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Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi Arabian dissident, author, and columnist for The Washington Post has since served as the modern-day martyr for the civil disobedience movement. Though Thoreau's ideas were published in 1849, his central claims maintain a key role in the American narrative today. Khashoggi was outspoken against the Saudi crown and its repeated egregious human rights infringements, continuing to expose and persuade his audience to create presence and make change.

Khashoggi so embodied Thoreau's ideals as he sought to inform every American who he could reach of his own experiences and hopes. Khashoggi became the modern-day messenger of Thoreau's principles: "Let every man make it known what kind of government would command his respect, and that will be one step toward obtaining it" (*Civil Disobedience*). Khashoggi spent his life's work dedicated to informing and highlighting the injustices he and others suffered from. Khashoggi had made clear what kind of government would demand his respect. The only lingering question is whether we will listen.

Despite the rising denunciation from news organizations, Khashoggi's assassination failed to bring the condemnation of the most paramount power on this planet, The United States Federal Government. A ruthless subversion of democracy. In the weeks following Khashoggi's death, his life was a story unwritten and unread.

We may claim that we are more deserving of our rights, but almost all of us have lost the will to uphold those values. If the Washington Post and Jamal Khashoggi can live by the words "democracy dies in darkness" then we as spectators must live the line of Thoreau: "[for] a man has not everything to do, but something."

Free speech and the right to peaceably assemble are the granted constitutional rights of the American people, but in Khashoggi's own words, "it

isn't just the Middle East where freedom of expression is in jeopardy”
(Washington Post, Khashoggi's final column).

With the rising panic spurred by the Coronavirus pandemic, China has strengthened citizen voice policing, attempting to muffle those outspoken. Dr. Li Wenliang, a whistleblower who attempted to alert China of the spread of the coronavirus, found himself in a police station signing a forced confession of libel against the Chinese government. Two months later he was dead.

How many more must die for us to realize that we could all be the next? How many more martyrs do we need to amass our own will to stand up, listen, and demand change? The answer always has been, and always will be: Not one more.

We as Americans seem to have grown accustomed to solely absorbing horrific narratives that end with an oddly optimistic note. We cannot afford to follow this pattern. We must reject the idea that every single supplier of our information about the world is indeed out to get us. We must force ourselves to listen to the jarring discord that is now part of all our lives, because “In this country intellectual cowardice is the worst enemy any writer or journalist has to face” (George Orwell).