

Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington DC 20301, USA

Concerns about treatment of Bradley Manning

Dear Secretary of Defense

I am deeply concerned about the conditions in which Bradley Manning is being held at the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia. Harsh and inhumane conditions, which include solitary confinement to a small cell for 23 hours a day, deprivation of personal possessions, inadequate outdoor exercise and other restrictions, are inconsistent with his status as an untried prisoner with the right to presumption of his innocence and his dignity as a human being.

Furthermore Bradley Manning has been subjected to humiliating and degrading treatment, including being forced to stand to attention naked in front of other inmates even though he is being closely monitored directly and by video at all times.

Amnesty International has received information that his mental health has deteriorated during his detention and this is hardly surprising since isolation and prolonged confinement in a small space are known to cause psychological damage. Such damage could harm his ability to assist in his defence and thus undermine his right to a fair trial. Military psychiatrists at the prison have recommended that his POI status be lifted but apparently their advice has been ignored.

I urge that Bradley Manning's maximum custody status is reduced and his conditions of isolation lifted immediately. I also urge that the other restrictions to which he is subjected are removed and that he is allowed adequate outdoor exercise, access to writing materials and books of his choosing, opportunities of contact with the outside world and engagement in prison work, in accordance with international standards.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Ainslie