

Council informer in US protest

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May 15 2016, 12:01am, The Sunday Times



US Army Private Chelsea Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison for leaking government documents to Wikileaks

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A Scottish whistleblower is leading a campaign for the release of Chelsea Manning, a former US soldier who handed secret government documents to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks.

The former soldier, who was born Bradley Manning but now wishes to be regarded as a woman, was a junior intelligence analyst for the US army. She was sentenced to 35 years in prison in 2013 after leaking almost 750,000 classified documents in 2010.

Pete Gregson, a former employee at Edinburgh council who helped expose scandals over property repairs and the city's expensive tram project, has started an online petition calling on Hillary Clinton to secure a pardon for Manning if she becomes president. A protest is planned for next weekend outside the US consulate in Edinburgh.

Manning enabled WikiLeaks to publish sensitive messages between US diplomats, records of military incidents in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and a cockpit video showing an Apache helicopter killing 12 people in Baghdad in 2007.

“Chelsea languishes in solitary confinement in a high security US military prison and has been forgotten since the cell door clanged shut. Why? For exposing the slaughter of innocents by a US Army gunship along with other crimes against humanity in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is as an example to us all,” said Gregson.

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