

ROBERT BALES

STAFF SERGEANT - US ARMY



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 five (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 that 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

- The VA now confirms Bales developed service-connected PTSD during his 2003–2004 deployment—contradicting prosecution claims that no such condition existed.
- His PTSD, TBI, and medication effects were never evaluated or presented at trial due to limits placed on defense experts and evidence.
- New information shows portions of his medical records were missing or altered, preventing an accurate review of his injuries.
- In August 2013, Bales was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, presently at USDB, Ft. Leavenworth.
- While thousands of Taliban, ISIS-K, and Al-Qaeda fighters were released during and after the Afghanistan withdrawal, American soldiers like Bales remain imprisoned for actions taken in the same war—an imbalance that demands review.

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

For more information about SSG Robert Bales's case, please visit www.freerobertbales.org