



ROBERT BALES

STAFF SERGEANT - US ARMY



- Bales conducted, what he believed to be, a pre-emptive strike against Taliban fighters who had previously harmed U.S. Servicemen and were actively coordinating another attack.
- The Afghans claimed Bales killed sixteen (16) “civilians.”
 - Bales claimed he killed twenty (20), **including Taliban enemy combatants.**
- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:
 - **DID NOT AFFORD BALES THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE** - President Obama stated the incident would be “fully” investigated, and Defense Secretary Panetta suggested Bales could face the “death penalty” before charges were filed.
 - **DID NOT CHALLENGE ALLEGATIONS** the Afghan’s made against Bales, a US Soldier
 - **DID NOT EXAMINE THE BODIES** nor conduct autopsies/forensics to confirm allegations
 - **DID NOT CONFIRM IF THOSE KILLED WERE ENEMY COMBATANTS** via biometrics
 - **THREATENED BALES WITH THE DEATH PENALTY** to coerce an inaccurate/incomplete confession
 - **DID NOT PROVE THEIR CASE IN A TRIAL** Went straight to sentencing after the confession
 - **DID FLY IN TALIBAN ENEMY COMBATANTS**, with aliases, to testify against Bales.
 - **DID NOT APPROPRIATELY EVALUATE BALES’ “MENS REA”** (mindset/intent for murder)
 - **DID NOT DISCLOSE THE ARMY ADMINISTERED BALES “MEFLOQUINE”** - an anti-malaria drug with psychotic effects, but stopped administering it to Soldiers after Bales’ incident
 - **CONVICTED BALES: 16 COUNTS OF MURDER & SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**

BACKGROUND

Staff Sergeant Robert Bales, a decorated infantry soldier and father of two, served four combat tours and was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS) due to exposure to ten (10) IED attacks. His wife, Kari, relocated near the prison to maintain their close family bond, allowing Bales to remain involved in their children’s lives, including helping with homework during visiting hours.

MAJOR ISSUES IN BALES’S CASE

1. **ENEMY COMBATANTS AS WITNESSES:** U.S. Army prosecutors used Taliban as witnesses during the Article 32 hearing to gain the death penalty and then flew 9 Afghans in to testify against Bales during sentencing. They failed to disclose that the DNA from 5 had been found on IEDs used against Americans, i.e. they were enemy combatants. A FOIA revealed prosecutors worked with the State Department to conceal identities of these Taliban and placed them on Delta Airlines flights, among unaware U.S. civilians.
2. **COLLATERAL DAMAGE:** The outcome for Bales may have been very different had the U.S. Government conducted autopsies, forensics, or biometric assessments and confirmed that any of those Bales killed were actually enemy combatants. The alleged “civilians” Bales killed might then have been considered “collateral damage” (similar to when the U.S. dropped bombs on the Haska Meyna wedding party in Afghanistan which killed 39 women and children to take out one insurgent “target of opportunity”).
3. **POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY:** The media’s coverage of Bales’ killings stoked Afghan anger toward the U.S., especially after incidents in which U.S. Servicemen burned Qurans and urinated on Taliban fighter’s corpses. A quick conviction was sought to facilitate President Obama getting President Karzai to sign the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between Afghanistan and America.
4. **MEFLOQUINE:** The Army had evidence Mefloquine causes behavioral issues, including suicide and homicide, effects which can be exacerbated in individuals with TBI or PTSD. The Army stopped administering Mefloquine after Bales’ incident, but the prosecution did not disclose that Bales was ordered to take Mefloquine. If Bales was laboring under the psychotic effects of Mefloquine poisoning, his “mens rea,” (mindset/intent for murder) is called into question and Bales might have been found not guilty due to diminished mental capacity and responsibility.

STATUS OF THE CASE

- Placed in pre-trial confinement on March 12, 2012.
- In August 2013, Bales was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, presently at USDB, Ft. Leavenworth.
- Consistent with the President’s vow to end the “endless war” in Afghanistan and in light of recent negotiations between the US and the Taliban which led to the freeing of thousands of Taliban prisoners, 150 of whom are on death row for heinous “war crimes.”

IT’S TIME FOR OUR BOYS TO COME HOME!

PLEASE GRANT A FULL PRESIDENTIAL PARDON OR COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE TO TIME SERVED

For more information about SSG Robert Bales’s case, please watch the following video: <https://bit.ly/3V5cxVg>