



“For God and for Texas”

# Declaration

of the

## Causes and Necessity

for

## Taking Up Arms

If it was possible for men, who exercise their reason to believe, that the divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom, as the objects of a legal domination never rightfully resistible, however severe and oppressive, the inhabitants of Texas might at least require from governments some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them, has been granted to those bodies. But a reverence for our Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the betterment of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end.

The government of the United States, however, stimulated by an inordinate passion for a power not only unjustifiable, but which is known to be peculiarly reprobated by the very constitution of that government, and desperate of success in any mode of contest, where regard should be had to truth, law, or right, have at length, deserting those, attempted to implement their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving the Texas people by violence, threats of violence, the inciting of foreign nationals to invade Texas against all traditional laws regarding immigration, the making of multitudes of rules, decrees, edicts and the like that are foreign to our laws and Constitutions and have thereby rendered it necessary for the Texas people to withdraw from attempts to reason and to pick up arms. - Yet, however blinded that government may be, by the intemperate rage for unlimited domination, so to sight justice and the opinion of mankind, we esteem ourselves bound by obligations of respect to the rest of the world, to make known the justice of our cause.

Can a people as peaceful and industrious as the Texas people be comfortable and at ease in their own homes when the federal government is equipping the various police agencies in Texas with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of military arms? A condition of supply that is instead required by the Constitution of 1791 to be that the Texas militia, comprised of every able bodied male of suitable age not employed by government, is to be so equipped and trained by the governments.

Can a people as peaceful and industrious as the Texas people be comfortable and at ease in their own homes when the federal government is by every foul means attempting to disarm the Texas people? All the while knowing that such jurisdiction does not exist in the Constitution of 1791 nor can it be granted to the Texas government; that constitution being required to be conforming to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and not repugnant to the Constitution of 1791; and by its own

constitution the Texas government is also powerless thereby to abridge the inalienable rights of man granted by God for any purpose by any reason or excuse of necessity.

At what time should the Texas people expect another massacre on their soil by federal police in the ongoing unlawful attempts by the governments to control arms in the people's hands that they are required by centuries of law, custom and even the Constitution of 1791 to keep and bear and be skilled in the use thereof? Government; not being content with the many 'no-knock' warrantless armed home invasions it currently is in the custom of performing; has publically stated it will send drone strikes against those citizens on their own land that resist the usurpations, oppressions and tyrannies of the United States.

The intelligence gathering and covert operations agencies of the United States, particularly the NSA and the CIA, are formidable in their effectiveness for detecting and deterring external threats against the Union and its peoples; being forbidden by their charters to spy upon persons and their activities within the boundaries of States united; government has turned these agencies of national defense into weapons of aggression upon the Texas people and the people of the remaining several States of the Union in order to further governments own unprovoked and unlawful attacks upon the people that created it and support it with their lives and their monies.

How much less at ease should the peaceful and industrious Texas people be in their own homes when the federal government has colluded with Texas governments and even foreign governments to cause to be brought into Texas and other States multitudes of foreign nationals claiming refugee status yet not fleeing any disaster and hiding amongst them are known criminal and insurgent elements publicly seeking the overthrow of Texas and other States?

Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great, and, if necessary, assistance from our sister States is undoubtedly attainable. We gratefully acknowledge, as signal instances of the Divine favor toward us, that his Providence would not permit us to be called into this severe controversy, until we were grown up to our present strength, had been previously exercised in warlike operation, and possessed of the means of defending ourselves. With hearts fortified with these animating reflections, we most solemnly, before God and the world, declare that, exerting the utmost energy of those powers which our beneficent Creator has graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume we will, in defiance of every hazard, with never diminishing firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties; being with our [one] mind resolved to die free men rather than live slaves.

Lest this declaration should disquiet the minds of our friends and fellow citizens in any part of the Union, we assure them that we mean not to dissolve that union which has so long and so happily subsisted between us, and which we sincerely wish to see restored. Necessity has not yet driven us into that desperate measure, or induced us to excite any other confederation of States to war against them. We are not raising armies with ambitious designs of separating from the Union establishing independent states. We fight not for glory or for conquest. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable spectacle of a people attacked by unprovoked enemies, without any imputation or even suspicion of offense. They boast of their privileges and civilization and yet proffer no milder conditions than servitude or death.

In our own native land, in defense of the freedom that is our birthright, and which we ever enjoyed till the ongoing violations of it -- for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our forefathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors, and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed, and not before.

With a humble confidence in the mercies of the supreme and impartial Judge and Ruler of the universe, we most devoutly implore his divine goodness to protect us happily through this great conflict, to dispose our adversaries to reconciliation on reasonable terms, and thereby to relieve the Union from the calamities of civil war.

By my hand,

Stephen Charles Tassio Texas Defense Force Commanding  
12 July A.D. 2014