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Major General Jeffrey S. Buchanan  
Commander  
Military District of Washington  
103 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, SW  
Fort Lesley J McNair  
Washington, DC SW 20319-5058  
USA

6 November 2013

Dear Major General Buchanan

**PRIVATE BRADLEY MANNING'S APPLICATION FOR CLEMENCY**

Amnesty International is writing in support of Private Bradley Manning's clemency submission. We understand that you have not yet been requested to take action with regard to Private Manning's sentence. However, we request that when you do consider granting clemency to Private Manning, you consider this letter, as well as a submission by Private Manning's attorney signed by supporters of our request.

Private Manning was sentenced to 35 years' imprisonment on 21 August for leaking classified information to an unauthorized entity. Amnesty International recognizes the government's power to hold to account members of the military who breach military law and security. However, we think it is important to note that Private Manning has accepted responsibility for his actions, saying that he did not intend to harm US interests. Rather than exposing information for selfish or unpatriotic reasons, he believed he was exposing information in the public interest, which he hoped would spark a debate on the true costs of war, and specifically on the conduct of the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the materials leaked by Private Manning were indeed of great value to the public debate: they pointed to potential human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law by US troops, Iraqi and Afghan forces operating alongside US forces, military contractors, and the CIA. Notably, among the material revealed by Private Manning was previously unseen footage of journalists and other civilians being killed in US helicopter attacks, footage that had been wrongly kept secret and whose exposure served the public interest.

Amnesty International is greatly concerned about the severity of the sentence imposed on Private Manning. While we understand that each case must be assessed in light of its individual circumstances, we are concerned that Private Manning is being treated more harshly than members of the military who had been convicted of serious crimes such as murder, rape, and war crimes.

Private Manning has already served more than three years in pre-trial detention, including 11 months in conditions acknowledged by the judge presiding over his trials and by military officials as breaching military standards. Indeed, his detention conditions were condemned by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture as cruel and inhumane.

For the reasons mentioned above, Amnesty International believes that Private Bradley Manning should be granted clemency. Amnesty International respectfully requests that you commute his sentence to the time that he has already served in prison.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Mariner, Senior Crisis Advisor, Research and Crisis Response Program

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