

Our \$45,000 challenge to pay for Chelsea Manning's legal appeal

August 1, 2015

Please support whistleblower Chelsea Manning by helping her pay for her upcoming legal appeal. Chelsea is currently in the process of challenging her unjust Espionage Act conviction and 35-year jail sentence at the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals. **Chelsea is \$45,000 short of what she needs to see this critical appeal through the first major aspect of this process.**

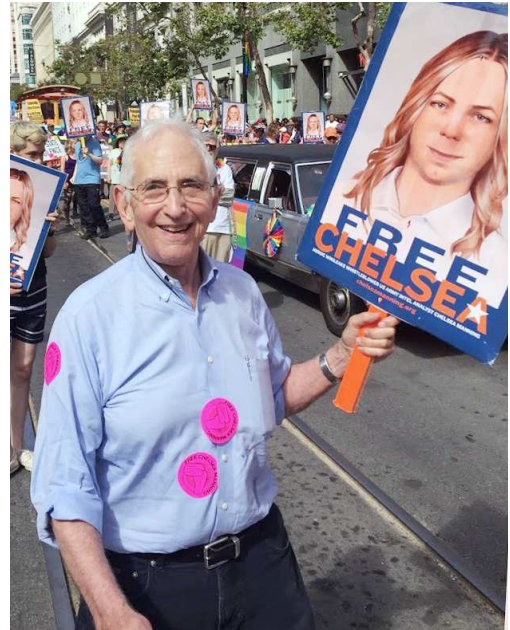
Five years after her disclosures of State Department cables and war logs to WikiLeaks, Chelsea's whistleblowing continues to have a profound impact on how journalists, historians, and the public's understanding of US foreign policy. As reporter Glenn Greenwald wrote recently at *the Intercept*:

Knowingly risking her own liberty, she gave those documents (none of which were Top Secret) to WikiLeaks for publication in order, as she put it at the time, to trigger "worldwide discussion, debates, and reforms." To this day, those materials she made public—which revealed massive wrongdoing, deceit and criminality—are centrally featured in journalism about critical stories in the public interest all over the world... These disclosures played a role in sparking the Arab Spring by exposing corruption of that region's tyrants as well as thwarting U.S. efforts to stay longer in Iraq by documenting brutal war crimes committed there by American forces.

She could have enriched herself by selling those documents to a foreign intelligence agency or media outlet for enormous sums, but did none of that. That's because she had only one motive: to inform citizens around the world of what their governments are doing in the dark.

After being subject to brutal treatment, before her trial, that was widely condemned by experts as torture, Chelsea was handed a draconian 35-year sentence under unjust law never meant for whistleblowers. Despite the fact that the US government could not point to any concrete harm posed by Chelsea's whistleblowing, she was not allowed to make a public interest or whistleblowing defense in court.

It is incredibly unjust and inherently unfair for the Espionage Act to be applied to whistleblowers, as it allows for no chance to argue a public interest defense before a judge or jury hands down a conviction.



Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg marching to support Chelsea Manning in the SF Pride Parade, 6/28/2015

Chelsea had this to say about our effort:

Being in prison, while trying to figure out how I will pay for my legal appeal, has been a great source of stress and anxiety. I'm so honored that a new campaign is supporting me in my effort to vindicate my legal rights, and I am truly grateful to anyone who is helping.

We hope this is more than just a chance to donate to Chelsea as her legal team continues their quest to overturn the horrible military precedent for future whistleblowers. It's also an opportunity to show your support for Chelsea in a meaningful and public way, and to make a statement about how important brave whistleblowers, like Chelsea, are in a just and transparent democracy.

Whether you donate \$20, \$50, \$100, or \$1000, you are sending a strong signal that prosecuting whistleblowers under a pernicious law like the Espionage Act is a danger to press freedom, harms the public interest, and is unacceptable in a democracy.

You can contribute so that 100% of every dollar you give goes directly to Chelsea Manning's legal defense. These funds will be deposited directly into Chelsea's legal trust account.

The task Chelsea's chosen civilian attorney Nancy Hollander and her team have in front of them is enormous. Before filing their brief and arguing the case, they must read the entire record of the case, which is 139 volumes of over 300 pages each. It is the largest trial record in the history of US military law.

Chelsea's appeal goes first to the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals. This court can order a new trial or sentencing, reduce her sentence by any amount, and/or reverse her convictions.

With your help today, we're going to finish paying for this appeal now. Given how much Chelsea has done for us and the public good, helping her support her case is the least we could do.



On behalf of Courage to Resist and the Chelsea Manning Support Network

FREEDOM =OF THE PRESS= FOUNDATION



Until very recently, we were \$80,000 behind in paying Chelsea's legal bills, and expecting an additional \$120,000 in invoices to get through this appeal process. Thanks to the Freedom of the Press Foundation, First Look Media (publisher of *the Intercept*), and journalist Glenn Greenwald (photo above), slightly over \$155,000 of that \$200,000 was raised in a single week! This was truly a lifeline to Chelsea's legal team, allowing them to continue working without interruption.

To contribute 100% to Chelsea's legal fees, please make your check payable to "IOLTA/Manning"—these are not tax-deductible—and mail to:

Courage to Resist
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