

Resolved: Wikileaks is a threat to United States national security.

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and today I will be affirming the resolution that **Wikileaks is a threat to United States national security**. Before I begin to state my contentions I would first like to define national security as the requirement to maintain the survival of the nation-state through the use of economic, military and political power and the exercise of diplomacy. By proving that Wiki Leaks inhibits the United States from receiving information from foreign sources, that Wiki Leaks harms public interest, and that wiki leaks jeopardizes our relationships with other countries will prove that wikileaks is a threat to national security.

Pro

Contention 1: Wiki Leaks inhibits the United States from receiving information from foreign sources.

An informant is a person who provides privileged information about a person or organization to an agency, or country. The United States relies heavily on international informants. Especially, in the past few years with the plans to liberate Afghanistan. According to an article from CBS World News wikileaks released the names of 100s of Afghan Informants, now putting their lives in great danger. If local terrorist groups like Hamas obtain this list the lives of these Afghan citizens will be at stake, and not only them but the lives of their families and surrounding villages. What wikileaks has done has caused more than a strain in our country but it now may cause many others around the world their lives. These informants only goal was to effect change in their nation, and now they may loose their lives for it. This also will hinder progression in the future. Now the U.S. will find it extremely difficult to recruit foreign assistance because they fear for their lives. If the U.S. can not offer these people the right protection they will not be willing to help us.

Contention 2: Wiki Leaks harms public interest.

Many American citizens have been following the controversial story of Wikileaks unfold every week. Many of these citizens have become very concerned that this may harm public interest. According The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, "Six-in-ten (60%) of those paying attention to the story say they believe the release of thousands of secret State Department communications harms the public interest." They then go on to say "47% of those who had heard at least a little about the story said the release harmed the public interest," proving that the public fears for their safety and knows that even at a glance these Leaks are a great threat to out country. The release of classified documents about our country to the rest of the world is harmful in every sense. The public knows, and now fears for their safety. It is the government duty to protect their citizens, but sites like wikileaks compromise this responsibility.

Contention 3: Wiki Leaks jeopardizes our relationship with other nations.

The leaks not only released harmful things about nations, but about leaders around the world. The president of France was called, "the naked emperor" and the president of Afghanistan was said to be "driven by paranoia". This leaked information can cause a strain between the United States and other countries. If these nations feel threatened further progress will be halted, and our great plans for the future will never happen. These leaks have revealed private conversations between diplomats, one being a quote from the Washington Post stating that the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates saying, "Ahmadinejad is Hitler". Quotes like this can cause major damage to surrounding countries, thus effecting the well being of American citizens.

Con

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and today I will be negating the resolution that **Wikileaks is a threat to United States national security.** Before I begin to state my contentions I would first like to define national security as the requirement to maintain the survival of the nation-state through the use of economic, military and political power and the exercise of diplomacy. By proving that wiki leaks uncovers military corruption, Wiki leaks holds the government accountable, and that wikileaks is only an embarrassment to Government officials.

Contention 1: Wiki Leaks uncovers military corruption.

Since 2001 the United States has occupied countries of the Middle East, claiming to set its citizen free. The US constantly makes the claim that they are doing good for these people, but the Wikileaks cables prove their objective wrong. We always see videos of brave soldiers risking their lives for our country but we never see the cruelty of said soldiers. In a video released by Wikileaks of a helicopter shooting that took place on July 12, 2007 shows

a US Apache helicopter open fire on a group of unarmed Iraqi civilians. The soldiers claimed that the men were heavily armed. In an article by the Guardian, writer Chris McGreal says, "It is unclear if some of the men are armed but Nour-Eldeen can be seen with a camera. Chmagh is talking on his mobile phone." McGreal also goes on to say, "[This video] comes shortly after the US military admitted that its special forces attempted to cover up the killings of three Afghan women in a raid in February by digging the bullets out of their bodies." What makes the situation even worse is the reaction of these US soldiers. After shooting the first victim one of the US crew members in the lead helicopter says, "Hahaha. I hit 'em," Another responds a little later: "Oh yeah, look at those dead bastards." The cruelty continues as they laugh while the wounded man tries to crawl away. Wikileaks released several other videos that are similar to this one. Thus, proving the corruption of a government that screams liberation and diplomacy for every country but acts just as bad as the evil dictator they have claimed to save these people from.

Contention 2: Wiki Leaks holds government accountable.

Wikileaks has opened up the secret world we call our government. Accountability has been the number one benefit of wikileaks, by releasing information to citizens about their government's questionable actions. The more than 76,000 government documents that were released not only provided proof of military cruelty but also brought to light the many suspicious actions of our government with other nations. In an article by the American Civil Liberties Union, the writer Hina Shamsi, of the National Security Project said, "they [Wikileaks] reveal improper government conduct: Bush administration officials pressured Germany not to prosecute CIA officers responsible for the kidnapping, extraordinary rendition and torture of German national Khaled El-Masri." The article goes on to say, "While the Obama administration has made some modest improvements to the rules governing classification of government information, both it and the Bush administration have over classified and kept secret information that should be subject to public scrutiny and debate." We Americans are left completely in the dark because the government fears scrutiny from its citizens. Democracy is the government of the people, and this constant secrecy undermines our political system. Without Wikileaks American citizens would have no idea what their government was really up to. We as Americans have the right to know what our government is up to and exactly how they are spending our money.

Contention 3: Wiki Leaks is only embarrassment to government officials, but not a threat to its citizens.

From the previous arguments, we can conclude that wikileaks is only an

embarrassment for the United States government, and national security threat. The fact that the true face of some of government officials is now out is not a matter of national security. Jon Meacham, the former editor of Newsweek and Pulitzer Prize winning bestselling author says that, "The fact that something is embarrassing does not necessarily make it illuminating" In the same interview David Sanger, the New York Times Chief Washington Correspondent says, "That's right. But it also doesn't make it a national security threat." Since the wikileaks releases nothing has changed and nothing will change. Robert Gates, the Secretary of Defense says himself the relationship with the US and other nations will not change because of these leaks. In a report from Foreign Policy Gates says, ". The fact is, governments deal with the United States because it's in their interest, not because they like us, not because they trust us, and not because they believe we can keep secrets." He goes onto say "So other nations will continue to deal with us. They will continue to work with us. We will continue to share sensitive information with one another." Thus, proving that wikileaks not only is harmless to national security, but has change nothing in US foreign policy.