

By Ann Wright

From CommonDreams.org | Original Article

Army Private Bradley Manning faces a death sentence while Army Specialist who mutilated the body of an Afghan gets “supervised chores”

The U.S. government is clearly signaling that murdering, raping, mutilating and assaulting are not nearly as serious as allegedly making available to the public documents that reveal embarrassing and/or criminal actions of senior government officials.

Last Wednesday, U.S. Army Specialist Corey Moore [was sentenced](#) at Fort Lewis, Washington, by a military judge for a mere 60 days of “hard labor” and a bad-conduct discharge for mutilating the corpse of an Afghan civilian, assaulting Adam Winfield, a soldier in his unit who whistle blew on the murder and mutilation of Afghan civilians, and smoking hashish over a period of several months.

In contrast, the previous day, March 1, the U.S. Army filed 22 additional offenses, including “aiding the enemy” which is punishable by death, against alleged whistleblower Pfc. Bradley Manning. The first charges against Manning included leaking classified information, disobeying an order and general misconduct.

If found guilty, Manning could be sentenced to life imprisonment or death for exposing documents that show numerous criminal acts committed by officials of the U.S. government.

For mutilating a body and assaulting a fellow soldier, according to Army spokeswoman Major

Kathleen Turner, Moore's "hard labor" sentence [will be carried out](#) in Moore's unit, not in a prison. Turner said that a supervisor from his unit will give him a list of tasks and chores to do each day to be performed under guard.

Manning is in his eighth months of pre-trial solitary confinement in a military prison and has been subjected to emotional and psychological torture, most recently being forced to remain nude for extended periods in his isolated cell.

Twelve soldiers, all members of the Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Division's Stryker brigade, based in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar region, are accused of the executions and mutilations of Afghan civilians.

Moore did not face charges of killing the person whose corpse he defiled by stabbing. None of the soldiers so far convicted were accused of murdering Afghan civilians.

The trial of Specialist Jeremy Morlock, who is the first to face murder charges in the deaths of the Afghan civilians, is facing three counts of murder. His trial was delayed on March 2.

Moore the Mutilator has "Potential" says his defense attorney

Incredibly in her closing argument, Moore's defense attorney, Captain Vanessa Mull, said Moore had "incredible potential," and asked the military judge to recognize that potential by allowing him to remain in the service.

The military judge rejected her request and sentenced Moore to "supervised chores" and a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Army, but no prison time.

Ann Wright is a 29 year US Army/Army Reserves veteran who retired as a Colonel and a former US diplomat who resigned in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq. She served in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia. In December, 2001 she was on the small team that reopened the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. She is a member of the Advisory Board of War Criminals Watch. She is the

co-author of the book "Dissent: Voices of Conscience." (www.voicesofconscience.com)