT NOW**

Across the country people are mobilizing to defend Bradley Manning. Want to know how you can help Bradley?

- Get involved with the Bradley Manning Support Network and Courage to Resist (contact below)
- Be a part of the media campaign and educate others
  - join our media group writing or distributing literature
  - show your support for Bradley on your Facebook page
  - spread the Collateral Murder video and Afghan War Diary on your blog or Facebook page
  - write the editor of your local paper
- Make a donation to the defense fund at [www.bradleymanning.org](http://www.bradleymanning.org) to ensure Bradley Manning has the resources necessary to mount a vigorous defense
- Sign the petition to free Bradley Manning – available at [www.bradleymanning.org](http://www.bradleymanning.org)
- Attend the UXO Show on the National Mall in DC September 10<sup>th</sup> in support of Bradley and GI resistance
- Soldiers and Veterans:** Join Iraq Veterans Against the War and the Institute for Public Accuracy in humanizing the Afghan War Diary with your experiences

### **CONTACT US TO GET INVOLVED**

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