

# How they see us: Is Bradley Manning being tortured?

Free speech in America apparently doesn't extend to government officials, said Luis Lema in Switzerland's *Le Temps*. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley was fired this week for speaking out against the brutal treatment of Bradley Manning, the young soldier accused of giving tens of thousands of U.S. military documents to WikiLeaks. Manning has been held in solitary confinement for the past 10 months, subject to a prevention-of-injury order that keeps him locked in his cell for 23 hours a day and stripped naked at night. Crowley called that treatment "ridiculous and counterproductive and stupid"—and it's hard not to agree. President Obama, exasperated by the flap, insisted that the Pentagon had assured him that Manning's detention conditions were "appropriate." But "skeptics might point out that George Bush, too, placed his full confidence" in the Pentagon's interrogation methods.



Crowley: Speaking his mind

It's quite a "radical turnaround" for Obama, said John Goetz in Germany's *Der Spiegel*. One of Obama's campaign pledges was that government whistle-blowers would be "protected from reprisal." But his government is currently pursuing legal action "against a number of such informants," including Manning. Of course, given the gravity of the charges against Manning, it's understandable that he was initially placed under high security. But over the months he has been a model prisoner, and even the military psychologist recommended "virtually every week" that he be treated like other prisoners. It seems clear that he has, in fact, been singled out for harsh treatment.

The "stench of U.S. hypocrisy" is nauseating, said Ryan Gallagher in the *London Guardian*. Manning has been convicted of no crime. Yet he has been held in isolation in a stark room that's 6 feet wide and 12 feet long. "For the one hour each day he is allowed free from his windowless cell, he is taken to an empty room where he is allowed to walk but not run." When he complained, the guards retaliated by putting him on suicide watch, forcing him to strip naked every morning and stand with his arms and legs outstretched for

inspection. The one friend who has been allowed to visit him reports that Manning has gone from a "bright-eyed, intelligent young man" to someone who at times has appeared "cata-tonic," with "very high difficulty carrying on day-to-day conversation." In recent weeks, the U.S. government has condemned torture by the brutal, falling regimes in the Middle East, "yet at a prison within its own borders it sanctions the persecution, alleged psychological torture, and debasement of a young soldier." Why don't the American media point this out?

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① P.J. Crowley of the U.S. State

Department was fired for speaking out against the brutal treatment of Bradley Manning, the young soldier

accused of giving tens of thousands of U.S. military documents to wikiLeaks

### Poll watch

■ 64% of Americans now say the war in Afghanistan has not been worth fighting, the highest percentage yet to say so.  
*The Washington Post/ABC News*

② Manning is stripped naked at night. ③ Manning has been convicted of no crime, but he is held in a room that is 6 feet wide and 12 feet long.

④ One of Obama's campaign pledges was that gov't whistle-blowers would be "protected from reprisal." ⑤ Poll watch: 64% of Americans say the war in Afghanistan has not been worth fighting.

⑥ Cartoon: the words "U.S. DEBT OWNED BY CHINA" is located on the glass and the guy gulping is uncle Sam. ⑦ habeas corpus keeps the gov't from throwing people into prison without charges.

⑧ Article 3 of the Geneva Convention says that prisoners must not be humiliated nor tortured. ⑨ Someone who exposes the wrongdoings of his employer is a whistle-blower.

⑩ The president's duty is to protect and enforce the US Constitution. ⑪ US Constitution supreme law of the U.S.