



# COURAGE TO RESIST

*Supporting the troops who refuse to fight!*

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## GI Resistance panel opens national veterans convention

To open the Veterans For Peace 2022 National Convention, this panel of courageous US military objectors shared their stories. Organized by Courage to Resist, these are a few excerpts, edited for clarity. Watch at [couragetoresist.org](http://couragetoresist.org).

**Kyle Toon** is currently serving on Fort Carson, CO as a Chief Warrant Officer 2. He has over 12 years of military service in military intelligence and security operations. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology and is working on his masters. Kyle was approved by the Army as a conscientious objector recently but has not yet been discharged.

I'm military intelligence by trade. Looking back on my deployments to Afghanistan, I never walked away with a sense of accomplishment. I always walked away knowing that someone was getting hurt.

I deployed again in 2019 as a warrant officer, and now I am orchestrating the platform that collects the information and generates the reporting and sends out the soldiers. Every single day I needed to cleanse and purify myself.

What really tipped my boat over

was the murder of George Floyd, someone that looked like me. Mind you, that wasn't the first time. But to see that front-row view of it really made me look at the fragility of life and ask myself, "What am I doing, and why am I continuously exasperating the misery and the dread and the psychological tension that I was experiencing?" I'm trying to balance two worlds, the world of trying to be aware and spiritually inclined. And then the other side is the officer, the intelligence technician, the soldier, the mentor. That's what made me take that leap and put in my conscientious objection packet.

I went through all of this ruminating, and my family all told me, "We know that this is something that's been eating you



Clockwise from top left: Jenn Budd, Kyle Toon, Alan Kennedy, Steph Atkinson (moderator), Rosa del Duca

up." That made me feel understood, and it also made me wonder, "Why did I wait so long?"

**Alan Kennedy** is a captain in the US Army Reserve who sued the military after being punished for participation in Black Lives Matter protests. Dr. Kennedy is also a lecturer of public policy at William & Mary. The views expressed are his own and not endorsed by the DoD.

I've been in the Army for 10 years

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Join us monthly  
online every  
second Wednesday



[couragetoresist.org/meeting](http://couragetoresist.org/meeting)

Zoom meeting monthly each 2nd Wednesday  
2pm Pacific / 5pm Eastern / 10pm GMT

## War resisters from Russia's invasion of Ukraine deserve more support

The situation is urgent. European borders are being closed to Russian and Belarusian refuseniks. The penalty in Russia for refusing the draft is up to 10 years in prison, and in Ukraine, it is at least one year.

Courage to Resist joins many in petitioning European leaders to:

- 1) Grant protection and asylum to deserters and objectors from Belarus and the Russian Federation!
- 2) Urge the Ukrainian government to stop

persecuting objectors to military service and to guarantee right to conscientious objection!

3) Open the borders to those who oppose war at great personal risk in their country!



### #OBJECT WAR CAMPAIGN

Solidarity with conscientious objectors and deserters from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

#ОткажиВойне  
#ВідмовВійні



## Hart Vigés: "I wanted to lay my rifle down"

Hart Vigés is a veteran of the second Gulf War. A self-described patriot, Hart transformed from a motivated soldier to chaplain's assistant and eventually, conscientious objector, after serving 11 months in Iraq. He has continued to share his experiences as a member of About Face: Veterans Against the War, Veterans For Peace, and through his counter recruitment work in schools.

"I was highly motivated in basic training, highly motivated. I took every part of suffering as part of what I would expect."

"I can't start a conscientious objector application now. I'm going to look like a total idiot and traitor. It's time to grow up. Own your responsibilities, do what you said you would do, suck it up."

"...And he asked me if I'm a conscientious objector. And I, those words just sounded right to me and I said, "Yes," not really knowing what a conscientious objector is. I was like, "Yes, that sounds right. Anything other than what I am now, I can't be."



## Jim Albertini: Arrested dozens of times, two years in prison

Jim Albertini is a conscientious objector, lifelong strategist, activist, author, and director of the Malu-aina center for non-violent education and action in Hawaii. On multiple occasions, his actions have had substantial impact not only in anti-war demonstrations, but in challenging law all the way to the Supreme Court. Jim's relentless determination to defeat injustice combined with his sense of humor is an inspiration.

"...Hawaii, I mean, it really is one of the most militarized places in the world. Over a hundred military installations, over 20% of the island of Oahu, that main island, is military bases."

"So, we announced ahead of time in June of '84 that the ship that would be coming in...well, we would have a nonviolent swimming blockade...and we were fished out of the water, and eventually prosecuted for violation of the war zone...as the key organizer, I was given the maximum sentence, three years in federal prison for the swim."



## Francesco Da Vinci: "It was a leap of faith"

Francesco Da Vinci is a lifetime advocate of peace, nonviolence, and social justice. From his first action as a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War draft, he's consistently—and with relentless optimism—responded to the call of conscience. He introduces us to his biography, *I Refuse to Kill: My Path to Nonviolent Action in the 1960s* ([irefusetokill.com](http://irefusetokill.com)) and inspires others to take action.

"Well, it's scary. I had never participated in a march, I'd never taken any really public stand. It was all philosophical. So I was a bystander all the way. And then slowly, I became politicized. I felt that I had to take a stand."

"I think we have to face the reality of what Eisenhower warned us against about the military industrial complex. There are people benefiting from these wars at the expense of we, the people. And I think it's time to stop the blank checks for military systems that have constant cost overruns."

# War resistance celebrated with peace flag raising

## International Conscientious Objection Day 2022; Bob Meola remembered

Our peace and justice community gathered at Berkeley City Hall on Monday, May 16th, 2022, for the 16th Annual Berkeley Conscientious Objectors' and War Resisters' Day sponsored by the City of Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission. Hosted by Courage to Resist, as part of "International Conscientious Objectors" (every May 15th).

Jeff Paterson and Michael Thurman, representing Courage to Resist, spoke of the need to support those that refuse to fight—from those that become objectors within the US military, as they had, to those resisting war in Russia and Ukraine.

Veterans For Peace members Paul Cox and Steve Morse spoke to the issues of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the relationship between the military and our climate emergency.

Edward Hasbrouck addressed the significance of opposing and resisting all military conscription, and preparations for it. Specifically, the US federal law that requires all young men to register for a future military draft.

Maxina Ventura and Hali Hammer led the annual "Ain't Fest" sing along, with "I Ain't Marching Anymore," "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around," and "Down By the Riverside (Ain't Gonna

Study War No More)".

Igor Tregub, a young Ukrainian man, shared his family's story of recently leaving Kyiv ahead of the war, the suffering his family and friends are currently enduring back home, and his hope for an end to the foreign invasion and war against his nation.

Many speakers and attendees remembered Bob Meola, who had been the primary organizer of this event for the last 15 years. A dedicated Courage to Resist organizer, Bob died this past November. "Bob Meola, presente!"

Photo right (page 3)

## GI Resistance panel (continued from front)

now, part-time, in the Colorado National Guard, and now in the Army Reserve. Like Kyle, I was moved to resist by the murder of George Floyd. Like millions of others, I protested in the streets peacefully. That was an enormous social movement to try to protest systemic racism. Like many others, the peaceful march that I participated in on May 30th 2020 began peacefully and ended with the police firing clouds of teargas.

So, I wrote an op-ed in the *Denver Post* criticizing the police for violating our constitutional rights and for teargassing everyone. That same day, the Colorado National Guard launched an investigation, they did at least three investigations. A reprimand followed by a general officer memorandum of reprimand and two negative evaluations. They tried to block my promotion, and a number of other things, in violation of the First Amendment.

We sued them in Federal Court. I'm very proud of that. I think my mission has become to make the Army constitutional again, if that's possible.

**Rosa del Duca** is a writer, journalist, teacher and musician. She joined the Army National Guard at seventeen. During her time in uniform, she became an unlikely rebel as a conscientious objector. Her memoir, *Breaking Cadence: One Woman's War Against the War*, is now available.

I joined when I was 17, a year before 9/11. In Montana, the National Guard was known for being a support force to fight fires, but mainly I was just really searching for a way to pay for school.

At least then as a woman, my recruiter told me, "Oh, you're female, you'll never be on the front lines. You won't ever be in infantry." You show up

to bootcamp on day one, they're like, "Everyone's an infantry soldier first. Duh."

I knew that I wanted to be a journalist and also be a writer like fiction and nonfiction, and so I signed up for a journalism program. And so, as 9/11 happened and the war on terror unfolded, I was paying attention.... Amy Goodman with Democracy Now! gave our little radio station a year of her program for free. I was the student journalism news director for the little station, so I was in charge of getting her program and putting it on the air.

Later, I got an internship at the news talk station in town, which played Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity, so I was paying attention to these very polar opposite viewpoints and perspectives. Amy Goodman had people who were going AWOL because of what they were seeing and experiencing, meanwhile Limbaugh and Hannity were talking about feminazis and lauding Bush. Finally, I realized, "Oh, you're a conscientious objector. You are not in the right place." I couldn't deal with the idea of having any part in it.

I think it is ridiculous and criminal and incredibly immoral that we allow 17-year-olds and 18-year-olds to sign an eight-year legally binding contract with the military. I wish I would've found a way to pay for college without selling my soul and ethics.

**Jenn Budd** is a former US Border Patrol agent turned migrant's rights activist. Jenn was one of the first agents hired as part of Operation Gatekeeper in 1994. There she witnessed firsthand the cruelty, racism and violence that we now know to be cultural pillars of the US Border Patrol.

I needed a job. Somebody said the Border Patrol was hiring. I'm from Alabama and had no idea what it was. It sounded like an adventure, and I wanted to serve my country.

It's a different kind of battlefield. The first little thing was how they separated the men and women in the beginning of the academy, assuming that the women didn't belong and couldn't make it. Then I was raped by a classmate, and they covered it up.

I knew a lot about the civil rights movement in the South because that's where I was raised, but I didn't know anything about the Southwest border. I didn't know anything about how unjust a lot of the immigration laws were.

As Operation Gatekeeper came along we became more and more militarized. We were never a humanitarian group, but the trainees were becoming hardened to migrants' plights, and the constant brutality and death. I came to the realization that I'm enforcing laws that are killing people.

I decided to go into intelligence, thinking, "Okay, maybe here I can do some good." But again, my boss was smuggling drugs into the county. I went after them and they tried to cover it up.

I was just trying to survive the Border Patrol and prove that I was a good agent. However, after I was sexually assaulted and raped, I had the nerve to try and file a complaint, and from then on, for my entire career, I was harassed and known as a whistleblower.

I was run over by another agent on purpose at the station for talking about it, and I was shot at.

We have to stop looking at our own people as if they are the enemy, and that's what I feel like we're doing when we bring military thinking into the civilian law enforcement side.



Courage to Resist and friends raise peace flags at Berkeley City Hall on May 16, 2022

### Legacy giving

As you are making out your will, please consider a bequest to "Courage to Resist / Veterans For Peace." For more information about bequest language in your estate plans, please give us a call at 510-488-3559.

# Stand with Daniel Hale, imprisoned drone whistleblower

In May 2019, drone whistleblower Daniel Everette Hale was arrested and indicted on allegations that he disclosed classified documents about the U.S. military's assassination program, believed to have been the source material for a series in *The Intercept* called "The Drone Papers". In March 2021, he pleaded guilty to a single count under the Espionage Act, carrying a max sentence of 10 years. In July 2021, Daniel was sentenced to 45 months in prison.

Here's a recent update from Daniel's support team:

Daniel is, as he writes himself in a recent letter, "making do in the CMU." At the Communications Management Unit at USP Marion he is still limited to two 15 minute phone calls a week. These are often abruptly canceled or rescheduled with no notice to him, and despite him being promised time to make up these lost minutes, that does not happen. His letters still come in and go out at the pace of the high security, high surveillance regime. He is reading a lot of fiction, books about other countries and US interventions, working out - and remains curious about everything happening

in the world. He is livid about the fall of Roe - bodily autonomy and abortion access is what galvanized him and his spirit of justice many years ago, when he organized with his friends locally around an abortion clinic in his hometown. Visitation has started up, although very slowly - and he has been delighted to see some good friends. He loves all of you that keep on fighting on.



Daniel Hale protesting drone warfare at the White House, as depicted in the documentary film *National Bird*

## How to write to Daniel

**Daniel Everette Hale 26069-075**  
**USP Marion**  
**P.O. Box 1000**  
**Marion, Illinois 62959**

Use plain white paper, no cards, with black or blue ink, handwritten or printed. Use standard size envelopes only. You can send up to 6 pages, double-sided.

Please use your full legal name and

a physical address as the return address, not a PO Box. Also be aware that Daniel can't respond to group or organizational letters, only to individual persons.

Daniel can receive photos (in color), fun memes, transcripts (such as of interesting podcasts) and printouts of news articles. He is hoping for articles you found compelling, work out routines to help pass the time, and words of affirmation! Hand drawings are allowed and encouraged.

**[standwithdanielhale.org](http://standwithdanielhale.org)**

## Left Together shirts



- » **100% profits benefit Courage to Resist**
- » **Wear your politics and support your cause!**
- » **[left-together.com](http://left-together.com)**

## Reality Winner - The Documentary

*Winner family backed Kickstarter campaign meets goal for production, seeking additional support for film distribution.*

On June 3, 2017, eleven FBI agents raided Reality Winner's home in Augusta, GA. During the search, two armed agents led Reality into a tiny back room and interrogated her for hours without an attorney.

Then they arrested her.

Two days later, Reality was charged with espionage for sharing one single classified document with *The Intercept* publication - facing ten years in prison. The 5-page NSA report detailed Russian cybersecurity threats to U.S. election systems and - for the first time - informed many government officials about foreign



interference. The information Reality disclosed was crucial: It gave state election officials key information on foreign threats to our voting systems, ultimately leading to reforms.

And yet, the young woman who warned the public was behind bars.

Courage to Resist is proud to have helped launch the support efforts on behalf of Reality in the days following her arrest.