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5.4 Case Analysis Whistleblowing

The footage of the collateral murder was shot in New Bagdad from an American helicopter's aerial perspective. After receiving a report of a shooting in the vicinity, the helicopter was sent, but no shooter was visible. The helicopter began to circle this eight-person group, whom they believed to have AK-47s and RPGs. They were given the authorization to engage and shoot these 8 victims after mistaking a camera for an RPG. They were only waiting for the man crawling to pick up a weapon so they could kill him. Then a vehicle arrived to rescue and pick up those 8 individuals, any survivors, and the additional firearms. After begging for permission to fire at the van and those around, the US forces begged for it and they killed and injured a great number of innocent people. They later learned that there were two children in the van who had been hurt. 20 minutes later they came back and killed more people. They even display videos of them killing someone by running them over while they were still partially alive. The saddest thing is that they are praising each other and laughing about these innocent deaths in their remarks. In this Case Analysis, I will argue that Ubuntu shows us that Manning did act out of loyalty to the United States and that her actions were a moral case of whistleblowing.

After reading Wim Vandekerckhove's article, "Whistle-Blowing and Rational Loyalty", Given that Manning exposed the corrupt individuals in Iraq, it is clear that she was loyal to the United States. According to Vandekerckhove, loyalty has four distinct functions: it is an attitude toward an object, it is learned by attitude, it has an explicit external referent, and it is mutual. To

comprehend why loyalty and whistleblowing do not conflict with one another but rather are both necessary to carry out any type of job in the professional world, the notion of loyalty is broken down and explained. Knowing these roles and what loyalty entails makes it simple to see that whistleblowers with good intentions may still be loyal. It is not universal for individuals to be loyal to a particular person, such as a Boss or governor, as some people may also be devoted to their beliefs or the things they support. The conclusion of Vandekerckhove's article also highlights the need for enterprises to institutionalize internal whistleblowing to safeguard their workers who do so out of a sense of rational loyalty. Employees will find it simpler to voice issues in this situation without being worried about losing their employment.

What was shown in the video was hard to watch, but at the same time this was something that needed to be shown to the public for awareness. I know these people would not have acted like this or made these comments if they knew that this video would have ended up getting leaked. If Chelsea Manning had not released this footage nobody besides the people who were there or the people who saw it would not have known about what went on that day. Ubuntu demonstrates that this was the morally right thing to do because she was the only one to speak out against this, the government was able to arrest her and there was a major issue; but, consider what may have happened if more people had taken part, say, half the workforce. They will not arrest everyone and fire them. They are ultimately acting in the best interests of the community. The solution to this issue is for more people to speak out together and for the US to stop hiding things and mistreating us. People will not be loyal to something that is not acting morally righteously, and if they are simply acting in a way that Americans find objectionable, the whistleblowing issue will continue indefinitely if this is the route that we keep going. I think if someone wants to speak up they should not do it alone. I firmly believe in Ubuntu, and I think

more people ought to band together to attempt to find solutions when issues like these arise. We are stronger together than we are alone. More people, more power. Ubuntu shows that Manning did act out of loyalty to the United States and that her actions were morally right

In Julianna Oxley and D.E. Wittkower's paper, "Care and Loyalty in the Workplace." We can see a different approach to the loyalty situation. Wittkower and Oxley explain that care and loyalty go hand and hand based on the definition of loyalty discussed. We can tell that exposition is the caring component, which is the fundamental distinction between these two articles. In this article, loyalty and care are synonymous, hence a person cannot be loyal if they do not care. After reading this article it opened my eyes to see that that does make sense if you are loyal to what you care the most for. In this case with Manning, she was loyal to the US rather than her job because she cared more for the US and its citizens than she cared for her job. Manning did a pretty brave thing to step up and leak that video herself not knowing what repercussions would come after it. As a result of being a whistleblower, Manning is exonerated from any claims of being unfaithful to the United States by Wittkower and Oxley's notion of loyalty. This is because according to their definition of loyalty, every employee who goes above and beyond their normal accountabilities for a firm or corporation by making a whistleblower report has shown a crucial level of loyalty. This occasionally entails staff members taking leadership roles and responsibilities to improve the organization, as Manning undoubtedly did. However, she was detained for it. I feel it is practically immoral for an employee to keep quiet about significant problems regarding their company.

In connection to Wittkower and Oxley's article, Ubuntu is the Arabic word for humanity, and empathy is the recognition of our shared humanity. We are more powerful when we cooperate and empathize. I believe that when a group of individuals shares the same issue or

idea, it inspires them to strive harder to address the problem as though it were their own, together. Because there was no sense of unity within Manning's case, the authorities found it easier to keep this under control by saying this was wrong. We are going to arrest her and punish her so this doesn't happen anymore. Then someone else is going to do it and it's going to be the same outcome. If something doesn't change this will be a never-ending cycle. Individualism makes it more difficult to exercise your right to freedom and to oppose a repressive government since you are on your own. Having said that, a community spirit and being part of a group may be quite strong, and it can also inspire individuals who might otherwise be hesitant or afraid to speak up and make a difference. Ubuntu contends that joining a society that values recognition and interdependent connections grants us our rights and freedoms and that belonging to a group provides us with our identity and individuality. Manning acted in good faith, but since she had no support, the government found it simpler to arrest and punish her.

Finally, I believe that Manning made the proper decision in releasing the video. Although it was incredibly upsetting to witness, I believe that it is important for people to be aware of it. They made a very fair point in the YouTube video that if Manning hadn't disclosed the film, it would not have become a topic of discussion today. I believe this is crucial because it demonstrates Manning's commitment to the United States and the morality of her leaking the video. I simply wish she hadn't been penalized for doing what she did since it was the ethically correct thing to do, and according to Ubuntu, if more people had supported her, the situation would have turned out better and she might have received less of a punishment. Ubuntu demonstrates that Manning did act in a patriotic manner toward the United States and that her acts were an example of moral whistleblowing.

Works Cited:

Julinna Oxley and D.E. Wittkower, "Care and Loyalty in the Workplace," in *Applying Care Ethics to Business*.

Vandekerckhove, W.; Commers, M.S.R., "Whistle Blowing and Rational Loyalty."