



# COURAGE TO RESIST

*Supporting the troops who refuse to fight!*

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## Resister, whistleblower Reality Leigh Winner

By Jeff Paterson. September 14, 2017

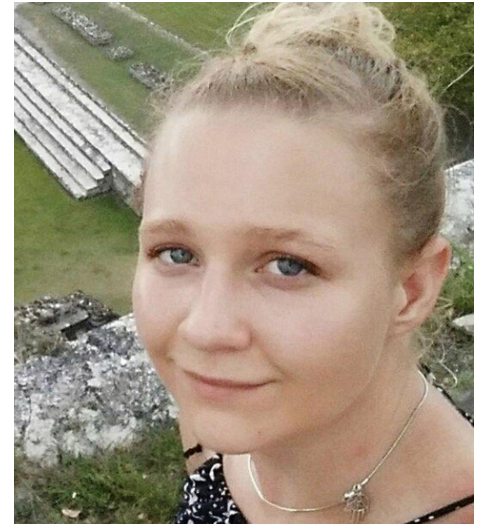
We're proud to stand with Reality Leigh Winner, a 25-year-old Air Force veteran facing ten years in prison for releasing a classified NSA document allegedly revealing Russian interference in US election systems to the media. She's currently scheduled to stand trial in March 2018 in Augusta, Georgia. Like the successful Chelsea Manning campaign, Courage to Resist is hosting the Stand with Reality Winner Defense Fund on behalf of Reality's friends and family.

A recent Air Force veteran, Reality's a passionate and outspoken young woman with strongly-held opinions about environmental justice,

animal rights and racism. Like Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden, she's a courageous whistleblower who (allegedly) gave a media outlet classified information that was clearly of public interest.

The document she's charged with sharing lies on a weird political fault line in America today—it revealed massive security vulnerabilities in US election systems that were attacked, and possibly exploited, by the Russian government leading up to the 2016 election. And it did so at a time when the President of the US claimed he had no idea what might have happened. Not

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# CHELSEA MANNING IS FREE!

Courage to Resist is proud to have successfully served as fiscal and campaign staff manager for the Chelsea Manning Defense Fund and Support Network. Those funds provided Chelsea's legal teams the resources to wage this battle, while the campaign staff and grassroots activists around the world made this victory possible. **Thank you!**

## Marine recruit needed skin grafts for chemical burns from boot camp hazing

In a recent Washington Post article (May 3, 2017 edition), journalist Dan Lamothe exposes the horrifying hazing of young recruits. Most Marines are unlikely to experience torture of the magnitude detailed in the article, yet it is a glimpse into the dehumanizing indoctrination of boot camp.

"A Marine Corps recruit who was hazed by his drill instructor suffered second- and third-degree chemical burns on his buttocks so severe that he needed skin grafts, according to documents newly released by the service.

The recruit's skin was "liquefied" at the service's storied boot camp at Parris Island, SC, the documents said. The injuries occurred after he was ordered to perform unauthorized exercises under an upside-down laundry bin on a floor covered in bleach and required to stay in his wet pants for hours. The recruit reluctantly told another drill instructor about his burns that night, but stayed in training for a few more days. His condition deteriorated after he was told that he would not be able to graduate

with his peers if he sought medical attention."

In a separate incident uncovered by Lamothe's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request:

"The case was detailed among thousands of pages of documents released to The Washington Post through the Freedom of Information Act by the Marine Corps and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Combined, they show that a hazing

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*Pvt. Raheel Siddiqui died at Parris Island on March 18, 2016.*

# How to avoid the draft, by Donald Trump & friends

By Jeff Paterson, *Courage to Resist*

Donald Trump's first overseas trip in May featured many surreal moments, but the oddest visual was Toby Keith, the American country music singer, performing for an all-male audience in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Keith is famous for his pro-intervention views. After the September 11th attacks he released the song "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)," to celebrate the war on Afghanistan.

Yet despite his strong opinions on the subject, Keith had no problem playing in Saudi Arabia, the country most responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center, to bolster Trump's reputation. This means he has no issues with an autocratic regime that's popularized its own brand of ISIS-like terror. In 2015, Saudi Arabia executed 158 people, beheading almost all of them. Almost half of Saudi Arabia's executions are for drug-related offenses, but it readily dishes out severe punishment for political dissent also.

The man has grown rich playing mind-numbing tunes that encourage young people to go kill and die for Washington elites, but he has no military service of his own to brag about. On "American Soldier" he presumably imagines himself ducking gunfire in Iraq.

Keith's contradictions mirror those of another Trump-loving musician: the rabidly right-wing Ted Nugent. Nugent has proudly claimed that he avoided Vietnam by

taking drugs, defecating in his pants, and acting crazy during his physical examination. In 1977, he explained to *High Times* magazine how he prepared for his induction physical:

"I got my physical notice 30 days prior to. Well, on that day I ceased cleansing my body. No more brushing my teeth, no more washing my hair, no baths, no soap, no water. Thirty days of debris built. I stopped shavin' and I was

18, had a little scraggly beard, really looked like a hippie. I had long hair, and it started gettin' kinky, matted up. Then two weeks before, I stopped eating any food with nutritional value. I just had chips, Pepsi, beer—stuff I never touched—buttered poop, little jars of Polish sausages, and I'd drink the syrup. I was this side of death. Then a week before, I stopped going to the bathroom. I did it in my pants—poop, piss—the whole shot. My pants got crusted up.

"I was extremely anti-drug as I've always been, but I snorted some crystal methedrine," he added. "In the mail, I got this big juicy 4-F. They'd call dead people before they'd call my ass."

It makes sense that Keith and Nugent openly support Donald Trump, our country's most prominent chickenhawk. Trump has no problem dropping bombs and stirring up international conflicts, but during the Vietnam War there's no question that he dodged the draft.

After exhausting a series of college draft deferments, the President claimed he had "bone spurs" in his feet. With the help of the family doctor this "short term" medical issue lasted for four plus years. Then in 1972, his Vietnam draft

records show that somehow this became a permanent service disqualifying injury. However, the "injury" would go untreated, and decades would pass before anyone mentioned the subject again. It wasn't until Trump's current doctor declared, "If elected, Mr Trump, I can state unequivocally, will be the healthiest individual ever elected to the presidency," that anyone bothered to ask how his bone spurs were doing.



Top: Donald Trumps bows to the Saudi King. Left: Ted Nugent. Right: Toby Keith playing boys-only Saudi gig in support of Trump visit.



Muhammad Ali by Carl Fischer, *Esquire* magazine, 1968.

Trump's political career might have just started, but he joins a long line of chicken hawk lawmakers who push war, while being rich enough to avoid it for themselves.

I don't have a problem with individuals, including Keith, Nugent, and Trump, refusing to fight in unnecessary wars of conquest. In fact, it's the sensible and logical thing to do. *Courage to Resist* supports people that refuse to fight endless war for empire, even people we don't agree with on many things. I doubt that someone in a land being occupied by US forces cares one bit as to why there's one less foreign soldier busting down their door.

Organizations like *Courage to Resist*, *Iraq Veterans Against the War*, *Veterans for Peace*, and the *GI Rights Hotline*, stand up for brave women and men who have become disillusioned with their role in the United States' brutal foreign policy.

"No, I am not going ten thousand miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people the world over," declared Muhammad Ali about the Vietnam War as he knowingly faced years in prison for refusing to fight. Ali was willing to give up his career and do jail time for his beliefs, despite his fame and fortune. Many did do jail time, and many more left their home to settle in Canada. Contrast this kind of sacrifice with the hollow pop-patriotism of the Ted Nugents and Toby Keiths of the world.

# How together we freed Chelsea Manning

From recent *Courage to Resist* podcasts, available on iTunes, GooglePlay, Stitcher, TuneIn, & [couragetoresist.org/podcasts](http://couragetoresist.org/podcasts)



## David Coombs, Trial Attorney

Looking back on the seven years, really, it is mind-boggling to think how many hours that were put into the case. The amount of motions, the amount of discovery, really over a million pages of discovery looked at in the trial....

It was one of the most important cases, in our time, for freedom of the press. I think it still hasn't been worked out as to how this will impact the way we view classified evidence and over classification. There's a problem with our government making more and more secret. At a time in which transparency is important, for not only legitimacy for what we do as the US, but from the standpoint of who we elect, and how we expect those that we have elected to perform their job.

Many of the issues that were so important at that time, are in today's headlines as well: transparency within our government, understanding the motivations of our political leaders, and who they may, or may not, owe favors to. That type of openness and transparency was needed in 2010, and is needed today.

Because of our trial strategy, and then more importantly because of the efforts outside of the courtroom in positively portraying Manning, the message that was put out was that this is not the type of person who deserves 35 years and, ultimately, even though a judge was not convinced of that, a President of the United States was. And if not for the efforts of Jeff Paterson and the Manning Support Network and *Courage to Resist*, there's no way that a president would spend the political capital to grant a commutation.

If I had seen the mountain that was in front of me, it would have been a very difficult task to take that first step. But luckily you don't really appreciate what you have to do at the time.

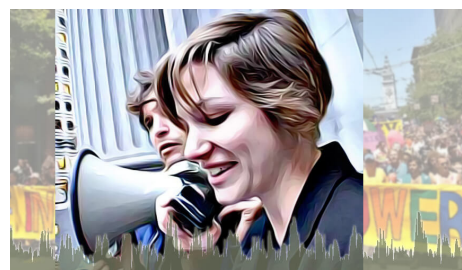
## Rainey Reitman, Support Network co-founder

I was on the East Coast and I was talking to someone who had gotten involved in Chelsea Manning advocacy work and was sort of famous and she was especially engaged in helping raise awareness about Chelsea's solitary confinement. And she said to me something to the effect of I don't get involved in cases I can't win and I think we can win getting Chelsea out of solitary.

I remember being so struck by that because I do get involved with cases I can't win. When we started the Chelsea Manning Support Network, our goal was definitely not just to get her out of solitary confinement. It was to get her free and we knew we were facing terrible odds. I mean, we were up against the entire United States government and they were going to drag this out as long as they could, because, every day they dragged it out, we had to keep fundraising and keeping it in the news and keeping the drumbeat of this campaign alive and it is hard to do that. It is just so hard to do that when we're in a society that loses interest in something, you know, after two days.

I think that in some ways, while it's important to make strategic decisions about where you can make the biggest impact and so you're optimized for where you can win, sometimes we've got to take on a case even when you're pretty sure you're not going to win.

I didn't think we were going to win on Chelsea Manning many, many times. I wasn't sure if I was going to see her walk free in my lifetime. I did it anyway and so did everybody else because if the next whistleblower comes around we want to make sure that they know that people are going to step up and fight for them no matter what.



## Emma Cape, Organizer

At the beginning of the trial, we organized the largest protest that we had ever had. Over the course of my time with *Courage to Resist*, my primary job, or one of my primary jobs, was organizing events showing public displays of support for Chelsea Manning. We had hundreds of events around the world. It was pretty amazing. We even had a vigil in Afghanistan for Chelsea Manning, to just show you how inspired people were by this story.

The first day of the trial, we wanted to have some sort of story in the media about people who supported Chelsea. We hired a handful of local organizers, so we had a combination of people who received some pay and people who were doing it on a volunteer basis also. In eight cities, people organized buses to come to Fort Meade on the first day of Chelsea's trial.

We ultimately had at least 1,000 people, although there were some people who couldn't get out of their cars because of the police. We had speakers come in, including Daniel Ellsberg, who released the Pentagon Papers, Lieutenant Dan Choi, who had been a big anti-don't ask, don't tell activist, and we basically marched along the base. People in DC had made a lot of artwork. We hung 300 Nobel Peace Prizes on the gates, symbolically, because Chelsea had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize a few times. We had a lot of press, I think. *New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *Washington Post* were all there. We did things like that just to keep the story alive in the news, but also to show that we were having these veterans' groups, freedom of information groups, anti-war groups, all of whom were coming together to support this person. That was a big part of what we did to try to keep that story alive.

# Resister, whistleblower Reality Leigh Winner cont.

surprisingly, the political right dismisses news of Russian hacking attempts as simply another attempt to discredit Donald Trump. However, the political left is generally wary of anti-Russia “warmongering.” Yet we should be able to oppose war, and insist on the integrity of our election systems, at the same time!

This political setup has left Reality facing the full force of a politically motivated US Department of Justice, determined to make an example out of her as the first casualty in their war against whistleblowers and the news media, with far too few outspoken advocates.

By denying Reality bail leading up to her trial, playing games with the evidence, and endangering election integrity by continuing to withhold information, Trump’s Justice Department is piling up injustices in a case that increasingly looks like it’s motivated by politics and pure spite more than any notion of the rule of law.

The prosecution’s argument goes something like this: Reality harmed US interests by leaking a classified document. How did releasing the document harm US interests? Because it’s classified. What harm was being prevented by the document being classified? We can’t talk about that, because it’s classified. In short, the jury may never have a chance to know what was actually released, and why it was vitally important for it to have been made public.

Testimony from state election officials has made it clear they learned about the security vulnerabilities in their election systems the same way the rest of America did—by reading about them



in The Intercept, who published the document allegedly provided by Reality. News reports—the kind the prosecution would like to prevent Reality’s defense from talking about—have said anywhere from 21 to 39 states were affected by these attacks.

While Reality sits in jail, the Trump administration is still distorting the truth about the security of our election systems, refusing to give states and the public the tools they need to fix security vulnerabilities and ensure everyone’s right to vote. This puts all of us at risk.

With the backing of our Stand with Reality support group, Reality has assembled an accomplished team of attorney’s that are currently fighting with

the government lawyers through the pretrial phase of the proceedings.

It’s possible that this case will be the first time that the protections of the First Amendment will directly go up against the 100-year-old Espionage Act in a US courtroom. It’ll likely set legal precedents crucial to whistleblowing and press freedom, and the public’s right to know about election hacking. Reality and her legal team deserve our full support in this critically important fight.

For up-to-date information and to donate to her defense online, visit [standwithreality.org](http://standwithreality.org). To donate by check, send to Courage to Resist, and note “Reality Winner” on the memo line.

*Top left photo: Reality Winner Air Force graduation photo. Below: Friends and family gather in Kingsville, Texas on September 2, 2017.*



## Marine boot camp hazing cont.

scandal that erupted last year at Parris Island following the death of a recruit, Pvt. Raheel Siddiqui, is part of a history that includes dozens of cases of hazing and abuse against recruits in the past five years....

Siddiqui, 20, died at Parris Island on March 18, 2016. He fell 40 feet over a railing after facing physical abuse from his drill instructor, Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix, according to military documents. Separately, Felix also is accused of putting another Muslim recruit in an industrial-sized clothes dryer and turning it on repeatedly in July 2015. He and another former drill instructor, Sgt. Michael K Eldridge, face charges that include cruelty and maltreatment, being drunk and disorderly, failing to obey a lawful order, and making false official statements in that case.”

The article notes that, “At least 20 other hazing investigations, involving drill instructors, have been detailed by the Marine Corps and released through the Freedom of Information Act in the last few weeks in a rolling fashion.”

Young women and men who are considering the military as a viable alternative should be aware of these facts. The friendly military recruiters who are inviting them to after-school BBQs—complete with free hotdogs and soda—are unlikely to bring these stories up.

Inconvenient fact about the military: You may be tortured by fellow soldiers, who are in charge of your “well-being”, in order to “tear you down” and “build you back up”, so that you can more effectively fight endless wars abroad.

### Legacy giving

As you are making out your will, please consider a bequest to “Courage to Resist / Alliance for Global Justice”, 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.