



DEFENDING RIGHTS & DISSENT CONDEMNS PLACEMENT OF DRONE WHISTLEBLOWER IN DRACONIAN PRISON UNIT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Washington, D.C. - Defending Rights & Dissent condemns the US government's decision to place Daniel Hale in a "Communications Management Unit" (CMU). Defending Rights & Dissent has both long opposed the use of CMUs, as well the imprisonment of Daniel Hale.

CMUs are experimental prison units that severely restrict the communications of the individuals held in them. They have been dubbed "Guantanamo North " due to their draconian conditions. Hale can only call or write individuals with the approval of the Bureau of Prisons. Daniel Hale is a whistleblower and political prisoner convicted under the Espionage Act for working with the media to expose the realities of the US's global assassination program. CMUs have been predominantly, but not exclusively, used for individuals convicted of "terrorism" related offenses. This is the first time a whistleblower or other individual convicted for unauthorized disclosure of information has been placed in a CMU.

"While CMUs should not exist in the first place, the placement of whistleblower Daniel Hale in a CMU is particularly outrageous. After pleading guilty to giving classified information to a journalist, Hale was initially released by a judge on his own recognizance. This was in recognition of the fact that Hale no longer had access to classified information and could not repeat his offense. Even under the government's stated rationale for CMUs, it makes zero sense to place Hale in one. This is purely the act of a vindictive government, cruelly calculated to inflict maximum suffering on a prisoner of conscience," said Chip Gibbons, Defending Rights & Dissent Policy Director Chip Gibbons.

Defending Rights & Dissent again calls on President Biden to pardon Daniel Hale.