OMNI NEWSLETTER #2 ON WHISTLEBLOWERS, FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE, Dec. 12, 2011, Compiled by Dick Bennett

OMNI’s endowed fund at UA’s Mullins Library for the purchase of books and films on Victims includes books and films on corporations and on resistance to US Imperialism Abroad and Repression at Home—including whistleblowers and investigative reporters.

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Contents of #1 October 21, 2011
Whistleblowers
Nader 2002 on Corporate Crime and Whistleblowers
Three Entries on Government Crime and Bradley Manning
Ann Wright: Obama and Leaker Manning
Lendman: Manning, Leaker Hero
Deliberate Mis-Classification of Manning
FDA Whistleblowers
Whistleblowers Heroes, Short List
Selected Whistleblowers Since 1966

Contents of #2 Dec. 12, 2011
Struggle for Whistleblowers’ Rights (2)
Government (2)
Military
Corporations (5)
Whistleblowers or Leakers?

WHISTLEBLOWERS’ RIGHTS

“Who needs whistleblowers? We all do.” -- Mark Galen, May 14, 2011 by Book Guy
- See all my reviews
Whistleblowers, aka "Insiders", aka "Persons of Conscience" are the only people who can alert the public when a disaster is coming, or we are being ripped off, or banks are going to meltdown, or oils spills are likely, or healthcare is substandard, or elections are not fair. The founding fathers knew we needed whistleblowers to sound the alarm. . . .Insiders can save our country big. . A huge number of the decade’s disasters could have been prevented if insiders had been listened to. This book gives an incredible and realistic guide to what it is like to be a POC-whistleblower. Jeff Wigand is a prime example of "a happy warrior" who fights to save kids from tobacco, saving millions of lives...


A coalition of 112 religious, scientific, consumer, civil liberties, civil rights, peace, small-business, labor, libertarian, journalism, environmental and good-government organizations is urging U.S. Senate and House members to create the strongest possible federal employee whistleblower protections and to deliver a bill this year to Pres. Bush. To read the coalition’s letter to lawmakers, visit: [www.whistleblower.org/doc/2008/CoalitionLetterJune4.pdf](http://www.whistleblower.org/doc/2008/CoalitionLetterJune4.pdf)

To send a letter to your members of Congress, go to: [www.whistlebloweraction.org](http://www.whistlebloweraction.org)

RESOLUTION by OMNI SC, August 21, 2008:

Because whistleblowers are one of our nation’s most important corrections of government and corporate abuse, OMNI’s Steering Committee endorses the Coalition’s letter to lawmakers, and we urge our members to write their members of Congress and to solicit letters from their friends.

GOVERNMENT


OBAMA VS. WHISTLEBLOWERS

Amy Goodman 6-17-10 interviews Daniel Ellsberg and others about O. and wb: O. admin. worst against wb and leakers.

MILITARY

(See Newsletters and Blog posts on Wikileaks, Assange, Manning.)

1. [Whistleblower - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whistleblower)

You +1’d this publicly. [Undo](https://www.google.com/hostednews/undo)

Jump to [US military]: The Military Whistleblower Protection Act protects the right of members of the armed services to communicate with any member of ...

[List of whistleblowers - Whistleblower Protection Act - Category:Whistleblowers]

You visited this page on 10/21/11.

2. [Reprisal (Military Whistleblower Protection)]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whistleblower)
Numerous cases of military whistleblowers facing retribution highlight the need for protection. For example, Army counterintelligence specialist Mike Helms endured a bureaucratic nightmare trying to get treatment for traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other injuries. He wrote or called numerous congressmen, Defense Department executives, newspapers, even then-President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. According to an inspector general's report obtained by Federal Times, the Army then retaliated against Helms for blowing the whistle on the poor treatment he received.

1. **Nation & World** | *Military whistle-blowers* get little protection | [Seattle ...](seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/*2008369324_whistle09.html) You +1’d this publicly. **Undo**

Nov 9, 2008 – Military whistle-blowers might want to save their breath. The Pentagon inspector general, the internal watchdog for the Defense Department...

2. **Why Military Whistleblowers Fear Reprisal** | Battleland | [TIME.com](battleland.blogs.time.com/*why-military-whistleblowers-fear-repris...)

Oct 20, 2011 – In the chain-of-command-oriented military, whistleblowers rarely fare well. Each year, hundreds of uniformed members of the military send...

3. **U.S. Military Whistleblowers Face Retribution** | NPR

May 21, 2004 – NPR's Daniel Zwerdling examines two cases of military whistleblowers who faced retribution for exposing wrongdoing. In the first case, an Army...

Whistleblower Makes Herself Heard on the Hill

By Joe Davidson Thursday, June 11, 2009

Don't be fooled by Bunnatine H. Greenhouse's nickname. "Bunny" might have a soft and cuddly side, but it's her watchdog self that got her in trouble.

When Greenhouse blew the whistle on noncompetitive multibillion-dollar contracts to Kellogg Brown & Root, then a Halliburton subsidiary, for work in Iraq's oil fields, she thought she was following her
oath of office.
But instead of being honored for doing her duty, Greenhouse, with two decades of government
contracting experience, was drummed out of her position in 2005 as chief procurement officer for the
Army Corps of Engineers, pushed from the Senior Executive Service and stripped of her security
clearance after she refused to retire with grace.
While Greenhouse, 64, continues to fight for personal vindication, her focus now is on the defense of
whistleblowers in general. The vehicle for that is the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. The
Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee on oversight of government
management, the federal workforce and the District of Columbia is to hear testimony on the bill this
afternoon. "It's the only right move to do at this time, because federal employees must be protected,"
Greenhouse said in an interview yesterday.
One protection that Greenhouse wants -- and a provision that whistleblower advocates consider the
litmus test for a meaningful bill -- is the ability for whistleblowers to go before a jury with their
allegations that they have been retaliated against for raising charges of fraud, waste and abuse in
government operations.
A provision allowing jury trials is included in House legislation that Greenhouse testified in favor of
last month. But it is not included in the Senate version that will be discussed today.
Whistleblowers need "full access to court to enforce their rights through a jury trial," said Tom Devine,
legal director of the Government Accountability Project.
But the Obama administration, which is generally sympathetic to whistleblower rights, has not
embraced the concept of jury trials to protect those rights. When Rajesh De, a deputy assistant attorney
general, testified before the House, his testimony was notable for what it didn't say about jury trials.
"So far, the administration seems glued to the fence on that issue," Devine said.
Greenhouse feels certain she would prevail if her case went to court. "If I had not done what was in my
oath of office to do as the person who was the procurement executive, I could have been wearing . . .
prison stripes," she said.
The Pentagon did not respond to a request for comment on her case.
She is not impressed with the administration's proposal to create a body within the executive branch for
employees who want to make classified whistleblower disclosures. She says that's no better than the
avenues already available, which whistleblowers find useless.
It's her view that current government mechanisms for whistleblowers merely protect those in power.
"The people who are telling the truth and trying to make sure that improprieties do not affect the public
trust, they are going to be the skunks at the picnic," she said.
After Greenhouse testified last month, the Army Corps of Engineers' chief of staff tried to stifle her by
ordering that any future testimony would have to be approved in advance, according to her attorneys at
the National Whistleblowers Center.
Never the shy one, Greenhouse responded with an open letter to Americans. "I am shocked by this
blatant violation of the First Amendment," she wrote. "I said nothing improper during my testimony, I
simply told the truth. I was testifying on my own time while I was on unpaid leave."
Her attorneys also jumped into action and released a letter to President Obama. The attempt to silence
Greenhouse "constitutes illegal harassment of a witness," they told him. "We expect that you will take
prompt corrective action."
The Pentagon backed down. A few days later, Greenhouse was told the directive did not refer to
testimony in her personal capacity.
Sick Days in Limbo
Legislation eagerly awaited by federal employees, including one provision that would allow workers to
count unused sick days toward retirement, has gone up in smoke, at least for the time being. The
amendments will not be attached to a tobacco bill that the Senate is expected to vote on today, as
employee lobbyists and advocates had hoped.
"The provision establishing an unused-sick-leave benefit for federal employees enrolled in FERS [the Federal Employee Retirement System] is the one that I am most upset about not being included in the Senate legislation," said Randy Erwin, legislative director of the National Federation of Federal Employees. "I get calls every day from federal employees that are close to retirement but are putting it off until they know what will happen with the FERS sick-leave issue. . . . But now we just have more uncertainty about it."

Contact Joe Davidson at federaldiary@washpost.com.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/10/AR2009061003804_pf.html

DANIEL ELLSBERG URGES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE KNOW TO EXPOSE THE SECRET STUDIES AND COMMUNICATIONS BEHIND THE IRAQ AND AFGHAN INVASIONS AND OCCUPATION (e.g. war plans, Karzai’s corruption). Interview by Amy Goodman, Democracy Now (3-30-10). Ellsberg sees a close relationship between VN War and Afghan War.

CORPORATIONS

**Fighting Government and Corporations**

*Whistle-blower Had to Fight NSA, LA Times to Tell Story*

*2007-03-06, ABC News*


Whistle-blower AT&T technician Mark Klein says his effort to reveal alleged government surveillance of domestic Internet traffic was blocked not only by U.S. intelligence officials but also by the top editors of the Los Angeles Times. Klein describes how he stumbled across "secret NSA rooms" being installed at an AT&T switching center in San Francisco and later heard of similar rooms in at least six other cities. Eventually, Klein says he decided to take his documents to the Los Angeles Times, to blow the whistle on what he calls "an illegal and Orwellian project." But after working for two months with LA Times reporter Joe Menn, Klein says he was told the story had been killed at the request of then-Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte and then-director of the NSA Gen. Michael Hayden. Klein says he then took his AT&T documents to The New York Times, which published its exclusive account last April. In the court case against AT&T, Negroponte formally invoked the "state secrets privilege," claiming the lawsuit and the information from Klein and others could "cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security of the United States." The Los Angeles Times' decision was made by the paper's editor at the time, Dean Baquet, now the Washington bureau chief of The New York Times. As the new Washington bureau chief of The New York Times, Baquet now oversees the reporters who have broken most of the major stories involving the government surveillance program, often over objections from the government.

**Note:** So after the NY Times has the guts to report this important story, the man who was responsible for the censorship at the LA Times is transferred to the very position in the NY Times where he can now block future stories there. For why this case of blatant media
censorship isn't making headlines, click here.

WHISTLEBLOWER WENDELL POTTER: HEALTH INSURANCE
Potter has been interviewed on Bill Moyers' Journal (7-10-09) and Democracy Now (7-16-09). Potter was the chief spokesman for Cigna. Mainly he organized damage control every time Cigna canceled a policy; also he led the insurance industry’s effort to blunt the impact of Moore’s Sicko. Finally he resigned in disgust, has testified before Congress, and is telling his story to media (mainstream?). He now assists the Center for Media and Democracy.

William K. Black, “Cash Incentives for Whistleblowers Help Control [Bank] Fraud” Benzinga
Excerpt: "The FBI began using the word 'epidemic' to describe mortgage fraud in September 2004 and predicting that it would cause an economic crisis if it were not contained. It was not contained. Instead the epidemic grew rapidly."
READ MORE http://www.readersupportednews.org/

--Gordon Massie. The Whistleblower's Dilemma: Confronting Fraud with AIG. He rptd fraud and malfeasance by AIG to our gov't. in 2005. Gordon S. Massie's book tells the story of one man's rise and fall in this world of high finance. Written in non-technical language, this book is about one man’s struggle to find ethics and sanity in a world that all too often is driven by greed and power. The Whistleblower's Dilemma is a true first-person account of a decent man who finds himself caught in the middle of accounting fraud. Who are the people who made these decisions? This insider’s account of one of the most notorious financial institutions in history taps into our anger and frustration about the economy and helps us understand how deception and fraud can be so widely tolerated. Along the way it provides sharp and often scathing snapshots of the bloated egos that populate the business world, the rewards the industry lavishes on its leaders, and the devastating cost to anyone who dares questions the party line.

WHISTLE BLOWER Interviewed
democracy Now (2-24-10). Google text.

WHISTLEBLOWERS AND LEAKERS
[Technically, Whistleblowers inform on wrongdoers after having tried all avenues of correction within the system. D] Government environmental officials who resisted and lost their jobs “Profiles in Courage,” Sierra Magazine (Sept. Oct. 2008). Only one of these is technically a whistleblower.
“White House Whistleblower!
05/26/2010 by Peter Hart

[This is a leaker in action not a whistleblower, but the distinction is often blurred. D]
President Barack Obama does not like leaks coming out of his White House. Luckily, most of what is passed to reporters is not so damaging. Take this passage from the Washington Post (5/26/10):

Although senior administration officials have voiced growing disapproval of BP, the company operating the rig and responsible for the cleanup, the mission of the Friday trip is not to declare war on the firm, said one senior administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal White House deliberations.

Instead, the official said, the trip will demonstrate that Obama is "on top of it."

Anonymous White House officials are willing to speak candidly about the boss being "on top" of the BP disaster. Thank goodness the Post could grant anonymity to that brave soul, who risked his/her neck to deliver such valuable insight. Hopefully there are more scoops to come!

END WHISTLEBLOWER NEWSLETTER #2