



Dear President Obama,

We urge you to exercise your authority as President of the United States and Commander in Chief to free Bradley Manning.

We are delighted that you have come to visit Ireland to seek your ancestral roots, but we wish to remind you that the strong bond between the Irish people and the American people is rooted in the common struggle against unjust and arbitrary oppression.

People in Ireland have welcomed the release of documents by WikiLeaks, which even played a role inspiring the peoples of Northern Africa begin to claim their freedom.

Even if Bradley Manning were in some way responsible for the release of documents to WikiLeaks, which has not been proven in a court of law, he would deserve praise rather than punishment. If Bradley Manning did release documents to WikiLeaks, he did not do so for any personal gain to himself. Indeed, he stated that he believes the documents to be "a public good."

The international community is concerned that Bradley Manning was confined for nearly a year under torturous conditions that were clearly in violation U.S. and international law. Even though these conditions have reportedly been improved, the international community is now concerned that he may not be able receive due process in the U.S. following public statements that you, the Commander in Chief, recently made.

It is also not clear why Bradley Manning, who has been accused only of releasing classified documents, should have had to spend nearly a year in jail, whereas Daniel Ellsberg, who released top secret documents, was never jailed and has been recognized for the importance of his service in exposing the truth.

We believe you should consider honoring Bradley Manning with a U.S. Medal of Freedom, because he is a classic whistleblower who has risked his career, his freedom, and even his life in order to expose the truth.

We request that, in respect for the people struggling for freedom around the world and in honor of the great friendship between the Irish and American people, you act now to release Bradley Manning and set him free.

May 24th 2011

International Coordinating Committee "No to War – No to NATO"