



Impact Statement

Lillie Moad, Grade 8

The Truth Against the World, 2026

Marker, mixed media, newspaper on paper, 10.5 x 12.5 inches

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Gareth Jones

With the rise of the Soviet famine in the 1930s, naturally Gareth Jones had to do something about it.

Which is one reason why I chose this unsung hero for my project. As an advocator myself, I find Jones truly astounding. The absolute dedication to speaking out on something and to share his reports with the risk of dying, that is what drew me to Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones. I admire his care-free attitude towards his way of living and how fearless he is. Even after being banned from the Soviet Union for holding a press conference under his own name about the Holodomor, he chose to keep speaking about affairs and struggles around the world with practically an arrow on his back. Reading into his story felt like reading an action novel of some sort.

"The truth against the world," is what Jones had lived by.

At the ripe age of 25, Gareth Jones started his journey as a Welsh journalist in 1930, hoping to find something interesting to report about in Russia and Ukraine. He latched onto the Soviet famine, reporting it in *The Times* anonymously. After being horrified of the conditions of the famine and discovering that it was basically an "excuse" to commit mass genocide against Ukrainians, he had finally issued a press under his government name reporting about the Holodomor in detail.

Throughout the Soviet Famine, the Soviet Union strictly controlled the press to make sure words would not get out about the Holodomor. That is why Jones had been blacklisted from the Soviet Union after issuing the press conference about it under his real name.

What the most incredible part about this is; this did not stop Gareth Jones from writing about controversial topics. He last spoke at the Institute of World Affairs before backpacking to Southeast Asia, allegedly being murdered by Chinese bandits in Mongolia. Some say it was the Soviet Secret Police, which shows how much he made an impact. It was enough to be seen as a threat by the Soviet Union itself.

I decided that I needed to incorporate some sort of article in my art piece, which is why I cut up some newspaper, colored it yellow, and used it as a spotlight for a drawing of Gareth Jones himself. It shows how he shed light on such a big issue throughout Ukraine and Russia that was being withheld by the Soviets. And with the sharp contrast between yellow and blue, it represents shattering the wall between the press and the world. I thought that using acrylic

markers would be good for my piece because they are very opaque and colorful, which felt very much in theme. It shows the sort of care-free attitude that Gareth Jones shared with the world. I wasn't exactly sure what to do for the border of the piece until I came up with the idea of using hands reaching for apples as symbolism for the unfortunate yearning for food and desperately reaching for a source of energy to feed themselves and others. The cartoon-ish paper gives a feel for Jones' journalist lifestyle.

Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones will forever live in my knowledge bank. He teaches not just me, but everyone that we should live by the truth, and stand by it. I intend to celebrate Gareth Jones with my family and friends and pray that they share his story with others. My passion and success grow every day with the knowledge of Gareth Jones behind my head, and I can safely say that he has thoroughly impacted my life.