



# THE FOGHORN NEWS

CUTTING THROUGH THE FOG OF WAR \* VETERANS FOR PEACE HUMBOLDT BAY \* CHAPTER 56



AUG/SEPT 2021

## More Reckoning With History

by S. Brian Willson

Viet Nam was not a mistake, nor a misjudgment. It was not misguided idealism, nor was it mere elite conspiracy. Rather it was the inevitable result of deeply rooted bipartisan assumptions about U.S. American “exceptionalism”, and the belief that continued prosperity requires endless expansion. We believe that our prosperity is considered synonymous with

See page 10: “Reckoning”

## Stand with Daniel Hale

From the Campaign for Daniel Hale

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...



See page 2: “Daniel Hale”

## Sanctions Kill!

by Jim W of the Sanctions Kill campaign

Sanctions are essentially the imposition of arbitrary measures of economic and inhumane hardship on a country. US sanctions affect a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures impacting 39 countries...

The countries imposing economic sanctions are the

See page 3: “Sanctions Kill”

## In 2018 the US Was at War With Uyghur Terrorists. Now It Claims They Don’t Even Exist

With China now in the U.S. crosshairs, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement has moved from being an adversary to being a potential asset. by Alan Macleod

This article is republished from MintPress in acknowledgement of the 20-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks on

the Pentagon and New York Financial District as the US has officially ended the war in Afghanistan this year and now focuses attention on confronting China’s rise. Meanwhile the Communist Party of China celebrates 100 years in existence with high domestic popularity, especially in light of the government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, and ending extreme poverty.

In the dying months of his administration, President Donald Trump removed from the United States terrorist list a little-known paramilitary organization called ETIM, an acronym that stands for

either the East Turkestan Independence Movement or the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, depending on whom one asks. The group is also sometimes known as the [East] Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP or ETIP).

Explaining the decision, the State Department said that “ETIM was removed from the list because, for more than a decade, there has been no credible evidence that ETIM continues to exist.” The move was hailed by a wide range of Uyghur groups in the United States, who saw it as a step towards blocking China’s actions against Uyghurs in

See page 6: “ETIM”

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI BOMBING LANTERN FLOATING CEREMONY
- ◆ VFP ONLINE NATIONAL CONVENTION 2021
- ◆ PHOTOS HONORING LATE VFP56 MEMBER BILL THOMPSON
- ◆ EVENT CALENDAR
- ◆ VFP MEETING TIMES AND VIGILS
- ◆ VFP PURPOSE STATEMENT
- ◆ LET’S HEAR FROM YOU
- ◆ HOW TO GET INVOLVED
- ◆ HYPERLINKS TO MANY ARTICLES IN DIGITAL VERSION: VFP56.ORG

The opinions expressed in The Foghorn News are those of the author(s) and may not reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace.

## Veterans For Peace Invites You to Join

Veterans For Peace, Inc., (VFP) is an international organization of men and women veterans of all eras, many of whom served in Viet Nam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and other military conflicts.

VFP was founded in 1985 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational and humanitarian organization. Since then it has become an international organization with members in all 50 states as well as chapters in Ireland, London, Mexico, Okinawa (Japan) and Viet Nam. VFP is the only veteran organization to hold a permanent Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) seat at the United Nations and it is

*Daniel Hale: (From page 1)*

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

the first military veterans' organization invited to be a member of the International Peace Bureau based in Geneva, Switzerland. National conventions are held annually and members communicate through quarterly newsletters as well as daily list-serve news and alerts, online discussion groups, and the national and many chapter web sites.



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

## Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose

We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others both nationally and internationally:

- To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war

- To restrain our government from intervening, overtly or covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations

- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons

- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war

- To abolish war as an instrument of national policy

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

## Veterans For Peace Objective:

We draw on our personal experiences and perspectives gained as veterans to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives.

## Join Us:

We encourage all veterans, family members and supporters to join us in creating a global culture of peace and non-violence. **For the national VFP Newsletter go to:** [veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)



lied about the nature and 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.

## HOW TO HELP

### Write to Daniel at:

Daniel E. Hale William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Ctr. 2001 Mill Rd.

*See Page 9: "Daniel Hale"*

# THE FOGHORN NEWS CALENDAR



## WEEKLY EVENTS:

### Veterans For Peace

#### Social Hour:

**Thursdays at 3pm (PST)**

To join go to Zoom and click join meeting and enter in Meeting ID:  
324 812 650

#### Local Weekly Veterans For Peace Vigils:

**Arcata: Fridays 4:30-5pm** VFP 56 members and others stand silently on the southwest corner of the Arcata Plaza, 8th & H St.

**Eureka: Fridays 4:30-5:30pm** VFP 56 members and others stand silently in front of the Humboldt County Courthouse on the corner of 5th & I Streets.

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

**Aug 6 & Aug 8 -**

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembered

**Sat 7 Aug: Arcata Lantern Floating Ceremony** to

commemorate the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945: **9am-1:30pm**

**Lantern Making** at the Arcata Farmer's Market; **7pm gather for music** at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary by

Klopp Lake at the end of South I Street; **8:40pm Lantern Floating.**

**Sat 7 Aug: North Coast Stand Down**, offering veterans meals, medical,

dental, clothing, showers, pet services, job

assistance, community and more. Eureka

Veterans Memorial Hall at 1106 H St, Eureka.

**Doors Open 8am - 4pm.**

For info:

[northcoaststanddown.org](http://northcoaststanddown.org)

Or call 707-826-6272

#### Veterans for Peace

#### Annual Convention:

**Aug 12-15 Aug: 2021**

Online. For info:

[vfpc convention.org](http://vfpc convention.org)

#### National Mobilization to Peacefully Stop U.S.

#### Drone Wars: Sun 26

**Sept - Sat 2 Oct: Creech Air Force Base, Nevada.**

[shutdowncreech.blogspot.com](http://shutdowncreech.blogspot.com)

**Fri 1 - Thur. 7 Oct:**

**Sacred Peace Walk**, an anti-nuclear and anti-military drone event in the Nevada Desert. For info:

[nevadadesertexperience.org](http://nevadadesertexperience.org)

#### CLOTHING DONATION:

Arthur McDonald distributes clothing and toiletries to veterans and others in need. If you have any clean and smoke-free clothing you would like to donate, please call Arthur at 707-630-2124 or Gordy at 707-499-1029 or email Gordy at:

[butshushu@gmail.com](mailto:butshushu@gmail.com)

Pick ups can be arranged or left at Arthur's house at: 2150 McKinleyville Ave. McKinleyville, CA 95519

*Sanctions Kill: (From page 1)*

wealthiest, the most powerful, and the most industrially developed countries in the world. The intention is to choke the economies of poor, developing countries, most of which were formerly colonized. The sanctions, as well as visiting extreme hardship upon the civilian population, are intended to serve as a dire threat to surrounding countries, as they impact the economies of the whole region.

International law and conventions, including the Geneva and Nuremberg Conventions, United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, explicitly prohibit the targeting of defenseless civilians, especially in times of war.

Modern industrial society is built on a fragile web of essential technology. Pumps and sewage lines, elevators and generators can't function without simple spare parts. Lack of a few spare parts can overwhelm entire cities. If farmers are denied seed, fertilizer, field equipment and storage facilities, and if food, medicine and essential equipment are deliberately denied, an entire country is quickly put at risk.

Sanctions cannot be posed as an alternative to war. They are in fact the most brutal form of warfare, deliberately targeting the most defenseless civilians — the young, the elderly, sick and disabled people.

Most sanctions are intentionally hidden; they

don't generate even a line of news. Some sanctions are quickly brought into law after a sudden news article about an alleged atrocity. The civilians who suffer have nothing to do with whatever crime the corporate media use as an excuse. Never mentioned are the economic or political concessions the U.S. government or corporations are demanding.

In a period of human history when hunger and disease are scientifically solvable, depriving hundreds of millions from getting basic necessities is a crime against humanity.

Below are several links to both U.S. and EU countries that use this form of economic warfare. The U.S. far exceeds any other country in the number of countries they have strangled with

economic sanctions. (As of Fall 2019.)

#### **EU measures in force**

The Venezuelan ambassador to the United Nations, Samuel Moncada, spoke to the XVIII Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan, Oct. 26, 2019. Addressing the 120 countries represented, he denounced the imposition of arbitrary measures, called "sanctions" by the U.S., as "economic terrorism, which affects a third of humanity with more than 8,000 measures in 39 countries."

This terrorism, he said, constitutes a "threat to the entire system of international relations and is the greatest violation of

See page 8: *Sanctions Kill*



Bill Thompson, Co-founder of Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 in Washington D.C. on the left holding the Chapter 56 banner in a national mobilization and 40-day juice fast to shut down the School of Americas (WHINSEC) in 1994.

## Register Now for the 2021 Veterans For Peace Online Convention

Thursday-Saturday  
12-15 August

Veterans For Peace will hold our convention online this year again. We had an amazing experience last year and it was our highest attended convention yet! We know that many of us will miss being able to greet each other in person but we also know that each and every one of us wants to make sure all of our members are safe and healthy.

The theme of this year's convention is *Rising to the Moment*. Visit the [Veterans For Peace 2021 Convention Website](#) for more information.

### Keynote Speaker:

Viet Thanh Nguyen is a Vietnamese-American novelist, University Professor, the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. Nguyen's debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction among other accolades, including the Dayton Literary Peace

Prize, the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the American Library Association, the Edgar Award for Best First Novel from an American Author from the Mystery Writers of America, and the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in Fiction from the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association. He was awarded a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2017. He is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Nguyen is also a regular

contributor, op-ed columnist for *The New York Times*, covering immigration, refugees, politics, culture and Southeast Asia.

### The Convention Includes

- 4 Days of Programming
- 5 Special Events
- 9 Workshops and Trainings
- 4 Full Plenaries

For the national VFP Newsletter go to:  
[veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)



Bill Thompson, US Army Korean combat veteran, wounded in battle at the infamous "Pork Chop Hill," and a founding member of Humboldt Bay Chapter 56, wrote the below letter dated April 6th, 1994, to engage supporters as he participated in all days of a 40-day-juice fast at the nation's capital to end the School of Americas (WHINSEC).

Veterans For Peace Chapter 56

April 6, 1994

Pg. 1/2

Thank you for maintaining your membership in Humboldt Bay Chapter 56 of Veterans for Peace. Each of you adds to the collective cry for the abolition of war.

Locally, we as individuals have tried in small ways to bring understanding to the plight of homeless vets, sick vets, angry vets, and unemployed vets. The North Coast still has no local medical clinic and severe PTSD vets at best seen as an annoyance or worse a threat to the peace of the community.

The horror of the Gulf War brought us together to be a veterans' and friends' voice for peace. The war briefly flooded our media and minds and then just as quickly we shifted to other things. I have given practically no time to creating a bigger or more active local VPP. Frank Schmidt, our loyal secretary has made the calls, kept the minutes and faithfully appeared every 20th of the month. Your Co-director, Clairssa Ingabetsen and husband Chuck Degmetich, drive 3 hours out of the mountains in Trinity County to fill in when needed.

We marched in Brookings, OR, we've tabled on the Arcata Plaza, we continue to seek reconition from other local veterans' groups so we can become a collective voice to urge the VA to better serve local veterans' needs. Member have written letters and articles, spoken on the radio, traveled to Russia, and the mid-East to contact with international peace veterans.

I will be in Wash. D.C. with a Vietnam veteran, now Father Roy Bourgeois, and six others in a public attempt to close the School of the Americas. This is the U.S. Army school that trains troops from Central and South America in "counter insurgency". La Prensa calls it the "School of Assassins", and the former president of Panama, Jorge Illueca, called it "the biggest base for destabilization in Latin America."

We will undertake a juice fast for 40 days on the Capitol steps from April 11th thru May 20th. Last year an amendment sponsored by Representative Joseph Kennedy of Mass. to eliminate Dept of Def. funding for the school was defeated. This year, we hope to focus enough attention on the SOA that our representatives know precisely what the SOA does so that they will support a new amendment to close the school. It is a small bit of the military budget that still consumes 50% of every tax dollar, but any chip of the old military block is a step. More importantly, it is to get the United States out of the business of training troops from other countries in tyranny and oppression.

I'll carry our banner and hope the action is one you all can support.

Sincerely,

Bill Thompson, Co-Director

Note: June Thompson reports that Bill arrived in D.C. on the 10th and his address is:

Marist College - 220 Taylor St., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017

Xinjiang Province.

Yet the decision will have confused anyone with a long memory or who closely followed the War on Terror. Only two years previously, the U.S. was actively at war with the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, with Trump himself ordering an escalation of a bombing campaign against them.

In 2018, Major General James Hecker, the commander of NATO Air Command-Afghanistan,

gave a press conference in which he noted that not only was ETIM real but they were working hand in hand with the Taliban and boasted that his forces were destroying their training bases, thereby reducing their terrorist activities both in the Afghanistan/Pakistan/China border region and inside China itself.

“Anybody that is an enemy of Afghanistan, we’re going to target them,” Brigadier General Lance Bunch told the *The Washington Post*, also announcing that “[w]e’ve got new authorities now that allow us to be able to...target the Taliban and the ETIM where they previously thought they were safe.”

Why then was the government suddenly insisting that ETIM/TIP did not exist? And who is this shadowy organization?

### Who are the ETIM/TIP?

The East Turkestan Islamic Movement is a jihadist group led since 2003 by Abdul Haq al-Turkistani, a Xinjiang-born Uyghur. Its goal is to set up a Muslim-only



The United States removes al-Qaeda trained and aligned East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM/ETIP/TIP) from their terrorist list to apply pressure on China. The move signals a shift in focus of the never-ending “War on Terror” toward open confrontation with China. Those keeping ETIM on their terrorist list include the United Nations, European Union, United Kingdom, Russia and more. Feature photo | by Antonio Cabrera.

ethnstate (East Turkestan) in Xinjiang. A dry and mountainous region at the western edge of China, Xinjiang is about the size of Alaska and is home to around 25 million people.

“This land is for Muslims alone,” Haq explains in an al-Qaeda PR film; “the mere presence of the disbelievers on this land should be a sufficient reason for Muslims to set out for jihad.” ETIM is still considered a terrorist organization by the United Nations, European Union, United Kingdom, and Russia, among others.

Unsurprisingly, the Chinese government also classifies it as such. When asked for comment, Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told *MintPress* that “ETIM has long been engaging in terrorist and violent activities, causing heavy casualties and property losses, and posing serious threats to security and stability in China, the region and beyond.” Wenbin also criticized the

U.S. “flip flop” on ETIM, something that, in his words, “once again exposes the current U.S. administration’s double standard on counter-terrorism and its repulsive practice of condoning terrorist groups as it sees fit.” *MintPress* also reached out to a range of Uyghur organizations for comment, but all declined to do so.

Some of the most high-profile of these attacks inside China, cited by Wenbin, were ETIM’s attempts to sabotage the 2008 Beijing Olympics by carrying out bomb attacks on host cities. Just before the games, ETIM released a video featuring a burning Olympic flag and warning all Muslims to stay away from the venues. There has also been a string of deadly attacks attributed to ETIM in which terrorists drive vehicles into crowds of pedestrians then proceed to carry out stabbing rampages.

In 2009, tensions between Uyghurs and ethnic Han Chinese spilled over into deadly riots in

Xinjiang’s capital Urumqi, where nearly 200 people, mostly Han, were killed. As a result of the unrest, Beijing ordered a massive increase in surveillance and security across the region, flooding the province with cameras, armed police, and spies. To this day, it retains an extremely high-security presence.

Of course, the large majority of those killed by ETIM around the world have been non-Salafist Muslims, and considering ETIM to be representatives of the Uyghur population as a whole would be extremely misleading. In fact, the Uyghurs of Xinjiang have been caught in the crossfire between the ETIM and the Chinese government. To this day, the Afghan government also considers the group to be a serious threat to peace and security in Afghanistan.

### Al-Qaeda, Taliban ties, Chinese target

ETIM units have trained

See Page 7: *ETIM*



## Arcata Lantern Floating Ceremony Saturday, August 7, 2021

*The 39th annual ceremony to remember the victims of the US bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.*

This event is an opportunity to offer spiritual consolation for everyone affected by the pandemic, those we miss, departed loved ones, ancestors and all we hold

dear. The City of Arcata's Nuclear Free Zone Committee began this ceremony 39 years ago to commemorate the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and to affirm our dedication as a community to the cause of peace, to bring awareness to the dangers of nuclear proliferation, and to advocate for environmental sustainability.

Visitors are encouraged to walk, bike or ride a shuttle van from the parking lot at Samoa and I

Streets or the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center parking lot on South G Street.

This is a free event! All are invited to attend.

**9am-1:30pm:** Lantern Making at the Arcata Farmer's Market: Tables will be set up and there will be supplies.

**7pm-7:30pm:** People will gather at the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary by Klopp Lake at the end of South I Street.

Rick Kruze will be playing the shakuhachi flute as people arrive. The McKinleyville Choir

and The Raging Grannies will be singing songs.

**8:40pm:** Lantern Floating. **Community groups helping to create these events are:**

City of Arcata, Humboldt Buddhist Peace Fellowship, GI Rights Hotline, Shinnyo en, Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee, Veterans For Peace, Humboldt Friends Meeting (Quakers), United States Servas & Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

*ETIM: (From page 6)*

and fought in what seems like virtually every single conflict involving Muslims over the past 20 years, but always with an eye to bringing their skills back home. A 2017 Associated Press exclusive titled "Uyghurs fighting in Syria take aim at China" found that at least 5,000 Xinjiang Uyghurs had traveled to Syria to train and fight alongside both al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. "We didn't care how the fighting went or who Assad was," one ETIM fighter told the AP;

"We just wanted to learn how to use the weapons and then go back to China." For many, Beijing's crackdown on civil liberties in the wake of the Urumqi riots was the catalyst. "We'll avenge our relatives being tortured in Chinese jail," another fighter told the AP. A 2015 New York Times report also notes that one Chinese Muslim had been trained in Libya before going to Syria to fight against government forces.

The United Nations states that ETIM "has maintained close ties with

the Taliban, Al-Qaida and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan." Indeed, since 2005, ETIM leader Haq has been a member of al-Qaeda's council of elders, a group of about two dozen individuals who control the organization's direction. The UN notes that the ETIM's major source of funding was Osama Bin Laden himself, who directly employed and paid Haq.

"The organization is clearly a part of al-Qaeda's network — there is no real question about this fact. Al-Qaeda doesn't hide its sponsorship of the

TIP [ETIM]. And the TIP [ETIM] doesn't hide its allegiance to al-Qaeda," wrote Thomas Joscelyn, a senior fellow at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracy, a hawkish think tank located in Washington. "But the Chinese Communist Party's detestable policies in Xinjiang have led some democracy and human rights activists to downplay or dismiss the TIP's overt jihadism," he added.

In 2002, U.S. forces captured and detained 22

*See page 8: ETIM*

human rights in the world.

### **Countries facing US economic sanctions:**

1. Afghanistan,
2. Belarus,
3. Bosnia & Herzegovina,
4. Burundi,
5. Central African Republic,
6. China (PR),
7. Comoros,
8. Crimea of Ukraine,
9. Cuba,
10. Cyprus,
11. Democratic Republic of the Congo,
12. Guinea,
13. Guinea Bissau,
14. Haiti,
15. Iran,
16. Iraq,
17. Kyrgyzstan,
18. Laos,
19. Lebanon,
20. Libya,
21. Mali
22. Mauritania
23. Moldova
24. Montenegro
25. Myanmar,
26. Nicaragua,
27. North Korea–DPRK,
28. Palestinian Territories,
29. Russia,
30. Rwanda,
31. Serbia
32. Somalia,
33. South Sudan,
34. Sudan,
35. Syria,
36. Tunisia
37. Venezuela,
38. Yemen,
39. Zimbabwe.

For more info or to sign the petition visit [sanctionskill.org/petition/](http://sanctionskill.org/petition/)



A Uyghur fighter in Syria affiliated with East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) is shown in an al-Qaeda propaganda video

*ETIM: (From page 7)*

Uyghur militants at an ETIM camp in Afghanistan. They were sent to Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba and were accused of traveling from China to join the ETIM jihad, something many admitted to. However, all insisted that they were uninterested in harming the United States and instead saw China as their major enemy. Considering them no direct threat to itself, the United States began releasing them to third countries and by 2013 all had been freed.

#### **Uighur Syria**

A Uyghur fighter in Syria affiliated with ETIM is shown in an al-Qaeda propaganda video [above].

The training camp was located in the Tora Bora Mountains of Afghanistan and run by Haq himself. U.S. intelligence actually concluded that many of the trainees acted as a “blocking force” for Bin Laden in 2001, when American forces came

very close to capturing him. This allowed him to evade the U.S. for a further ten years. The U.S. carried out an assassination attempt on Haq in 2010, with media reporting that he had been killed by an unmanned drone. However, he was merely seriously injured and escaped with his life.

The State Department designated the ETIM as a terrorist group, adding them to its list in September 2002. At that point, the Bush administration had declared a war on terror, was battling the Taliban in Afghanistan and was about to invade Iraq. Furthermore, relations with China were good at the time and the Bush administration wished to secure Chinese cooperation or at least dampen Chinese resistance to its campaigns.

“Designating ETIM/TIP as a terrorist organization does seem appropriate,” Daniel Dumbrill—a Canadian YouTuber

currently in Xinjiang, and an outspoken critic of U.S. policy towards China—told MintPress, adding:

“I don’t believe they suddenly and abruptly cease to exist and I don’t believe the U.S. government believes this either. Even if they did, the Tamil Tigers have been inactive for over 10 years since their defeat, but they remain on the U.S. government list of terrorist organizations. Therefore, it doesn’t seem like clearing off inactive terror groups has ever been a matter of priority. There is of course, I believe, an ulterior motive to [their removal from the terrorist list].”

#### **A fight for global supremacy**

Today, however, relations with China have definitely soured. The country’s rapid economic rise has alarmed and preoccupied many

*See page 10: ETIM*

Alexandria, VA 22314

1. Use only plain white paper, no cards, with black ink, handwritten or printed. Use standard size envelopes, no packages.
2. Printouts of news items or transcripts of podcasts should be black text-only, no images.
3. Hand drawings are allowed, and we encourage them.
4. You can send more than one page, as long as it all fits in the standard envelope. Pages can be front and back.
5. The Alexandria sheriff's department has a [list of official restrictions on what can be sent](#), but be aware that mail is sometimes rejected for seemingly arbitrary reasons.
6. [Ask President Biden to pardon Daniel Hale.](#)
7. [Donate to Daniel's whistleblower legal defense.](#) WHISPeR has represented Daniel since 2014.

## LEGAL DEFENSE

Daniel is represented on whistleblower issues by Jesselyn Radack and The Whistleblower & Source Protection Program (WHISPeR) at ExposeFacts. WHISPeR provides pro-bono legal defense for national security whistleblowers and media sources. You can donate here to support our legal defense work on behalf of Daniel and other whistleblowers.

## Stop the War on Whistleblowers

Daniel is one of at least [eight alleged media sources](#) to be criminally prosecuted — and the fifth to be charged under the Espionage Act — during

the Trump administration. And this will be the first such case to be sentenced under the Biden administration.

Trump's Department of Justice built upon the Obama administration's notorious War on Whistleblowers, taking an already draconian effort to the next level. The Justice Department made every effort to prosecute leaks even more aggressively, reopening old cases (including Daniel's), and even [creating a dedicated FBI counterintelligence unit to hunt down leakers](#). They placed government employees under increasingly heavy surveillance, with the intention of clamping down on their First Amendment right to free speech. The Trump administration obtained lengthier prison sentences for whistleblowers than any previous president.

Transparency and civil liberties advocates have called on the Biden administration to change course and to consider clemency for these cases, but so far we have seen little evidence of any change in policy.

With the Wikileaks indictment, the U.S. government also expanded the War on Whistleblowers to directly attack publishers and journalists, a move that the Obama administration had ultimately backed down from. The Biden administration decided early on to maintain the U.S. government's appeal to extradite Julian Assange.

We object to the use of the Espionage Act to prosecute whistleblowers

who provide information of important public interest to the media. We call for the end of such abuses of the Espionage Act..

## LATEST UPDATES (2021-07-23):

Read Daniel's [letter to the Judge](#) from his jail cell, explaining the crisis of conscience that drove his whistleblowing.

## (2021-07-12):

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has [asked to file a brief](#) in support of Daniel Hale outlining how his disclosures of abusive and arbitrary terrorist watchlist systems helped numerous clients get off No-Fly lists.

## (2021-06-26):

The Court [has ruled that DOJ does not have to show any evidence of harm at sentencing.](#)

## (2021-06-05):

Sentencing has been [rescheduled to July 27.](#)

## (2021-05-31)

Daniel has been [moved from quarantine to "administrative segregation"](#) at the Alexandria Detention Center while he awaits sentencing. This represents a small improvement in conditions, with more rec time outside the cell, but he still is under restrictive lockdown conditions and lacks access to counseling,



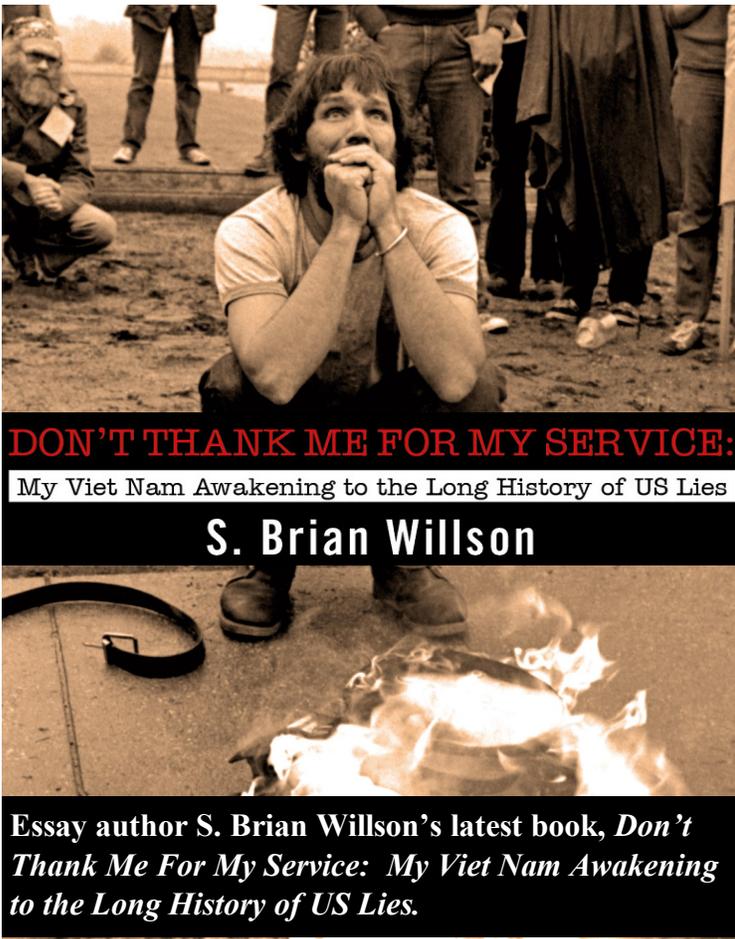
to minimal reading materials, and to news and information. Please continue to write letters and send printed news items, [as detailed below.](#)

## (2021-05-24):

The government placed Daniel Hale in conditions of solitary confinement pre-sentencing because of "concerns" about his mental health. Last week, [another inmate committed suicide at this same facility](#), the Alexandria Detention Center, where Chelsea Manning was also held at the time of her suicide attempt. Awaiting your sentence should not be a death penalty.

## (2021-05-05):

On April 28th, [Daniel was arrested](#) for alleged parole violations and taken into custody in Alexandria, VA. In a closed hearing on May 4th, Daniel's bond was revoked and he has been placed in conditions of solitary confinement, supposedly out of concern for mental health issues. Please check back here for more updates, and follow [@JesselynRadack](#) on Twitter.



**DON'T THANK ME FOR MY SERVICE:**

My Viet Nam Awakening to the Long History of US Lies

**S. Brian Willson**

Essay author S. Brian Willson's latest book, *Don't Thank Me For My Service: My Viet Nam Awakening to the Long History of US Lies*.

*Reckoning: (From page 1)*

“democracy” and “civilization”. This ethos is in our very roots as a culture. Ordinary U.S. Americans like myself have assumed that our “leaders” don’t lie about their real motives, and that the problems really are “out there”. A moving frontier, always rationalized in noble terms, enables us to externalize and postpone an honest reckoning with our own shadow. Our deepest shadow, I believe, is the shame deeply hidden in our souls from our original sin of racism exacerbated by classism - forceful dispossession of Indigenous and Africans to steal their land and labor, respectively, murdering millions, committed with impunity .

The Seneca arrowheads

that I collected and carefully examined as a child contained this story. But no one told it to me. And I did not inquire. I lived in “America”. Everything was beautiful. But it was all a lie. It has taken me a long time to understand that. It took me going to Viet Nam to once again look at those arrowheads, and to listen to the story they told.

As Cultural historian Lewis Mumford said, “The past never leaves us and the future is already here”.

*S. Brian Willson is a Viet Nam veteran and trained lawyer. He has visited a number of countries examining the effects of U.S. policy. His latest book's cover is above. His web essays can be found at:*

[brianwillson.com](http://brianwillson.com)

*His email is:*

[postmaster@brianwillson.com](mailto:postmaster@brianwillson.com)

*ETIM: (From page 8)*

planners in the West, who now see China as America’s “unparalleled priority” for the 21st century. President Trump placed sanctions on the country and attempted to block the growth of Chinese tech companies like Huawei, TikTok, and Xiaomi. Along with the trade war has come a war of words, with top brass in Washington suggesting that the new Cold War with Beijing will be less about tanks and missiles and more “kicking each other under the table.” Others have advised that the U.S. should wage a widespread culture war, including commissioning what they call “Taiwanese Tom Clancy novels” meant to demonize and demoralize China.

The prospect of a hot war cannot be overlooked, however. And U.S. actions are making the threat all the more likely. In 2013, the Obama administration announced a “Pivot to Asia,” meaning a draw-down from the Middle East and an escalation of tensions in the Pacific. Today, over 400 American military bases encircle China. American ships and aircraft continue to probe the Chinese coastline, testing their defenses. In July, U.S.S. Rafael Peralta sailed within 41 nautical miles of the coastal megacity of Shanghai. Earlier this year, the head of Strategic Command stated that there was a “very real possibility” of war against Beijing in the near future.

**Uyghur repression**

It is in this context that

the United States has begun to denounce China’s treatment of its Uyghur minority. Xinjiang has been under serious security measures for more than a decade, and the internment of Uyghurs has been going on since at least 2014. Yet the U.S. was largely silent about their treatment until recently. Today, the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED) accuses China of imprisoning between one and three million Uyghur Muslims, describing it as a genocide. The NED has given nearly \$9 million to Uyghur groups and has condemned what it sees as a “deafening silence in the Muslim world” about their plight.

Amnesty International has largely agreed, labeling what China calls re-education facilities, meant to deradicalize the population, as “detention camps for torture and brainwashing of anyone suspected of disloyalty.” Uyghurs have alleged that they have been forcibly sterilized, that their places of worship have been demolished, and that they were made to eat pork and separated from their families while interned.

Others have rejected this interpretation. Economist Jeffrey Sachs, head of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, recently wrote:

“There are credible charges of human rights abuses against Uyghurs, but those do not per se constitute genocide. And we must understand the context of the Chinese

*See page 11: ETIM*

ETIM: (From page 10)

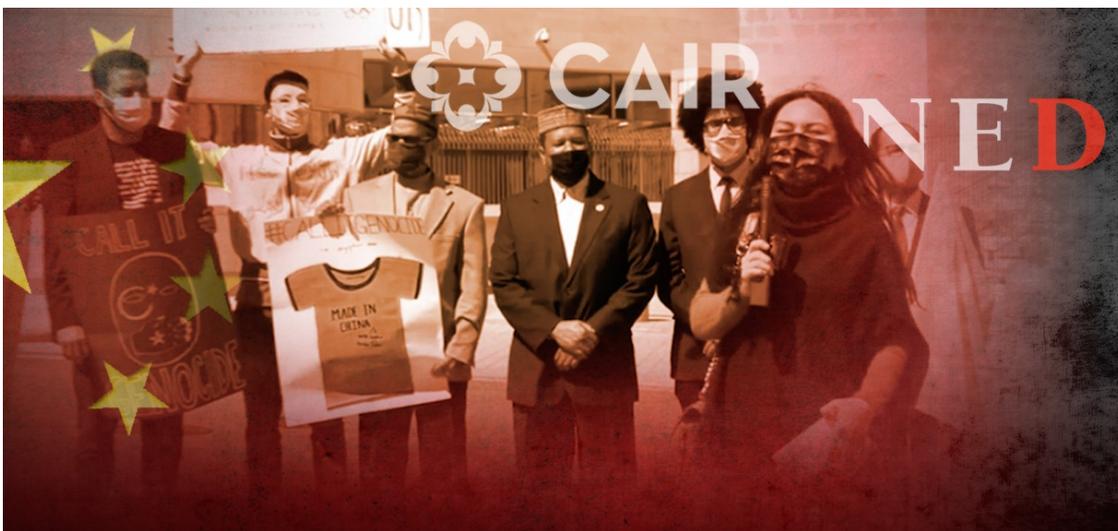
crackdown in Xinjiang, which had essentially the same motivation as America's foray into the Middle East and Central Asia after the September 2001 attacks: to stop the terrorism of militant Islamic groups."

Dumbrill seemed to agree, noting that many Uyghurs in Xinjiang see the extremist jihadists as their primary worry, not government forces, of whom some Uyghurs speak fondly. "The police presence aside, people lead fairly ordinary lives here with the same kinds of hopes and dreams that people anywhere else would have as well," he told MintPress, criticizing the foreign coverage.

Wenbin was, unsurprisingly, even more dismissive of the charges. "Western politicians and media are frantically spreading lies on Xinjiang," he said, adding that "the allegation of 'genocide' is more than posterous."

### The politics of terror

At the same time as it was delisting the East Turkestan Islamic Movement for apparently not existing, the Trump administration added Cuba to its list of state sponsors of terror. Without a hint of irony, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed to the island's "malign interference in Venezuela and the rest of the Western Hemisphere" as the reason for the designation. A report released last month by the Department of Health and Human Services outlined what such malign



On March 30, demonstrators (of groups backed by US Govt. funds CAIR and NED) gathered outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington, calling on the U.S. Congress to pass the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention and Human Rights Protection Acts.

influence was: offering doctors and other medical teams to other needy countries during a global pandemic.

Yet the politics of the terror list has always been highly suspect. In an attempt to dampen worldwide support for his cause and shore up the Apartheid government, the Reagan administration placed South African leader Nelson Mandela on the terrorist list in 1988. Mandela was not pulled off it until 2008 — 14 years after he became president.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration also recently removed Sudan from the list of state sponsors of terror, in what was an openly transactional event. Sudan agreed to normalize relations with Israel and give the U.S. hundreds of millions of dollars. As usual, Trump was unable not to say the quiet part out loud: "GREAT news! New government of Sudan, which is making great progress, agreed to pay \$335 MILLION to

U.S. terror victims and families. Once deposited, I will lift Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. At long last, JUSTICE for the American people and BIG step for Sudan," he tweeted.

Ultimately, the drastic change in U.S. policy on the ETIM has nothing to do with the movement itself—which remains the same jihadist group linked to al-Qaeda, ISIS, and the Taliban—but rather to a changing American stance towards China. For years, the U.S. ignored human rights issues in Xinjiang, as China was seen as a useful workshop for American capitalism. But the People's Republic of China's rapid rise has frightened many in Washington; hence the sudden fascination with the plight of the Uyghurs. The designation of the ETIM as a terrorist group was likely seen as getting in the way of longstanding U.S. attempts to provoke unrest in China. With China now in the crosshairs, the group has moved from being an

adversary to being a potential asset. It appears that the government decided that insisting they no longer exist was an easier sell than pretending they are no longer a terrorist group.

While the change in status might seem inconsequential, it could be a harbinger of a dangerous future. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement was placed on the list because of the War on Terror. Now it has been taken off because of the coming war on China.

*Alan MacLeod is Senior Staff Writer for MintPress News. After completing his PhD in 2017 he published two books: Bad News From Venezuela: Twenty Years of Fake News and Misreporting and Propaganda in the Information Age: Still Manufacturing Consent, as well as a number of academic articles. He has also contributed to FAIR.org, The Guardian, Salon, The Grayzone, Jacobin Magazine, and Common Dreams.*

**CONTACT US**

**FOR MORE INFO OR TO  
GET INVOLVED  
CONTACTVFP56@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.VFP56.ORG  
VETERANS FOR PEACE  
CHAPTER 56  
P.O. BOX 532  
BAYSIDE, CA 95524  
707-273-9815**



**LET US HEAR FROM YOU** To submit an article, opinion, comment, or anything of interest, e-mail [shawnleon33@gmail.com](mailto:shawnleon33@gmail.com). Please include your name, city and state, and a telephone number where you can be reached for clarification if necessary.

**Coordinating Committee**

**'Gordy' Anderson  
Peter Aronson  
Ernie Behm  
'Nate' Lomba  
Jon Reisdorf**

**The Foghorn News Editor**

**Shawn Leon**

**Standing Committees**

**General Store  
G.I. Rights Hotline  
Veterans Education & Outreach Project (VEOP)  
Veterans Park  
Veterans Service  
Depleted Uranium /Weapons of Mass Destruction/Drones (DU/WMD/Drones)**