

= Chelsea Manning =

Chelsea Elizabeth Manning (born Bradley Edward Manning , December 17 , 1987) is a United States Army soldier who was convicted by court martial in July 2013 of violations of the Espionage Act and other offenses , after disclosing to WikiLeaks nearly three quarters of a million classified or unclassified but sensitive military and diplomatic documents . Manning was sentenced in August 2013 to 35 years imprisonment , with the possibility of parole in the eighth year , and to be dishonorably discharged from the Army . Manning is a trans woman who , in a statement the day after sentencing , said she had felt female since childhood , wanted to be known as Chelsea , and desired to begin hormone replacement therapy . From early life and through much of her Army life , Manning was known as Bradley ; she was diagnosed with gender identity disorder while in the Army .

Assigned in 2009 to an Army unit in Iraq as an intelligence analyst , Manning had access to classified databases . In early 2010 , she leaked classified information to WikiLeaks and confided this to Adrian Lamo , an online acquaintance . Lamo informed Army Counterintelligence , and Manning was arrested in May that same year . The material included videos of the July 12 , 2007 Baghdad airstrike , and the 2009 Garani airstrike in Afghanistan ; 251 , 287 U.S. diplomatic cables ; and 482 , 832 Army reports that came to be known as the Iraq War Logs and Afghan War Diary . Much of the material was published by WikiLeaks or its media partners between April and November 2010 .

Manning was ultimately charged with 22 offenses , including aiding the enemy , which was the most serious charge and could have resulted in a death sentence . She was held at the Marine Corps Brig , Quantico in Virginia , from July 2010 to April 2011 under Prevention of Injury status ? which entailed de facto solitary confinement and other restrictions that caused domestic and international concern ? before being transferred to Fort Leavenworth , Kansas , where she could interact with other detainees . She pleaded guilty in February 2013 to 10 of the charges . The trial on the remaining charges began on June 3 , 2013 , and on July 30 she was convicted of 17 of the original charges and amended versions of four others , but was acquitted of aiding the enemy . She is serving a 35 - year sentence at the maximum security U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth .

Reaction to Manning 's disclosures , arrest , and sentence was mixed . Denver Nicks , one of her biographers , writes that the leaked material , particularly the diplomatic cables , was widely seen as a catalyst for the Arab Spring that began in December 2010 , and that Manning was viewed as both a 21st century Tiananmen Square Tank Man and an embittered traitor . Reporters Without Borders condemned the length of the sentence , saying that it demonstrated how vulnerable whistleblowers are .

= = Background = =

= = = Early life = = =

Born Bradley Edward Manning in 1987 in Oklahoma City , Oklahoma , she was the second child of Susan Fox , originally from Wales , and Brian Manning , an American . Brian had joined the United States Navy in 1974 at the age of 19 , and served for five years as an intelligence analyst . Brian met Susan in a local Woolworths while stationed in Wales at Cawdor Barracks . Manning 's older sister was born in 1976 . The couple returned to the United States in 1979 , settling first in California . After their move near Crescent , Oklahoma they bought a two - story house with an above ground swimming pool and 5 acres (2 hectares) of land , where they kept pigs and chickens .

Manning 's sister Casey , 11 years her senior , told the court martial that both their parents were alcoholics , and that their mother had drunk continually while pregnant with Chelsea . Captain David Moulton , a Navy psychiatrist , told the court that Manning 's facial features showed signs of

fetal alcohol syndrome . Casey became Manning 's principal caregiver , waking at night to make a bottle for the baby . The court heard that Manning was fed only milk and baby food until the age of two . As an adult she reached 5 ft 2 in (1 @. @ 57 m) and weighed around 105 pounds (48 kg) .

Manning 's father took a job as an information technology (IT) manager for a rental car agency , which required travel . The family lived several miles out of town and Manning 's mother was unable to drive . She spent her days drinking , while Manning was left largely to fend for herself , playing with Legos or on the computer . Brian would stock up on food before his trips , and leave pre @-@ signed checks that Casey mailed to pay the bills . A neighbor said that whenever Manning 's elementary school went on field trips , she would give her own son extra food or money so he could make sure Manning had something to eat . Friends and neighbors considered the Mannings a troubled family .

= = = Parents ' divorce , move to Wales = = =

Those who knew Manning said that even as a child , she always had a mind of her own . She was an atheist who was openly opposed to religion , for example , remaining silent during the part of the Pledge of Allegiance that refers to God . In a 2011 interview Manning 's father said , " People need to understand that he 's a young man that had a happy life growing up . " He also said that Manning excelled at the saxophone , science , and computers , creating her first website at the age of ten . Manning taught herself how to use PowerPoint , won the grand prize three years in a row at the local science fair , and in sixth grade , took top prize at a statewide quiz bowl .

A childhood friend of Manning 's , speaking about a conversation they had when Manning was 13 , said " he told me he was gay . " The friend also said that Manning 's home life was not good and that her father was very controlling . Around this time , Manning 's parents divorced . She and her mother Susan moved out of the house to a rented apartment in Crescent , Oklahoma . Susan 's instability continued and in 1998 she attempted suicide ; Manning 's sister drove their mother to the hospital , with the 11 @-@ year @-@ old Manning sitting in the back of the car trying to make sure their mother was still breathing .

Manning 's father remarried in 2000 , the same year as his divorce . His new wife was also named Susan and had a son from a previous relationship . Manning apparently reacted badly when the son changed his surname to Manning too ; she started taking running jumps at the walls , telling her mother : " I 'm nobody now . "

In November 2001 , Manning and her mother left the United States and moved to Haverfordwest , Wales , where her mother had family . Manning attended the town 's Tasker Milward secondary school . A schoolfriend there told Ed Caesar for The Sunday Times that Manning 's personality was " unique , extremely unique . Very quirky , very opinionated , very political , very clever , very articulate . " Manning 's interest in computers continued , and in 2003 , she and a friend set up a website , angeldyne.com , a message board that offered games and music downloads .

Manning became the target of bullying at the school because she was the only American and was viewed as effeminate . Manning had identified to two friends in Oklahoma as gay , but was not open about it at school in Wales . The students would imitate her accent , and apparently abandoned her once during a camping trip ; her aunt told The Washington Post that Manning awoke to an empty camp site one morning , after everyone else had packed up their tents and left without her .

= = = Return to the United States = = =

Fearing that her mother was becoming too ill to cope , in 2005 (at the age of 17) Manning returned to the United States . She moved in with her father in Oklahoma City , where he was living with his second wife and her child . Manning got a job as a developer with a software company , Zoto , and was apparently happy for a time , but was let go after four months . Her boss told The Washington Post that on a few occasions , Manning had " just locked up , " and would simply sit and stare , and in the end communication became too difficult . The boss told the newspaper that " nobody 's been taking care of this kid for a really long time . "

By then , Manning was living as an openly gay man . Her relationship with her father was apparently good , but there were problems between Manning and her stepmother . In March 2006 , Manning reportedly threatened her stepmother with a knife during an argument about Manning 's failure to get another job ; the stepmother called the police and Manning was asked to leave the house . Manning drove to Tulsa in a pickup truck her father had given her , at first sleeping in it , then moving in with a friend from school . The two got jobs at Incredible Pizza in April . Manning moved on to Chicago before running out of money and again having nowhere to stay . Her mother arranged for Brian 's sister , Debra , a lawyer in Potomac , Maryland , to take Manning in . Nicks writes that the 15 months Manning spent with her aunt were among the most stable of her life . Manning had a boyfriend , took several low @-@ paid jobs , and spent a semester studying history and English at Montgomery College , but left after failing an exam .

= = Military service = =

= = = Enlistment in the Army = = =

Manning 's father spent weeks in the fall of 2007 asking her to consider joining the Army . Hoping to gain a college education through the G.I. Bill , and perhaps to study for a PhD in physics , she enlisted in September that year . She told her Army supervisor later that she had also hoped joining such a masculine environment would resolve her gender identity disorder .

Manning began basic training at Fort Leonard Wood , Missouri , on October 2 , 2007 . She wrote that she soon realized she was neither physically nor mentally prepared for it . Six weeks after enlisting , she was sent to the discharge unit . She was allegedly being bullied , and in the opinion of another soldier , was having a breakdown . The soldier told The Guardian : " The kid was barely five foot ... He was a runt , so pick on him . He 's crazy , pick on him . He 's a faggot , pick on him . The guy took it from every side . He couldn 't please anyone . " Denver Nicks writes that Manning , who was used to being bullied , fought back ? if the drill sergeants screamed at her , she would scream at them ? to the point where they started calling her " General Manning . "

The decision to discharge her was revoked , and she started basic training again in January 2008 . After graduating in April , she moved to Fort Huachuca , Arizona , in order to attend Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 35F , intelligence analyst , receiving a TS / SCI security clearance (Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information) . According to Nicks , this security clearance , combined with the digitization of classified information and the government 's policy of sharing it widely , gave Manning access to an unprecedented amount of material . Nicks writes that Manning was reprimanded while at Fort Huachuca for posting three video messages to friends on YouTube , in which she described the inside of the " Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility " (SCIF) where she worked . Upon completion of her initial MOS course , Manning received the Army Service Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal .

= = = Move to Fort Drum , deployment to Iraq = = =

In August 2008 , Manning was sent to Fort Drum in Jefferson County , New York , where she joined the 2nd Brigade Combat Team , 10th Mountain Division , and trained for deployment to Iraq . In the fall of 2008 while stationed there , she met Tyler Watkins , who was studying neuroscience and psychology at Brandeis University , near Boston . Watkins was her first serious relationship , and she posted happily on Facebook about it , regularly traveling 300 miles (480 km) to Boston on visits .

Watkins introduced her to a network of friends and the university 's hacker community . She also visited Boston University 's " hackerspace " workshop , known as " Builds " , and met its founder , David House , the MIT researcher who was later allowed to visit her in jail . In November 2008 , she gave an anonymous interview to a high @-@ school reporter during a rally in Syracuse in support of

gay marriage :

" I was kicked out of my home and I once lost my job . The world is not moving fast enough for us at home , work , or the battlefield . I 've been living a double life I can 't make a statement . I can 't be caught in an act . I hope the public support changes . I do hope to do that before ETS [Expiration of Term of Service] . "

Nicks writes that Manning would travel back to Washington , D.C. , for visits . An ex @-@ boyfriend helped her find her way around the city 's gay community , introducing her to lobbyists , activists , and White House aides . Back at Fort Drum , she continued to display emotional problems and , by August 2009 , had been referred to an Army mental @-@ health counselor . A friend told Nicks that Manning could be emotionally fraught , describing an evening they had watched two movies together ? The Last King of Scotland and Dancer in the Dark ? after which Manning cried for hours . By September 2009 her relationship with Watkins was in trouble ; they reconciled for a short time , but it was effectively over .

After four weeks at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) in Fort Polk , Louisiana , Manning was deployed to Forward Operating Base Hammer , near Baghdad , arriving in October 2009 . From her workstation there , she had access to SIPRNet (the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network) and JWICS (the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System) . Two of her superiors had discussed not taking her to Iraq ; it was felt she was a risk to herself and possibly others , according to a statement later issued by the Army ? but the shortage of intelligence analysts held sway . In November 2009 , she was promoted from Private First Class to Specialist .

= = = Contact with gender counselor = = =

In November 2009 Manning wrote to a gender counselor in the United States , said she felt female , and discussed having surgery . The counselor told Steve Fishman of New York Magazine in 2011 that it was clear Manning was in crisis , partly because of her gender concerns , but also because she was opposed to the kind of war in which she found herself involved .

She was by all accounts unhappy and isolated . Because of the military 's " Don 't ask , don 't tell " policy (known as DADT and in effect until September 20 , 2011) , Manning was unable to live as an openly gay man without risk of being discharged . But she apparently made no secret of her orientation : her friends said she kept a fairy wand on her desk . When she told her roommate she was attracted to men , he responded by suggesting they not speak to each other . Manning 's working conditions included 14- to 15 @-@ hour night shifts in a tightly packed , dimly lit room .

On December 20 , 2009 , during a counseling session with two colleagues to discuss her poor time @-@ keeping , Manning was told she would lose her one day off a week for persistent lateness . She responded by overturning a table , damaging a computer that was sitting on it . A sergeant moved Manning away from the weapons rack , and other soldiers pinned her arms behind her back and dragged her out of the room . Several witnesses to the incident believed her access to sensitive material ought to have been withdrawn at that point . The following month , January 2010 , she began posting on Facebook that she felt hopeless and alone .

= = = State of mind over release of material = = =

Manning told Amnesty International

These documents were important because they relate to two connected counter @-@ insurgency conflicts in real @-@ time from the ground . Humanity has never had this complete and detailed a record of what modern warfare actually looks like . Once you realize that the co @-@ ordinates represent a real place where people live that the dates happened in our recent history ; that the numbers are actually human lives ? with all the love , hope , dreams , hatred , fear , and nightmares that come with them ? then it 's difficult to ever forget how important these documents are .

= = = Release of material to WikiLeaks = = =

Manning said her first contact with WikiLeaks took place in January 2010 , when she began to interact with them on IRC and Jabber . She had first noticed them toward the end of November 2009 , when they posted 570 @,@ 000 pager messages from the September 11 attacks .

On January 5 , 2010 , Manning downloaded the 400 @,@ 000 documents that became known as the Iraq War logs . On January 8 she downloaded 91 @,@ 000 documents from the Afghanistan database , the Afghan War logs . She saved the material on CD @-@ RW , and smuggled it through security by labeling the CD @-@ RW media " Lady Gaga " . She then copied it onto her personal computer . The next day she wrote a message in a readme.txt file (see right) , which she told the court was initially intended for The Washington Post .

Manning copied the files from her laptop to an SD card for her camera so that she could take it with her to the United States while on R & R leave . Army investigators later found the SD card in Manning 's basement room in her aunt 's home in Potomac , Maryland . On January 23 Manning flew to the United States via Germany for two weeks of leave . It was during this visit that she first went out dressed as a woman , wearing a wig and makeup . After her arrest , her former partner , Tyler Watkins , told Wired that Manning had said during the visit that she had found some sensitive information and was considering leaking it .

Manning contacted The Washington Post and The New York Times to ask if they were interested in the material ; the Post reporter did not sound interested and the Times did not return the call . Manning decided instead to pass it to WikiLeaks , and on February 3 sent them the Iraq and Afghan War logs via Tor . She returned to Iraq on February 11 , with no acknowledgement from WikiLeaks that they had received the files .

On or around February 18 she passed WikiLeaks a diplomatic cable , dated January 13 , 2010 , from the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavík , Iceland . They published it within hours , which suggested to Manning that they had received the other material too . She found the Baghdad helicopter attack (" Collateral murder ") video in a Judge Advocate 's directory , and passed it to WikiLeaks on or around February 21 . In late March she sent them a video of the May 2009 Granai airstrike in Afghanistan ; this was the video later removed and apparently destroyed by Daniel Domscheit @-@ Berg when he left the organization . Between March 28 and April 9 she downloaded the 250 @,@ 000 diplomatic cables , and uploaded them to a WikiLeaks dropbox on April 10 .

Manning told the court that , during her interaction with WikiLeaks on IRC and Jabber , she developed a friendship with someone there , believed to be Julian Assange (although neither knew the other 's name) , which she said made her feel she could be herself . Army investigators found 14 to 15 pages of encrypted chats , in unallocated space on her MacBook 's hard drive , between Manning and someone believed to be Assange . She wrote in a statement that the more she had tried to fit in at work , the more alienated she became from everyone around her . The relationship with WikiLeaks had given her a brief respite from the isolation and anxiety .

= = = Email to supervisor , recommended discharge = = =

On April 24 , 2010 , Manning sent an email to her supervisor , Master Sergeant Paul Adkins ? with the subject line " My Problem " ? saying she was suffering from gender identity disorder . She attached a photograph of herself dressed as a woman and with the filename breanna.jpg. She wrote :

This is my problem . I 've had signs of it for a very long time . It 's caused problems within my family . I thought a career in the military would get rid of it . It 's not something I seek out for attention , and I 've been trying very , very hard to get rid of it by placing myself in situations where it would be impossible . But , it 's not going away ; it 's haunting me more and more as I get older . Now , the consequences of it are dire , at a time when it 's causing me great pain in itself ...

Adkins discussed the situation with Manning 's therapists , but did not pass the email to anybody above him in his chain of command ; he told Manning 's court @-@ martial that he was concerned the photograph would be disseminated among other staff . Captain Steven Lim , Manning 's company commander , said he first saw the email after Manning 's arrest , when information about hormone replacement therapy was found in Manning 's room on base ; at that point Lim learned that

Manning had been calling herself Breanna .

Manning told former " grey hat " hacker Adrian Lamo that she had set up Twitter and YouTube accounts as Breanna to give her female identity a digital presence , writing to Lamo : " I wouldn 't mind going to prison for the rest of my life [for leaking information] , or being executed so much , if it wasn 't for the possibility of having pictures of me ... plastered all over the world press ... as [a] boy ... [...] the CPU is not made for this motherboard ... " On April 30 she posted on Facebook that she was utterly lost , and over the next few days wrote that she was " not a piece of equipment , " and was " beyond frustrated " and " livid " after being " lectured by ex @-@ boyfriend despite months of relationship ambiguity ... "

On May 7 , according to Army witnesses , Manning was found curled in a fetal position in a storage cupboard ; she had a knife at her feet and had cut the words " I want " into a vinyl chair . A few hours later she had an altercation with a female intelligence analyst , Specialist Jihreah Showman , during which she punched Showman in the face . The brigade psychiatrist recommended a discharge , referring to an " occupational problem and adjustment disorder . " Manning 's supervisor removed the bolt from her weapon , making it unable to fire , and she was sent to work in the supply office , although at this point her security clearance remained in place . As punishment for the altercation with Showman , she was demoted from Specialist (E @-@ 4) to Private First Class (E @-@ 3) three days before her arrest on May 27 .

Ellen Nakashima writes that , on May 9 , Manning contacted Jonathan Odell , a gay American novelist in Minneapolis , via Facebook , leaving a message that she wanted to speak to him in confidence ; she said she had been involved in some " very high @-@ profile events , albeit as a nameless individual thus far . " On May 19 , according to Army investigators , she emailed Eric Schmiedl , a mathematician she had met in Boston , and told him she had been the source of the Baghdad airstrike video . Two days later , she began the series of chats with Adrian Lamo that led to her arrest .

= = Publication of leaked material = =

= = = WikiLeaks = = =

WikiLeaks was set up in late 2006 as a disclosure portal , initially using the Wikipedia model , where volunteers would write up restricted or legally threatened material submitted by whistleblowers . It was Julian Assange ? an Australian Internet activist and journalist , and the de facto editor @-@ in @-@ chief of WikiLeaks ? who had the idea of creating what Ben Laurie called an " open @-@ source , democratic intelligence agency . " The open @-@ editing aspect was soon abandoned , but the site remained open for anonymous submissions .

According to Daniel Domscheit @-@ Berg , a former WikiLeaks spokesperson , part of the WikiLeaks security concept was that they did not know who their sources were . The New York Times wrote in December 2010 that the U.S. government was trying to discover whether Assange had been a passive recipient of material from Manning , or had encouraged or helped her to extract the files ; if the latter , Assange could be charged with conspiracy . Manning told Lamo in May 2010 that she had developed a working relationship with Assange , communicating directly with him using an encrypted Internet conferencing service , but knew little about him . WikiLeaks did not identify Manning as their source . Army investigators found pages of chats on Manning 's computer between Manning and someone believed to be Julian Assange . Nicks writes that , despite this , no decisive evidence was found of Assange offering Manning any direction .

= = = Reykjavik13 = = =

On February 18 , 2010 , WikiLeaks posted the first of the material from Manning , the diplomatic cable from the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavík , a document now known as Reykjavik13 . On March 15 WikiLeaks posted a 32 @-@ page report written in 2008 by the U.S. Department of Defense about

WikiLeaks itself , and on March 29 it posted U.S. State Department profiles of politicians in Iceland .

= = = Baghdad airstrike = = =

WikiLeaks named the Baghdad airstrike video " Collateral Murder , " and Assange released it on April 5 , 2010 , during a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington , D.C. The video showed two American helicopters firing on a group of ten men in the Amin District of Baghdad . Two were Reuters employees there to photograph an American Humvee under attack by the Mahdi Army . Pilots mistook their cameras for weapons . The helicopters also fired on a van , targeted earlier by one helicopter , that had stopped to help wounded members of the first group . Two children in the van were wounded and their father was killed . Pilots also engaged a building where retreating insurgents were holed up . The Washington Post wrote that it was this video , viewed by millions , that put WikiLeaks on the map . According to Nicks , Manning emailed a superior officer after the video aired and tried to persuade her that it was the same version as the one stored on SIPRNet . Nicks writes that it seemed as though Manning wanted to be caught .

= = = Afghan War logs , Iraq War logs = = =

WikiLeaks and three media partners ? The New York Times , The Guardian , and Der Spiegel ? began publishing the 91 @,@ 731 documents that became known as the Afghan War logs on July 25 , 2010 . This was followed on October 22 , 2010 , by 391 @,@ 832 classified military reports covering the period January 2004 to December 2009 ; these became known as the Iraq War logs . Nicks writes that the publication of the former was a watershed moment , the " beginning of the information age exploding upon itself . "

= = = Diplomatic cables , Guantanamo Bay files = = =

Manning was also responsible for the " Cablegate " leak of 251 @,@ 287 State Department cables , written by 271 American embassies and consulates in 180 countries , dated December 1966 to February 2010 . The cables were passed by Assange to his three media partners , plus El País and others , and published in stages from November 28 , 2010 , with the names of sources removed . WikiLeaks said it was the largest set of confidential documents ever to be released into the public domain . The rest of the cables were published unredacted by WikiLeaks on September 1 , 2011 , after David Leigh and Luke Harding of The Guardian published the passphrase for a file that was still online ; Nicks writes that one Ethiopian journalist had to leave his country and the U.S. government said it had to relocate several sources . Manning was also the source of the Guantanamo Bay files leak , obtained by WikiLeaks in 2010 and published by The New York Times on April 24 , 2011 .

= = = Granai airstrike = = =

Manning said she gave WikiLeaks a video , in late March 2010 , of the Granai airstrike in Afghanistan . The airstrike occurred on May 4 , 2009 , in the village of Granai , Afghanistan , killing 86 to 147 Afghan civilians . The video was never published ; Julian Assange said in March 2013 that Daniel Domscheit @-@ Berg had taken it with him when he left WikiLeaks , and had apparently destroyed it .

= = Manning and Adrian Lamo = =

= = = First contact = = =

On May 20 , 2010 , Manning contacted Adrian Lamo , a former " grey hat " hacker convicted in

2004 of having accessed The New York Times computer network two years earlier without permission . Lamo had been profiled that day by Kevin Poulsen in Wired magazine ; the story said Lamo had been involuntarily hospitalized and diagnosed with Asperger syndrome . Poulsen , by then a reporter , was himself a former hacker who had used Lamo as a source several times since 2000 . Indeed it was Poulsen who , in 2002 , had told The New York Times that Lamo had gained unauthorized access to its network ; Poulsen then wrote the story up for SecurityFocus . Lamo would hack into a system , tell the organization , then offer to fix their security , often using Poulsen as a go @-@ between .

Lamo said Manning sent him several encrypted emails on May 20 . He said he was unable to decrypt them but replied anyway and invited the emailer to chat on AOL IM . Lamo said he later turned the emails over to the FBI without having read them .

= = = Chats = = =

In a series of chats between May 21 and 25 , Manning ? using the handle " bradass87 " ? told Lamo that she had leaked classified material . She introduced herself as an Army intelligence analyst , and within 17 minutes , without waiting for a reply , alluded to the leaks .

Lamo replied several hours later . He said : " I 'm a journalist and a minister . You can pick either , and treat this as a confession or an interview (never to be published) & enjoy a modicum of legal protection . " They talked about restricted material in general , then Manning made her first explicit reference to the leaks : " This is what I do for friends . " She linked to a section of the May 21 , 2010 , version of Wikipedia 's article on WikiLeaks , which described the WikiLeaks release in March that year of a Department of Defense report on WikiLeaks itself . She added " the one below that is mine too " ; the section below in the same article referred to the leak of the Baghdad airstrike (" Collateral Murder ") video . Manning said she felt isolated and fragile , and was reaching out to someone she hoped might understand .

Manning said she had started to help WikiLeaks around Thanksgiving in November 2009 ? which fell on November 26 that year ? after WikiLeaks had released the 9 / 11 pager messages ; the messages were released on November 25 . She told Lamo she had recognized that the messages came from an NSA database , and that seeing them had made her feel comfortable about stepping forward . Lamo asked what kind of material Manning was dealing with ; Manning replied : " uhm ... crazy , almost criminal political backdealings ... the non @-@ PR @-@ versions of world events and crises ... " Although she said she dealt with Assange directly , Manning also said Assange had adopted a deliberate policy of knowing very little about her , telling Manning : " lie to me . "

Lamo again assured her that she was speaking in confidence . Manning wrote : " but im not a source for you ... im talking to you as someone who needs moral and emotional fucking support , " and Lamo replied : " i told you , none of this is for print . "

Manning said the incident that had affected her the most was when 15 detainees had been arrested by the Iraqi Federal Police for printing anti @-@ Iraqi literature . She was asked by the Army to find out who the " bad guys " were , and discovered that the detainees had followed what Manning said was a corruption trail within the Iraqi cabinet . She reported this to her commanding officer , but said " he didn 't want to hear any of it " ; she said the officer told her to help the Iraqi police find more detainees . Manning said it made her realize , " i was actively involved in something that i was completely against ... "

She explained that " i cant separate myself from others ... i feel connected to everybody ... like they were distant family , " and cited Carl Sagan , Richard Feynman and Elie Wiesel . She said she hoped the material would lead to " hopefully worldwide discussion , debates , and reforms. if not ... than [sic] we're doomed as a species . " She said she had downloaded the material onto music CD @-@ RWs , erased the music and replaced it with a compressed split file . Part of the reason no one noticed , she said , was that staff were working 14 hours a day , seven days a week , and " people stopped caring after 3 weeks . "

= = = Lamo approaches authorities , chat logs published = = =

Shortly after the first chat with Manning , Lamo discussed the information with Chet Uber of the volunteer group ProjectVIGILANT , which researches cybercrime , and with Timothy Webster , a friend who had worked in Army counterintelligence . Both advised Lamo to go to the authorities . His friend reported the conversation to United States Army Counterintelligence , and Lamo was contacted by counterintelligence agents shortly thereafter . He told them he believed Manning was endangering lives . He was largely ostracized by the hacker community afterwards . Nicks argues , on the other hand , that it was thanks to Lamo that the government had months to ameliorate any harm caused by the release of the diplomatic cables .

Lamo met with FBI and Army investigators on May 25 in California , and showed them the chat logs . On or around that date he also passed the story to Kevin Poulsen of Wired , and on May 27 gave him the chat logs and Manning 's name under embargo . He met with the FBI again that day , at which point they told him Manning had been arrested in Iraq the day before . Poulsen and Kim Zetter broke the news of the arrest in Wired on June 6 . Wired published around 25 percent of the chat logs on June 6 and 10 , and the full logs in July 2011 , after the material about Manning 's gender identity disorder had appeared elsewhere .

= = Legal proceedings = =

= = = Arrest and charges = = =

Manning was arrested by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) , on May 27 , 2010 , and transferred four days later to Camp Arifjan in Kuwait . She was charged with several offenses in July , replaced by 22 charges in March 2011 , including violations of Articles 92 and 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) , and of the Espionage Act . The most serious charge was " aiding the enemy , " a capital offense , although prosecutors said they would not seek the death penalty . Another charge , which Manning 's defense called a " made up offense " but of which she was found guilty , read that Manning " wantonly [caused] to be published on the internet intelligence belonging to the US government , having knowledge that intelligence published on the internet is accessible to the enemy . "

= = = Detention = = =

While in Kuwait , Manning was placed on suicide watch after her behavior caused concern . She was moved from Kuwait to the Marine Corps Base Quantico , Virginia , on July 29 , 2010 , and classified as a maximum custody detainee with Prevention of Injury (POI) status . POI status is one stop short of suicide watch , entailing checks by guards every five minutes . Her lawyer , David Coombs , a former military attorney , said Manning was not allowed to sleep between 5 am (7 am on weekends) and 8 pm , and was made to stand or sit up if she tried to . She was required to remain visible at all times , including at night , which entailed no access to sheets , no pillow except one built into her mattress , and a blanket designed not to be shredded . Manning complained that she regarded it as pretrial punishment .

Her cell was 6 x 12 ft (1 @. @ 8 x 3 @. @ 6 m) with no window , containing a bed , toilet and sink . The jail had 30 cells built in a U shape , and although detainees could talk to one another , they were unable to see each other . Her lawyer said the guards behaved professionally , and had not tried to harass or embarrass Manning . She was allowed to walk for up to one hour a day , meals were taken in the cell , and she was shackled during visits . There was access to television when it was placed in the corridor , and she was allowed to keep one magazine and one book . Because she was in pretrial detention , she received full pay .

On January 18 , 2011 , after Manning had an altercation with the guards , the commander of Quantico classified her as a suicide risk . Manning said the guards had begun issuing conflicting commands , such as " turn left , don 't turn left , " and upbraiding her for responding to commands

with " yes " instead of " aye . " Shortly afterwards , she was placed on suicide watch , had her clothing and eyeglasses removed , and was required to remain in her cell 24 hours a day . The suicide watch was lifted on January 21 after a complaint from her lawyer , and the brig commander who ordered it was replaced . On March 2 she was told that her request for removal of POI status ? which entailed among other things sleeping wearing only boxer shorts ? had been denied . Her lawyer said Manning joked to the guards that , if she wanted to harm herself , she could do so with her underwear or her flip @-@ flops . The comment resulted in Manning being ordered to strip naked in her cell that night and sleep without clothing . On the following morning only , Manning stood naked for inspection . Following her lawyer 's protest and media attention , Manning was issued a sleeping garment on or before March 11 .

The detention conditions prompted national and international concern . Juan E. Mendez , United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture , told The Guardian that the U.S. government 's treatment of Manning was " cruel , inhuman and degrading . " In January 2011 Amnesty International asked the British government to intervene because of Manning 's status as a British citizen by descent , although Manning 's lawyer said Manning did not regard herself as a British citizen . The controversy claimed a casualty in March that year when State Department spokesman Philip J. Crowley criticized Manning 's treatment and resigned two days later . In early April , 295 academics (most of them American legal scholars) signed a letter arguing that the treatment was a violation of the U.S. Constitution . On April 20 the Pentagon transferred Manning to the Midwest Joint Regional Correctional Facility , a new medium @-@ security facility at Fort Leavenworth , Kansas , where she was placed in an 80 @-@ square @-@ foot cell with a window and a normal mattress , able to mix with other pretrial detainees and keep personal objects in her cell .

= = = Evidence presented at Article 32 hearing = = =

In April 2011 , a panel of experts , having completed a medical and mental evaluation of Manning , ruled that she was fit to stand trial . An Article 32 hearing , presided over by Lieutenant Colonel Paul Almanza , was convened on December 16 , 2011 , at Fort Meade , Maryland ; the hearing resulted in Almanza 's recommending that Manning be referred to a general court @-@ martial . She was arraigned on February 23 , 2012 , and declined to enter a plea .

During the Article 32 hearing , the prosecution , led by Captain Ashden Fein , presented 300 @,@ 000 pages of documents in evidence , including chat logs and classified material . The court heard from two Army investigators , Special Agent David Shaver , head of the digital forensics and research branch of the Army 's Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU) ; and Mark Johnson , a digital forensics contractor from ManTech International , who works for the CCIU . They testified that they had found 100 @,@ 000 State Department cables on a workplace computer Manning had used between November 2009 and May 2010 ; 400 @,@ 000 military reports from Iraq and 91 @,@ 000 from Afghanistan on an SD card found in her basement room in her aunt 's home in Potomac , Maryland ; and 10 @,@ 000 cables on her personal MacBook Pro and storage devices that they said had not been passed to WikiLeaks because a file was corrupted . They also recovered 14 to 15 pages of encrypted chats , in unallocated space on Manning 's MacBook hard drive , between Manning and someone believed to be Julian Assange . Two of the chat handles , which used the Berlin Chaos Computer Club 's domain (ccc.de) , were associated with the names Julian Assange and Nathaniel Frank .

Johnson said he found SSH logs on the MacBook that showed an SFTP connection , from an IP address that resolved to Manning 's aunt 's home , to a Swedish IP address with links to WikiLeaks . Also found was a text file named " Readme " , attached to the logs and apparently written by Manning to Assange , which called the Iraq and Afghan War logs " possibly one of the most significant documents of our time , removing the fog of war and revealing the true nature of 21st century asymmetric warfare . " The investigators testified they had also recovered an exchange from May 2010 between Manning and Eric Schmiedl , a Boston mathematician , in which Manning said she was the source of the Baghdad helicopter attack (" Collateral Murder ") video . Johnson said there had been two attempts to delete material from the MacBook . The operating system had been

re @-@ installed in January 2010 , and on or around January 31 , 2010 , an attempt had been made to erase the hard drive by doing a " zero @-@ fill , " which involves overwriting material with zeroes . The material was recovered after the overwrite attempts from unallocated space .

Manning 's lawyers argued that the government had overstated the harm the release of the documents had caused , and had overcharged Manning to force her to give evidence against Assange . The defense also raised questions about whether Manning 's confusion over her gender identity affected her behavior and decision making .

= = = Guilty plea , trial , sentence = = =

The judge , Army Colonel Denise Lind , ruled in January 2013 that any sentence would be reduced by 112 days because of the treatment Manning received at Quantico . On February 28 , Manning pleaded guilty to 10 of the 22 charges . Reading for over an hour from a 35 @-@ page statement , she said she had leaked the cables " to show the true cost of war . " Prosecutors pursued a court @-@ martial on the remaining charges .

The trial began on June 3 , 2013 . Manning was convicted on July 30 , on 17 of the 22 charges in their entirety , including five counts of espionage and theft , and an amended version of four other charges ; she was acquitted of aiding the enemy . The sentencing phase began the next day .

Captain Michael Worsley , a military psychologist who had treated Manning before her arrest , testified that Manning had been left isolated in the Army , trying to deal with gender @-@ identity issues in a " hyper @-@ masculine environment . " David Moulton , a Navy forensic psychiatrist who saw Manning after the arrest , said Manning had narcissistic traits , and showed signs of both fetal alcohol syndrome and Asperger syndrome . He said that , in leaking the material , Manning had been " acting out [a] grandiose ideation . "

A defense psychiatrist , testifying to Manning 's motives , suggested a different agenda :

Well , Pfc Manning was under the impression that his leaked information was going to really change how the world views the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq , and future wars , actually . This was an attempt to crowdsource an analysis of the war , and it was his opinion that if ... through crowdsourcing , enough analysis was done on these documents , which he felt to be very important , that it would lead to a greater good ... that society as a whole would come to the conclusion that the war wasn 't worth it ... that really no wars are worth it .

On August 14 , Manning apologized to the court : " I am sorry that my actions hurt people . I 'm sorry that they hurt the United States . I am sorry for the unintended consequences of my actions . When I made these decisions I believed I was going to help people , not hurt people At the time of my decisions I was dealing with a lot of issues . "

Manning 's offenses carried a maximum sentence of 90 years . The government asked for 60 years as a deterrent to others , while Manning 's lawyer asked for no more than 25 years . She was sentenced on August 21 to 35 years in prison , reduction in rank to private (private E @-@ 1 or PVT) , forfeiture of all pay and allowances , and a dishonorable discharge . She was given credit for 1 @-@ 293 days of pretrial confinement , including 112 days for her treatment at Quantico , and will be eligible for parole after serving one @-@ third of the sentence . There may also be additional credit for good behavior , which means she could be released after eight years . She is confined at the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB) at Fort Leavenworth , Kansas .

On April 14 , 2014 , Manning 's request for clemency was denied , as a result of which the case will go to the United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals for further review .

= = = Request for presidential pardon = = =

On September 3 , 2013 , Manning 's lawyer applied for a presidential pardon for his client . Coombs filed a Petition for Pardon / Commutation of Sentence to President Obama through the pardon attorney at the Department of Justice and Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh . In the petition , which was filed with the legal name " Bradley Manning " and used male @-@ gender pronouns , Coombs contended that Manning 's disclosures did not cause any " real damage , " and that the

documents in question did not merit protection as they were not sensitive . The request for a pardon included a supporting letter from Amnesty International which said that Manning 's leaks had exposed violations of human rights . Coombs 's letter touched on Manning 's role as a whistleblower , asking that Manning be granted a full pardon or that her sentence be reduced to time served .

= = = United States Army Court of Criminal Appeals = = =

In April 2015 , Amnesty International posted online a letter from Manning in which she wrote , " I am now preparing for my court @-@ martial appeal before the first appeals court . The appeal team , with my attorneys Nancy Hollander and Vince Ward , are hoping to file our brief before the court in the next six months . We have already had success in getting the court to respect my gender identity by using feminine pronouns in the court filings (she , her , etc .) . "

= = Reaction to disclosures = =

The publication of the leaked material , particularly the diplomatic cables , attracted in @-@ depth coverage worldwide , with several governments blocking websites that contained embarrassing details . Alan Rusbridger , editor of The Guardian , said : " I can 't think of a time when there was ever a story generated by a news organisation where the White House , the Kremlin , Chávez , India , China , everyone in the world was talking about these things I 've never known a story that created such mayhem that wasn 't an event like a war or a terrorist attack . "

United States Navy Admiral Michael Mullen , then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff , said the leaks had placed the lives of American soldiers and Afghan informants in danger . Journalist Glenn Greenwald argued that Manning was the most important whistleblower since Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers in 1971 . In an impromptu questioning session after a fundraiser , captured on a cell phone video , President Barack Obama said that Manning " broke the law " , which was later criticized as " unlawful command influence " on Manning 's upcoming trial .

Manning and WikiLeaks were credited as catalysts for the Arab Spring that began in December 2010 , when waves of protesters rose up against rulers across the Middle East and North Africa , after the leaked cables exposed government corruption . In Tunisia , where the uprisings began on December 17 , 2010 , one of the leaked cables ? published around 10 days earlier ? showed that the President 's daughter and her husband had their ice cream flown in from Saint @-@ Tropez .

A Washington Post editorial asked why an apparently unstable Army private had been able to access and transfer sensitive material in the first place . According to a biographer , Manning 's sexuality came into play by illustrating for the far right that gay people were unfit for military service , while the American mainstream thought of Manning as a gay soldier driven mad by bullying .

= = Non @-@ military tributes = =

In 2011 , Manning was awarded a " Whistleblowerpreis " by the German Section of the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms and the Federation of German Scientists . In 2012 , she was awarded " People 's Choice Award " awarded by Global Exchange . In 2013 , she was awarded the Sean MacBride Peace Prize by the International Peace Bureau . In 2014 , she was awarded the Sam Adams Award by Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence .

Icelandic and Swedish Pirate Party MPs nominated Manning and fellow whistleblower Edward Snowden for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize . In a statement to the Nomination Committee , the Pirate Party members said Manning and Snowden " have inspired change and encouraged public debate and policy changes that contributed to a more stable and peaceful world " . In 2013 , Roots Action launched a petition nominating Manning for the prize that received more than 100 @,@ 000 supporting signatures .

In April 2015 a bronze statute of Manning , Edward Snowden , and Julian Assange was erected in Berlin 's Alexanderplatz . Germany 's Green Party sponsored the statue created by Italian sculptor David Dormino .

= = Gender transition = =

= = = 2013 = = =

On August 22 , 2013 , the day after sentencing , Manning 's attorney issued a press release to the Today show announcing that his client was a female , and asked that she be referred to by her new name of Chelsea and feminine pronouns . Manning 's statement included the following :

As I transition into this next phase of my life , I want everyone to know the real me . I am Chelsea Manning . I am a female . Given the way that I feel , and have felt since childhood , I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible . I hope that you will support me in this transition . I also request that , starting today , you refer to me by my new name and use the feminine pronoun (except in official mail to the confinement facility) . I look forward to receiving letters from supporters and having the opportunity to write back .

The news media split in its reaction to Manning 's request ; some organizations used the new name and pronouns , and others continued to use the former ones . Advocacy groups such as GLAAD , the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association , and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) encouraged media outlets to refer to Manning by her self @-@ identified name and pronoun .

= = = 2014 = = =

In April 2014 , the Kansas District Court considered a petition from Manning for a legal name change . The petition was granted that month . An Army spokesman stated that while the Army will update personnel records to acknowledge the name change , the military will continue to regard Manning as a male . Manning is seeking hormone therapy and the right to live as a woman while confined , consistent with her gender dysphoria , which has been confirmed by two Army medical specialists . Such treatment is provided in civilian federal prisons when it is found to be medically necessary , but it is not available in military prisons . The Pentagon policy considers transgender individuals ineligible to serve .

In July , the Federal Bureau of Prisons rejected a request by the Army to transfer Manning from the USDB to a civilian facility for treatment of her gender dysphoria . Instead , the Army will keep Manning in military custody and begin rudimentary gender treatment , which could include allowing her to wear female undergarments and possibly receive hormone treatments . No decision was announced regarding whether or not Manning will be transferred from the all @-@ male USDB to a female facility .

On August 12 , 2014 , the ACLU and Manning 's civilian attorney David Coombs said Manning was not receiving treatment for her gender identity condition as previously approved by Secretary of Defense Hagel . They notified the USDB , Hagel and other Defense Department officials that a lawsuit would be filed if they did not confirm by September 4 that treatment would be provided . On August 22 , Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Alayne Conway told NBC News , " The Department of Defense has approved a request by Army leadership to provide required medical treatment for an inmate diagnosed with gender dysphoria . " Although Conway would not discuss " the medical needs of an individual , " she did say , " In general terms , the initial stages of treatment for individuals with gender dysphoria include psychotherapy and elements of the ' real life experience ' therapy . Treatment for the condition is highly individualized and generally is sequential and graduated . " The Army declined to say when treatment might begin .

In September , Manning filed a lawsuit in federal district court in Washington , D.C. , against Secretary of Defense Hagel , claiming she had " been denied access to medically necessary treatment " for gender disorder . She sued to be allowed to grow her hair longer and use cosmetics , and to receive hormone treatments " to express her female gender . "

= = = 2015 = = =

On February 12 , 2015 , USA Today reported that the commandant of the USDB wrote in a February 5 memo , " After carefully considering the recommendation that (hormone treatment) is medically appropriate and necessary , and weighing all associated safety and security risks presented , I approve adding (hormone treatment) to Inmate Manning 's treatment plan . " According to USA Today , Manning remained a soldier , and the decision to administer hormone therapy was a first for the Army . Manning was not allowed to grow her hair longer . Her ACLU attorney said that the delay in approving her hormone treatment " came with a significant cost to Chelsea and her mental health . "

On March 5 , in response to Manning 's request for an order compelling the military to use pronouns that conform to her chosen gender identity , the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals ruled , " Reference to appellant in all future formal papers filed before this court and all future orders and decisions issued by this court shall either be neutral , e.g. , Private First Class Manning or appellant , or employ a feminine pronoun . "

On March 14 , the digital library host Cryptome posted an unsigned public copy of a court document , filed March 10 , wherein the parties to Manning 's September 2014 lawsuit against Secretary of Defense Hagel agreed to stay proceedings for seven months , after which time they would address how the litigation should proceed in light of Manning 's status at that time . The document revealed that the Army was then providing Manning with weekly psychotherapy , including psychotherapy specific to gender dysphoria ; cross @-@ sex hormone therapy ; female undergarments ; the ability to wear prescribed cosmetics in her daily life at the USDB ; and speech therapy .

In April 2015 , Amnesty International posted online a letter from Manning in which she disclosed ,
I finally began my prescribed regime of hormones to continue my overdue gender transition in February . It 's been such an amazing relief for my body and brain to finally come into alignment with each other . My stress and anxiety levels have tapered off quite considerably . Overall , things are beginning to move along nicely .

= = Prison life = =

In March 2015 , Bloomberg News reported that Manning can be visited only by those she had named before her imprisonment , and not by journalists . She cannot be photographed or give interviews on camera . Manning is not allowed to browse the web , but consults print news and has access to new gender theory texts .

In April 2015 , Amnesty International posted online a letter from Manning in which she described her daily life . " My days here are busy and very routine , " Manning wrote . " I am taking college correspondence courses for a bachelor 's degree . I also work out a lot to stay fit , and read newspapers , magazines and books to keep up @-@ to @-@ date on current events around the world and learn new things . "

Also that month , Cosmopolitan published the first interview with Manning in prison , conducted by mail . Cosmo reported that Manning is optimistic about recent progress but says not being allowed to grow her hair long is " painful and awkward ? I am torn up . I get through each day okay , but at night , when I 'm alone in my room , I finally burn out and crash . " Manning said it was " very much a relief " to announce that she is a woman , and did not fear the public response . " Honestly , I 'm not terribly worried about what people out there might think of me . I just try to be myself . " According to Cosmo , Manning has her own cell with " two tall vertical windows that face the sun , " and can see " trees and hills and blue sky and all the things beyond the buildings and razor wire . " Manning denies being harassed by other inmates , and claims some have become confidantes .

= = = Writing = = =

In February 2015 , Katharine Viner , editor @-@ in @-@ chief of Guardian US , announced that Manning had joined The Guardian as a contributing opinion writer on war , gender , and freedom of information . Viner added that Manning would not be paid in this capacity . In 2014 , The Guardian

had published two op @-@ eds by Manning : " How to make Isis fall on its own sword " (September 16) and " I am a transgender woman and the government is denying my civil rights " (December 8) . Manning 's debut under the new arrangement , " The CIA 's torturers and the leaders who approved their actions must face the law , " appeared on March 9 , 2015 .

In April 2015 , Manning began communicating via Twitter , under the handle @ xychelsea , by using a voice phone to dictate to intermediaries , who then tweet on her behalf .

= = = Suicide attempt = = =

On July 5 , 2016 , Manning was taken to a hospital after what media sources characterized as a suicide attempt . The following week , Manning confirmed through an attorney statement that she attempted to end her own life .