

## DRONE WHISTLEBLOWER DANIEL HALE: UPDATE

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In May 2019, drone whistleblower Daniel Everette Hale was arrested and indicted on allegations that he disclosed classified documents about the U.S. military's assassination program, believed to have been the source material for a series in The Intercept called "The Drone Papers." On March 31, 2021, Hale pleaded guilty to a single count under the Espionage Act, carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years. Sentencing is currently scheduled for July 27, 2021.

Hale is a veteran of the US Air Force. During his military service from 2009 to 2013, he participated in the US drone program, working with both the National Security Agency and the Joint Special Operations Task Force at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. After leaving the Air Force, Hale became an outspoken opponent of the US targeted killings program, US foreign policy more generally, and a supporter of whistleblowers. He publicly spoke out at conferences, forums, and public panels. He was featured prominently in the award-winning documentary "National Bird," a film about whistleblowers in the US drone program who suffered from moral injury and PTSD. Hale based his criticisms on his own participation in the drone program, which included helping to select targets based on faulty criteria and attacks on unarmed innocent civilians.

Daniel is facing up to 10 years in prison for contacting the press about a matter of extreme public importance that has been shrouded in secrecy. But the larger concern is not what Hale did or didn't do but what our government has been doing. For almost two decades, they have used a veil of secrecy to deny the American public the basic right to informed debate and consent. Government officials have repeatedly lied about the nature and the extent of drone assassinations. No one has ever been held accountable for these lies, or for the war crimes they have enabled.

Daniel is a whistleblower who has enriched the public's knowledge about matters of grave civic concern. It is unconscionable to use a law supposedly aimed at actual spies and saboteurs against individuals who act in good faith to bring government misconduct to the attention of the public.

*The statement above is from [www.standwithdanielhale.org](http://www.standwithdanielhale.org). The New Haven Sunday Vigil encourages you to sign a petition supporting Hale available on that site, and to call, write, and/or email your members of Congress demanding an end to drone warfare.*

*(For information about the 2016 film, "National Bird," go to <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/national-bird/>.)*

## RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR!

*Often people wonder what we mean when we say, "RESIST THIS ENDLESS WAR." What we mean is that the serial wars fought by the U.S. and its allies are one war being waged on many fronts. Men, women, and children are being slaughtered, maimed, traumatized, and driven from their homes all over the world so that immense wealth and power can be concentrated in the hands of a very few people.*

*The weapons of this war are many. Here are just some examples: continued development and production of an ever more deadly nuclear arsenal; drone attacks against human beings many thousands of miles away (targets whose bodies the bombardiers, operating their weapons by remote control, will never have to see); family separations and mass incarcerations and deportations of immigrants and refugees (condemning them, in many cases, to a future of torture or death); the systematic dismantling of an infrastructure and social programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security that most of us not only depend upon but have funded with our hard-earned tax dollars all our lives; the destruction of our environment; the racist use of the police force to terrorize black and brown communities; the systematic, vicious undermining of citizens' rights to vote; and the rollback of workers' rights with the destruction of unions and the refusal to pass a living minimum wage.*

*This war we continue to face on all fronts transcends partisan politics, and the work to resist it continues with more urgency than ever. Only deeply engaged, critical thinking, active citizens will be able to make the profound systemic changes that are so long overdue, changes upon which our very survival depends.*

**This vigil for peace and justice has continued since 1999. Join the conversation any Sunday, here at Broadway, Park and Elm Streets in New Haven, 12 to 1 p.m.  
<https://newhavensundayvigil.wordpress.com>  
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