



Assange & Sweden

Miscellaneous Information: Part 1

14 August 2010 – 16 December 2010

This is a somewhat random collection of news clippings and other items relating to accusations of sexual misconduct that have been made against Julian Assange by Swedish authorities. Much of the material is in Swedish, but I believe that at least half is in English.

The quality and reliability of the various items vary widely. In some places I have added clarifications, warnings, etc. *[in italics, within square brackets and initialed--A.B.]*. But there is nothing systematic about that, either, and everything in this document should be interpreted with due caution.

Questions and comments regarding any of the information included here are welcome and may be addressed to me via e-mail at: editor@nnn.se

– Al Burke
Nordic News Network

Links to other parts of the series

*Documents in PDF format
Require Adobe Reader or similar program*

Part 2: 17 December 2010 – 17 February 2011

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case2.pdf

Part 3: 20 February 2011 - 17 July 2011

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case3.pdf

Part 4: 8 August 2011...

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case4.pdf

For more and better-organized information:

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange.htm

Aftonbladet 2010-08-14



"Det att bästa sättet att åstadkomma positiva förändringar är att avslöja saker som makten vill hålla hemliga", säger Julian Assange. avslöjar hemligheter "Det att bästa sättet att åstadkomma positiva förändringar är att avslöja saker som makten vill hålla hemliga", säger Julian Assange. Foto: HENRIC LINDSTEN

'Jag kan nog lova ett och annat scoop'

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange ska skriva i Aftonbladet

Julian Assange, mannen som grundade Wikileaks, organisationen som publicerat de senaste årens största avslöjanden, blir kolumnist i Aftonbladet.

– Jag kan nog utlova ett och annat scoop, säger han.

Julian Assange samarbetar med internationella giganter som New York Times, brittiska Guardian och tyska Der Spiegel utan att skriva i dem.

Faktum är att Julian Assange fram tills nu inte skrivit krönikor i någon tidning någonstans. Att han väljer förhållandevis lilla Aftonbladet kan te sig märkligt, men det finns en förklaring.

Jag återkommer till det, men vill först förklara vad Wikileaks är. Sajten grundades för fyra år sedan och publicerar hemliga dokument som nätverket Wikileaks kommer över genom kontakter. Syftet är att systematiskt göra information som kan förändra världen tillgänglig för alla.

Resultatet är kontroversiellt och enastående. Den senaste bedriften var att publicera 92 000 hemliga dokument från krigets Afghanistan. Ett annat uppmärksammat scoop var videon som avslöjade att amerikanska soldater sköt ihjäl obebäpnade civila från en helikopter i Bagdad 2007.

Assange är just nu i Stockholm och kom i går upp på Aftonbladets redaktion för ett möte med chefredaktören Jan Helin.

– Det är ingen tillfällighet att jag väljer att börja skriva i en svensk tidning. Den svenska publicistiska kulturen och den svenska lagstiftningen har stöttat oss ända sedan vi startade, förklarar han.

Ja, era servrar finns i Sverige. Vad tänker du skriva om?

– Om pressfrågor och om vad som sker runt om i världen. Det kan bli ett och annat scoop.

Spännande. Innebär detta att Aftonbladet kommer att få samarbeta med Wikileaks?

– Det kan inte uteslutas.

Varför detta samarbete med pressen?

– Vi lovar våra källor maximal exponering av det de vill ha ut.

Hur ofta ska du skriva?

– En kolumn varannan månad.

Varför grundade du Wikileaks?

– Jag har jobbat som journalist och med människorättsorganisationer. Är det något jag lärt mig så är det att bästa sättet att åstadkomma positiva förändringar är att avslöja saker som makten vill hålla hemliga.

Förvånad över att ni så snabbt blivit så stora?

– Nej. Jag trodde att det skulle ta två år.

Hur stor är organisationen i dag?

– Vi är fyra heltidsanställda. Och 40 personer som vi kan ta in till olika projekt. Runt om i världen finns 100 000 personer som aktivt stödjer oss.

Ni utsattes för hårt tryck från Vita huset och Pentagon sedan ni publicerat dokumenten från Afghanistan.

– Ja, det var ett oerhört tryck. Vita huset körde med retoriska trick och spred under ytan lögnen om oss. Journalister måste bli mer vaksamma om vad som sägs om oss. Men vi fick också ett stort stöd.

Har ni blivit hotade?

– Ja det amerikanska försvaret har ställt tre krav. Att vi ska förstöra allt material vi har publicerat om Afghanistan. Att vi ska förstöra allt liknande material vi ännu inte publicerat. Om vi inte lyder så ska de tvinga oss till det.

På vilket sätt?

– Det framgår inte.

Jag föreställer mig att Wikileaks inte viker ner sig.

– Naturligtvis inte. Vi accepterar inte dessa hot utan fortsätter vår mission. Pentagons krav måste tillbakavisas med kraft.

Hur ser framtiden ut?

– Vi måste få in mer pengar. Vi får mer material än vad vi kan hantera i dag och behöver nyanställa. Vi har sedan årsskiftet fått en miljon dollar från människor som stödjer oss. Men det räcker inte.



Välkommen Aftonbladets chefredaktör Jan Helin hälsar Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange välkommen.

• Oisín Cantwell

AB: 14 augusti 2010

Därför blir Julian Assange kolumnist i Aftonbladet

Av Jan Helin

Aftonbladet inleder ett samarbete med Wikileaks. Vid två tillfällen har jag träffat Wikileaks utgivare och talesman Julian Assange. I går kom vi överrens om att inleda ett samarbete.

Julian Assange kommer att skriva kolumner i Aftonbladet ungefär varannan månad. Hur han skriver har jag absolut ingen aning om, men han är garanterat den mest spännande hjärnan i världen just nu vad gäller yttrandefrihetsfrågor. Extremt mäktiga krafter vill stänga ner Julian Assange nätverk Wikileaks. Bara det gör det angeläget att lyssna till Assange.

Det är nu ingen slump att Julian Assange väljer Aftonbladet, trots att hans samarbetspartners i media hittills varit några av världens största tidningar såsom New York Times, Der Spiegel och The Guardian. Aftonbladet har naturligtvis inte samma röst i världen som dessa tidningar. Men även om vi är små i detta sammanhang har vi några saker som gör oss intressanta. Att Aftonbladet är det ledande digitala mediehuset i Sverige på ett sätt som rönt viss uppmärksamhet internationellt är möjligen av någon betydelse, men inte det viktigaste. Viktigast är det faktum att vi ligger i Sverige. Vår tryckfrihetslagstiftning är den juristiktion i världen som bäst skyddar källor. Det är enligt svensk lag förbjudet för en myndighet att efterforska källor. En intressant omständighet om du som publicist till exempel har pentagon efter dig för att ha avslöjat och offentliggjort tiotusentals hemligstämplade dokument om kriget i Afghanistan.

Aftonbladet bistår nu Wikileaks i arbetet med att få ett svenskt utgivningsbevis och ge Julian Assange formell status som ansvarig utgivare i Sverige. Aftonbladet kommer dock inte att vara ansvarig utgivare för Wikileaks. Det vore en orimlig konstruktion. Julian Assange talade själv i Stockholm i dag om att Sverige blivit ett "asylland" för nya, globala publicister. Det är en intressant omständighet. Intressant är också diskussionen kring effekterna av Wikileaks massiva publiceringar.

Dagens Nyheter instämmer i dag i kritiken från Amnesty och Reportrar utan gränser som menar att Wikileaks riskerar livet på civila i Afghanistan som lämnat uppgifter till de krigförande natostyrkorna i Afghanistan. Det är en intressant diskussion, men förefaller i sak vara en okunnig kritik. Hittills har Wikileaks avstått från publicering av cirka 15 000 dokument om kriget i Afghanistan av just skälet att människor skulle kunna komma till skada om deras identitet blir känd. Just nu arbetar Wikileaks med att göra de dokumenten tillgängliga, utan att informatörer kommer till skada. Hur de lyckas återstår att se.

Den krigsmakt som Wikileaks gör transparent med sina publiceringar har dock ostridigt ett tungt ansvar för ett mycket stort antal civila dödsoffer i Afghanistan. Balansen mellan denna granskning, eller genomlysning, av krigsmakten och risken som den nya offentligheten kan utgöra för oskyldiga är ohyggligt komplex. Jag kan inte se en viktigare diskussion om yttrandefriheten i världen just nu. Wikileaks är

skickligast i världen på att använda och navigera i våra nya medier. Det är ett nätverk av verklighetens Lisbeth Salander som skakar världens mäktigaste strukturer.

Kraften i Wikileaks blev uppenbar när vi i våras fick vår tids motsvarighet till Vietnambilderna. Amerikanska soldater som mejar ner Reutersfotografer och civila på öppen gata. Filmen visades i all världens media och har över sju miljoner visningar bara på Youtube. I en artikel på Aftonbladet Kultur av Johannes Wahlström sammanfattar Julian Assange motivet till att han tillsammans med kinesiska dissidenter grundade Wikileaks för tre år sedan:

”Viss information skapar förändring, den avgör om världen ska kunna bli en rättvisare plats. De som kontrollerar den informationen förstår det så klart, och det är just därför de försöker hemlighålla den. Vår uppgift är däremot att systematiskt leta fram och publicera just den typen av information.”

Det är ett publicistiskt statement som de flesta journalister kan ta till sitt hjärta och säkert vill leva och verka efter. Men också journalister har en hyra som ska betalas och ägare som ska ha avkastning varför det dagliga arbetet inte i varje stund präglas av ljuset från den ledstjärna som Assange tänder. Det finns en kraftfull idealism i Wikileaks. Möjligen är det därför som media som kämpar för sin överlevnad i en svår strukturomvandling är tvehågsna inför nätverket. Wikileaks påminner obarmhärtigt om en drivkraft förutan vilken journalistiken blir till en kommersiell meningslöshet.

En del menar att detta klär av journalistiken som något som gått ur tiden. Inget mediehus är lika skickliga som Wikileaks på ta fram enorma mängder material och göra dem tillgängliga för alla. Det är sant. Men slutsatsen om journalistiken är helt fel. Wikileaks är ogenomträngligt utan journalistik. De enorma mängder rådata Wikileaks offentliggör är omöjliga att få något vettigt ur för den som i och för sig vill veta något nytt om världen, men också har annat att göra om dagarna.

Wikileaks utmanar journalistiken på ett bra sätt. Journalistik som bygger på Wikileaks material blir kontrollerbart för alla och envar. Har journalisten valt rätt vinkel? Gjort en rimlig analys? Återgivit grundmaterialet korrekt? Wikileaks lägger sig på så sätt mellan granskarna och det som ska granskas. Wikileaks gör det möjligt att granska såväl journalistiken som krigsmakten i fallet Afghanistan. Det är unikt och visar vägen för en intressant utveckling för journalistiken; att göra bakgrundsmaterialet fullt tillgängligt.

Vi har mycket att lära i ett samarbete med Wikileaks. Och i sinom tid hoppas vi kunna presentera journalistik som resultat av samarbetet mellan Wikileaks och Aftonbladet.

Wikileaks och våra byxlösa medier

Newsmill
Olle Andersson
2010-08-18

Det värsta min Rottweiler Pelle visste var knähundar. Vilt skällande, hugg mot ansiktet, rädda för husse. Likheten slår mig när jag ser Utrikespolitiska Institutets seismograf Anders Hellner i Rapport 18 aug. Med darr på rösten varnar han för

amerikanska påtryckningar på den svenska statsförvaltningen. Wikileaks svenska servrar kan skada de transatlantiska relationerna. I DN:s huvudledare (15 aug) anklagas Julian Assange för att vara en simpel tjuv med kluven moral. Kvällstidningarnas kolumnister tar afghanska spioner till sina hjärtan. Mopsarna går till samlad attack. De ser skynket men inte matadoren, bisak har blivit huvudsak. Varför blev det så här?

När Wikileaks publicerade dokumenten var det detta århundrades största scoop. För första gången [nej då--A.B.] kunde världens alla journalister titta rakt in i Pentagons hemligaste kassaskåp: Så här tänker en supermakt innan nattlampan släcks, det här pratar generalerna om 100 meter ned i bunkrarna, så här sa bassen när kulorna ven i främmande land.

Allt detta serverades på ett fat, gratis och franko, till varenda svensk redaktion. Sen kom tystnaden och det generande skrapet från stolen när en hel yrkeskår ursäktade sig och gick på muggen. Allt blev tyst. Om detta kan man spekulera. Själv tror jag att nyheten blev för stor för att hantera, ungefär som buffén på ett 5-stjärnigt hotell i Dubai. Alla dessa dignande fat som ropade på journalistisk bearbetning mitt under semestermånaden. Vad fan höll Assange på med? Har han inget ansvar? Kan han inte redigera själv?

På ledarplats i DN anklagades Assange för att släppa FÖR MÅNGA dokument på en gång i en enda hög utan att vägleda DN om hur materialet ska användas. Journalistkåren blev helt enkelt kränkt. Tre veckor senare kan vi konstatera att inte en enda tidning veterligen avsatt en enda resurs för att kamma igenom ett historiskt journalistiskt råmaterial trots att det hänger och dinglar i laptopen. Okej, ett par tidningar har gjort förströdda sökningar typ "Sweden" och "Swedish" men sen är det tomt.

SVT, som inte ens försökt låtsas att man tagit del och förstått, slår lik förbannat fast att de 90.000 dokumenten är gamla nyheter. Så har det malt på. Der Spiegel? Kan inte tyska. The Guardian? Var med ungarna till dagis.

Sen kom vändningen och jäklar vilken fart det blev på tangenterna! Det förlösande ordet yttrades av Obamas presstalesman: Wikileaks har brandat våra avlönade afghanska spioner, deras säkerhet är i fara. Assange är ett hot mot USA:s intressen. Och plötsligt öppnades dammluckorna på våra självständiga redaktioner. Bort alla trista dokument! Assange är boven!

Och alla journalister som five minuter tidigare lagt Wikileaks åt sidan fick äntligen något konkret att sätta tänderna i. En identifierbar skurk som haft fräckheten att missbruka den svenska yttrandefriheten. I Aktuellt cementeras bilden av Assange som en oansvarig cyniker med afghanskt blod på händerna. Den "exklusiva" intervjun dunderar av förtryksamhet. I Rapport ekar Anders Hellner att "visst är det bra med yttrandefrihet och såna saker" men nånstans måste Sverige dra en gräns. Johanna Hildebrand-- den enda "krigskorrespondent" som ser sin person i versaler-- ljuter tårar över de tappra spioner som förråtts.

Om huvudfrågan, USA:s och Natos framfart i ett sönderbombat land inte ett pip. Att 70 procent av afghanerna vill ha bort de främmande trupperna imorgon dag (enligt USA-styrkornas egen gallup) blir irrelevant. Faktum är att den svenska rapporteringen om Afghanistan förkroppsligas mer än någon annan av Hildebrandt själv när hon

"med egna ögon och på plats" besöker den svenska campen. En ensam nordbo omgiven av ett hav av 28 miljoner oförstående och obegripliga skägg. Rädd, frusen och ignorant.

Lite snatterier ur Washington Post och New York Times för att ge ett sken av världsvana, sen får det duga. DN tilldelar för övrigt New York Times en hjälteroll för bearbetningen av Wikileaksmaterialet. Sannningen är att tidningen sprang direkt till Pentagon med vartenda papper och kom överens om vad som skulle tryckas [*samt beställde fram ett vidrigt personangrepp på Assange skriven av John Burns--A.B.*].

Wikileaks insats förtegs, det publicerade materialet strök Obama-administrationen medhårs och hade en helt annan inriktning än i the Guardian och Der Spiegel, som båda lyfte fram hittills hemlighållna uppgifter om civila dödsoffer. Det största haveriet sker tråkigt nog på Studio Ett, en gång P1:s flaggskepp, numera hemvist för den pingpong-journalistik som hemsöker kanalen. Vilka galenskaper som helst får passera så länge motparten får käfta emot.

Ingen påläsning behövs, allt överläts åt de inbjudna slagskämparna. Lyssnaren lämnas i sticket av ett evigt å-ena-sidan-å-andra sidan-tuggande där ingen på redaktionen sätter ned foten. (Det var för övrigt på Studio Ett som en av program-ledarna på fullt allvar påstod [???] att de nio turkarna på Ghazafartyget drevs av kollektiv självmordslusta och att det var därför dom dog. Ingen reagerade.)

Man kan tycka vad man vill om Wikileaks och den demoniserade Julian Assange, men en sak är glasklar: Våra uppburna ledarskribenter, kolumnister och nyhetsreportrar saknar det mod och självständighet som krävs när en internationell toppstory landar i knät. Personfixeringen och motviljan mot källkritik får en att undra om journalist-kåren över huvud taget har kompetens, intellektuell beredskap och publicistiskt kurage att ta sig an och bearbeta ett material av det här slaget.

Det är illavarslande att inte en enda förbannad redaktion kavlat upp ärmarna och läst på, än värre är klappjakten på de som bringat åtminstone viss klarhet i och insikt om det mest hemligstämplade och mörklagda krig som västmakterna drivit sedan andra världskriget. Assange säger till the Guardian att det finns tusentals redan publicerade dokument som väntar på att någon journalist ska sätta tänderna i dom. Nån som räcker upp handen? Även knähundar kan pissa på stora träd.

<http://www.newsmill.se/artikel/2010/08/18/wkileaks-och-v-ra-byxl-sa-medier>

Twelve Hours That Shook the World

Julian Assange charged with rape, then charges suddenly dropped.

<http://radsoft.net>
21 Aug. 2010

STOCKHOLM — It started in the wee hours of the morning Swedish local time. Notorious Swedish sleaze rag Expressen suddenly published (around 05:00 AM) a sensational story that Wikileaks founder Julian Assange had been arrested in absentia on 'probable cause'.

Their typically sensationalistic headline was 'Wikileaks founder hunted for rape in Stockholm'.

Three Expressen staff immediately started tweeting like crazy, trying to give the story legs. No one really believed them but they kept at it for several hours. None of the other more 'reputable' Swedish papers touched the story.

Twelve hours later it was all over. No story, let's all move on. What happened?

Expressen bombs the web (and Twitter) with a 'non-story' -- a 'non-story' to the degree that there weren't any details to speak of, there were no second or additional sources, the people supposedly interviewed refused to say anything. But Expressen, the notorious rag where budding journalists are regularly told 'if you can't find a story then you make one up', decided to run with their 'non-story' anyway.

Expressen had been feeling a bit miffed since the past weekend when Julian Assange agreed to visit all the major Stockholm newspapers but theirs. Expressen is owned by the powerful Bonnier clan who control most of the media in Sweden- and today a huge number of assets purchased from Time.

Scepticism was great from the outset. The Expressen tweeters kept pushing their story but people weren't buying it-- they sensed a conspiracy instead.

The Expressen story was short on facts and details but long on hyperbole and FUD. One of the most amazing parts of that original article was how they admitted there was no proof Assange was guilty of anything 'but there's no proof he's innocent either!'

Two girls-- who now claim they didn't know each other (or Julian) before last week-- were to have met him, each in a different town, about 100 km from each other. This despite Julian's heavy schedule which doesn't exactly allow any sidestepping. They both claimed Julian had 'harassed' them-- but without violence or the threat thereof. And the one incident was to nevertheless have resulted in 'rape'.

The two girls were to not have known each other (or even met) until afterwards, when they magically coincided in the capital city, began talking about their lives, and discovered they'd both met Wikileaks founder Julian Assange-- who had attempted to rape them both.

The 'sex' in both cases was to have begun as 'consensual' but then suddenly wasn't any longer. And according to the one girl, Assange had a 'skewed view of women and didn't know how to take 'no' for an answer.

The two girls then went to the police station in Stockholm city-- but not to file complaints but to seek 'protection': they claimed they felt threatened [incorrect-- A.B.]. By a person they also admitted had not behaved in a threatening way.

Charges were nevertheless filed. And the Stockholm police issued an APB for Julian Assange on 'probable cause', the most severe form of 'hunting' in Swedish police jargon. Both a policewoman and a representative of the prosecutor's office were supposedly interviewed by Expressen. Neither had any details to offer. Not a word.

But that's what Expressen refer to as a 'flash'. By noon the story's gained legs and is being picked up internationally. There are still no further details and most news

sources simply refer to the Google Translate version of the Expressen article. Swedish media pick up on it as well-- but have nothing to add.

The question is still why Expressen would wait until 05:00 to flash the story. No one's awake in Sweden at that hour. But it's prime time news hour in the US.

Expressen's morning edition looks like the illustration below. The wording was changed slightly to include the word 'suspected' -- he's no longer known to be guilty by Expressen.

Shortly after 12:00 the Wikileaks Twitter feed came out with the following. 'Julian Assange: the charges are without basis and their issue at this moment is deeply disturbing.'

Three hours earlier-- 09:30 local time-- the Wikileaks Twitter account had posted the following. 'We were warned to expect 'dirty tricks'. Now we have the first one: <http://bit.ly/bv5ku9>' The link leads to the Google Translate page for the Expressen article. And then: 'Expressen is a tabloid; No one here has been contacted by Swedish police. Needless to say this will prove hugely distracting.'



Expressen's original article is translated below (and not by Google Translate).

Wikileaks founder arrested for rape

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange is being sought by the Swedish police. He is suspected on probable cause of rape in Stockholm. 'He has been arrested in absentia', corroborates Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand, prosecutor on duty in Stockholm City, for Expressen.

Julian Assange has been in Sweden recently to lecture at amongst other venues the LO building in Stockholm on the topic 'The First Victim of War is the Truth'. The Brotherhood Movement of christian social democrats sponsored the event.

Yesterday evening he was arrested in absentia by the Swedish prosecutor on duty, according to Expressen's sources.

'It's rape', corroborates Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand for Expressen on Friday evening.

Is this about 'probable cause'?

'Yes it is.'

A few hours earlier the prosecutor had received information from the Stockholm police about a rape complaint filed against Julian Assange.

'I don't know when the complaint was filed. I found out about it now this evening and I arrested him this evening', says Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand.

According to Expressen's sources, suspicion of crime arose after two women between 20 and 30 years of age visited the police.

He was to have met one of the women between Saturday and Sunday last week in a flat on Södermalm in Stockholm.

He was to have met the other women in Enköping last Tuesday, according to Expressen's sources.

A source with insight into the matter tells how he met the women:

'He met the victims through his assignments.'

The prosecutor will at this impasse only corroborate the suspicion of rape but will not divulge further details.

'The women were to have gone to the police station in Stockholm City yesterday to consult with them about their experiences with Julian Assange. They didn't want-- according to my information-- to file a complaint.'

'The women are scared to death and therefore do not want to cooperate with the police. The police believe that in this case it's the suspect's position of power that the women are afraid of. This makes matters difficult for the police and the prosecutor', says a 'source' to Expressen.

An individual close to the girls reveals: 'The girls know each other and they know they've both run afoul of the same thing.'

According to the prosecutor, the police do not know the location of the Wikileaks founder right now.

Has he fled the country after this incident?

'No clue. I have arrested him in absentia. I know nothing about where he is.'

When Expressen confronts the prosecutor with the detail that this is about more than one woman, the answer is:

'I've not spoken with them, so I can't say anything. With consideration for everyone involved, I cannot at the present time say anything.'

Do you know if the police are actively searching for him right now?

'I hope so. I presume so. I know nothing.'

Julian Assange met the Pirate Party's leader Rick Falkvinge last Sunday evening to sign an agreement whereby the party would run Wikileaks servers.

'We sat and ate dinner last Sunday when we signed the agreement between Wikileaks and the Pirate Party', says Rickard Falkvinge.

Did he seem OK when you met him last Sunday?

'Absolutely. There were smiles all around.'

Julian Assange revealed during the dinner that he would leave Sweden on Wednesday.

Expressen has in vain sought Julian Assange through Wikileaks.

The story is credited to Diamant Salihu and Niklas Svensson. Expressen claim the story was first published Friday, then updated Saturday, but there was no sign or mention of it until Saturday at 05:00 local time.

Second Glance

The above story is full of holes. Not only in the logic of the supposed complainants but in Expressen's patented way to write stories-- and create filler details when needed. The authors' 'sources'. They're never named and sometimes they're not even specified. Given the prosecutor's refusal to reveal any details-- including identities-- it's very remarkable Expressen have been able to talk to the friends of two girls whose identities they don't even know.

It's theoretically possible Expressen could have in some magical way discovered the identities of the girls but it's extremely unlikely. The authors would have surely mentioned the fact in such case. The 'search' for Julian Assange was most likely not

broadcast on police radio but was instead a methodical in-house search through possible addresses and phone numbers (if anything at all).

Expressen claim to know two girls are involved before the prosecutor said anything in the matter. Expressen do not anywhere mention they've been in contact with the police— only the prosecutor on duty Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand.

'According to sources' is simply worn out by overuse. Several of the more 'colourful' details of the Expressen story have later been proven to be patently false-- this despite Expressen claiming to have reliable sources.

All in all the article reads like a typical piece from Expressen. The Wikileaks description of Expressen as a 'tabloid' is not far off.

The story itself defies logic as well. As later revealed, the two girls-- from different towns-- didn't know each other previously. They didn't know Julian Assange either. They somehow ran into each other by pure happenstance in the same city, despite the one not living there at all. Then got along, chatted-- and discovered they had a mutual 'experience'.

They then decided (presumably the same evening) to visit the police station not to file a complaint but to consult with the police about their 'fears'. But later developments show the girls denying being afraid of Julian Assange-- this despite Expressen claiming to have a source close to them who knows they were.

What remains is the story that Julian Assange, previously not acquainted with either girl, and despite his busy schedule, suddenly running into both in different locations, one of which was way off his beaten path, to engage in consensual sex that in both cases, without a hint of violence or the threat of violence, somehow resulted in molestation and rape. How does one go about raping someone else without violence or the threat of violence?

Suddenly the other Stockholm tabloid got a scoop. Someone identifying herself as one of the two girls contacted Aftonbladet-- the newspaper Julian Assange is now going to write for. She was basically calling to change her story.

She and the other girl didn't know each other. They didn't know Julian Assange either. And it all had started as consensual sex-- for both of them-- but then somehow, and without a hint of violence or the threat thereof, had turned into something else.

She described herself as 30 years old. She didn't explain how she met the other girl who'd also encountered Julian Assange. (Aftonbladet didn't bother asking.) She also didn't explain how Julian Assange had found his way to Enköping, 100 kilometres off the beaten track, northwest of Stockholm, where he wouldn't otherwise be going, but now going to meet a woman he didn't know.

She said she'd rung Aftonbladet to correct some of the details in the original Expressen story. [According to the latest episode in this saga, Assange is still being investigated for having molested this 30 year old. But even this detail, given the quality of Swedish tabloid journalism, should be held suspect.]

She further explains that the other woman whom she did not know (and who did not know her) somehow contacted her and told her a story similar to her own. She does not

reveal how the 20 year old even knew anything had happened to her or how she found out about her-- after all, they claim they didn't know each other.

And at that point the woman clammed up-- 'out of consideration for the ongoing investigation'. But she insists both of them told the police everything.

'I believed her story immediately', she told Aftonbladet, 'because I myself had such an experience.'

Then the women decided to go to the police with their stories.

'But it's not true we were afraid of Assange and didn't dare file a complaint', the 30 year old insisted. In both cases it's about consensual sex from the beginning. The other woman wanted to file a complaint for rape. I told them my story as testimony for the other woman's story and to support her. We stand behind what we've said.'

The woman finally went on to attack the conspiracy theorists. 'The accusations against Assange are of course not orchestrated by the Pentagon or anyone else. Responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man with a twisted view of womanhood who doesn't know how to take a 'no' for an answer.'

But even here things seem to wobble a bit too much. How did the woman identify herself? How did she prove she was one of the complainants? How could Aftonbladet possibly identify her when her identity is not known and when she's only a voice on the telephone-- or at best an anonymous face in a news office?

Would a woman who's just been through such a terrible traumatic experience-- and yet in no way identified-- want to actually contact the media instead of just getting away from the hysteria? How can consensual sex become molestation or rape with no hint of violence or even the threat thereof?

How did these girls supposedly meet Assange? How did they meet each other if they lived in different cities? How did they get to know of the existence of each other? That first telephone call-- it was supposedly made from one woman to another when they didn't even know each other? Why didn't Aftonbladet ask the tough questions?

The news then hit that Julian Assange was still in Sweden and was preparing to travel in to meet the police in Stockholm. A lot of people online were suddenly apprehensive the CIA were going to nab Assange when he turned up.

Then just as suddenly the final story broke: chief prosecutor Eva Finné reviewed the case and concluded there was none. The story hit three of the major Swedish dailies almost immediately (and was picked up by Sky News in record time) but Expressen were to delay their story for a long while....

<http://radsoft.net/news/20100821,00.shtml>

The Campaign Against Julian Assange

radsoft.net

22 Aug. 2010

STOCKHOLM — There's no question yesterday's events surrounding Julian Assange constitute a campaign. The only question is whether it was orchestrated— a conspiracy— or merely a tragedy of a succession of abuses by individuals working independently. Today's revelations tell a comprehensive story.

Police + Prosecutor

Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand was the prosecutor on duty on Friday evening. She's now under investigation by the justice ombudsman. Kjellstrand is the one who issued a top priority arrest warrant for Julian Assange.

Kjellstrand didn't arrive at her crucial decision after due process. She didn't even review the police report. All she did was talk to a member of the police department about it— she never bothered to look at the report.

And on that basis alone she decided to arrest (to incarcerate) a suspect. Without even reviewing the documents in the case.

Expressen's Exploit

The prosecutor's office will never reveal the identity of a suspect to the public. And they didn't this time either. But Expressen somehow got wind of the case and rang up the prosecutor's office and asked if Julian Assange had been arrested.

The prosecutor on duty was the same Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand. She verified Julian Assange was in fact being sought ('hunted') for rape. But Expressen already had the whole story— they only asked her to corroborate.

So where did Expressen get the story? Although the legality of even this move by Kjellstrand will now be called into question, the mystery that remains is how Expressen, out of the blue, got wind of it and got the details about it. The prosecutor's office don't normally reveal anything and the police don't either. This is considered 'confidential' information.

So how did Expressen get the details prior to contacting the prosecutor's office? However they did it, it wasn't legal and it certainly wasn't ethical.

Expressen exploited the situation through illicit information. It's not known how they came by this information. The girls themselves may have contacted Expressen— especially if this was, as many suspect, a honey trap— or they may have reported back to the people orchestrating their actions and these people could have contacted Expressen. Or someone else in the police station or the prosecutor's office could have illegally leaked it to Expressen. But that's not considered likely.

It would in any case have to be one of a select few in the police station and involved in the report at that precise time that evening— or at Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand's office—who was made privy to the case and who understood who the girls were talking about. The longer one looks at that scenario, the more preposterous it appears. The consensus is Expressen got the dirt on this one from the outside— from the girls or their runners.

That it should be Expressen who were contacted is no mystery: they're one of two less than credible tabloids, the other one being Aftonbladet. But Julian Assange was already hired on to write a bimonthly column for Aftonbladet. And Expressen had been passed over earlier in the week when Assange held online chat sessions for all the other major newspapers.

Saturday: Reversal

Eva Finné came into the office on Saturday. She was the first prosecutor to look at the actual documentation of the complaint: the police report itself, the paperwork. She was the first one to study it. And she dismissed the rape charge and rescinded the arrest warrant after reading the report. The reason she was able to dismiss the charge and the other prosecutor Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand couldn't was that Finné was the first one who'd actually seen the paperwork....

To initiate a nationwide hunt for someone based solely on a rape charge related by word of mouth, where no one had even seen the details of the actual report: it's no surprise Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand is now the target of an investigation of her own.



Eva Finné is otherwise known as a very level headed jurist who's been able to rescind other dubious decisions in the legal system by insisting on a high level of responsibility. She's well known for example for her part in cleaning up the Quick/ van der Kwast scandal.

Publishing Names

It is not permitted in these circumstances to reveal identities in the Swedish media. Nor to in any way help outsiders establish such identities. People are accused of crimes all the time and are sought by the police; their names cannot appear in the media.

The media cannot even identify people with pictures or race description. Laws in other countries are more liberal; in Sweden the laws are very strict.

Every major newspaper in Sweden published the rape story on Saturday— and every paper came out with an editorial by their editor in chief defending the decision to reveal the identity of a rape suspect. It made for rather sleazy reading— they all knew they were in the wrong but they were too horny for the scoop. They too might suffer for those decisions as the case rolls on.

Aftonbladet & Assange

It's well known that Julian Assange received an offer from Aftonbladet for both press protection and work as a columnist. But now Aftonbladet are distancing themselves from Assange— this despite the rape charge being dismissed.

Assange's first article was to have appeared today. Aftonbladet claim he hasn't had time to write it yesterday with all going on. But he could have written the piece at any time— he wouldn't have needed to wait until the last minute. But Aftonbladet's editor in chief lets a bit more slip.

'I regard this information as very serious. We'll postpone our collaboration until we find out what happened.'

Aftonbladet reporters then sum up with this comical mouthful. 'There have been remarkable twists and turns in this story.'...

Exclusive Interview

Aftonbladet published an exclusive interview with Assange for their Sunday edition. Excerpts:

AB: Two women claim you molested them. Your comment?

JA: I can't comment. There's no story to consider commenting on.

AB: Did you have sex with them?

JA: They're anonymous in the media. I have no idea who they are.

AB: Have you had sex at all during your stay in Sweden?

JA: That's my business and that of future women in my life.

AB: But isn't it just as well in this situation that you be as frank as possible?

JA: Yes. But I don't want to drag the private lives of others in the dirt without first being able to assess the entire situation. Why did they go to the police? What's behind all this? I can say this: I have never, not in Sweden or anywhere else, had sex with someone in a way not founded on completely free volition from both sides.

AB: You were under arrest in absentia for several hours. Why didn't you go to the police?

JA: I needed to consult with some people and get a solicitor.

AB: But wouldn't your credibility have profited by your appearing at once?

JA: As I said, I needed to consult with some people. And WikiLeaks posted that I was on my way to the police.

AB: Have you ever been accused of anything similar?

JA: I've been accused of everything possible, but nothing of this caliber. This is surprising.

AB: How did it feel to learn the arrest was rescinded?

JA: Good, obviously.

AB: What do you think of the behaviour of the police and the prosecutor?

JA: No one's asked me for my version of the 'story'.

AB: What's your version of the story?

JA: I want to know more about what I'm accused of before I say anything.

AB: Right, you're still under suspicion of molesting.

JA: Nothing I've done fits that accusation.

AB: Do you think this story will hurt you and WikiLeaks, even though the charge of rape has been dismissed?

JA: Yes, it's very damaging. There have been headlines all over the world that I'm suspected of rape. They won't go away. And I know from experience that the enemies of WikiLeaks will continue to trumpet out things long after they've been proven to be false.

AB: The Internet is abuzz with conspiracy theories right now. What do you think?

JA: I don't know what's behind this. But we've been warned that the Pentagon would try to use dirty tricks to ruin things for us. And I've also been warned to watch out for honey traps.

AB: Have you been caught in a honey trap?

JA: Maybe, maybe not.

AB: Where are you right now?

JA: With a friend in a summer cottage in the north.

AB: How long are you going to stay in Sweden?

JA: I was supposed to have left on Wednesday but it'll be later. But it has nothing to do with this story.

AB: How would you like to summarise this Saturday?

JA: Neither prosecutor nor police have been in contact with me. But I'm happy the Swedish authorities so quickly evaluated the stories of those women and dismissed the charge of rape. Evidently a prosecutor of higher rank took over the investigation and changed the decision to arrest me. The first prosecutor should be criticised. And even the media who blindly reported the accusations.

Kjellstrand

Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand has understandably come under severe criticism. It was she who issued a top priority arrest warrant for Julian Assange based on mere hearsay and who later revealed details of the case to the media.

Johann Binninge of Sweden's civil rights organisation RO says the following.

'She wasn't objective. She didn't even question him. She only listened to the plaintiffs.

She put Assange under suspicion at the highest possible level without questioning him. If one were to lock up everyone one suspected of a crime, the police wouldn't have time for anything else.'

<http://radsoft.net/news/20100822,00.shtml>

DN: 2010-08-24

Silbersky: "Bland det värsta jag varit med om"

Det här är rättsröta och bland det värsta jag varit med om. Det säger Leif Silbersky, som är Julian Assanges nyutsedda advokat. "Jag har heller aldrig blivit uppringd av så mycket utländsk media och de förstår inte heller hur detta kunnat ske," säger Leif Silbersky, till DN.se.

Enligt Leif Silbersky är anhängandet och hävandet av anhängandet av Julian Assange en bisarr historia och för en gångs skull har den stridbare advokaten svårt att finna ord.

– Vad är det som sker? Att först anhålla en person på nästan inga uppgifter alls för något de flesta av oss anser vara ett vidrigt brott och sedan bekräfta det offentligt. Det har skadat min klient, hans organisation men framför allt tilltron till rättssystemet, säger Leif Silbersky.

– Så här får det inte gå till.

Åklagarna i fallet säger att detta är normalt, att man måste agera snabbt i anhållningsärendet, speciellt då det handlar om en utländsk person, som lättare kan lämna landet, och att det inte är ovanligt att ändringar sker under utredningens gång. Kan det inte ligga något i det?

– Så får det inte gå till. En kvinna kan inte ringa polisen och bara på den utsagan så ska någon anhållas. Det är ju inte rätt. Jag kan säga det, jag har aldrig haft så många utländska media som ringer mig och de förstår inte hur detta gått till. De ifrågasätter vårt rättssystem.

Det har gått fyra dagar sedan det blev offentligt att Julian Assange är misstänkt för sexbrott, har du som den misstänktes advokat fått reda på vad som är brottsrubriceringen?

– Nej, det har jag inte. Jag vet inte vad han är misstänkt för. Men oavsett hur det går, så är skadan redan skedd. Spottar man på en sten så blir den till slut våt.

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné, som tidigare var den åklagare som upphävt beslutet om att anhålla Julian Assange, meddelar under tisdagen att hon inte kommer att fatta beslut i ärendet under tisdagen den 24 augusti, men utlovar mer information i ärendet så snart den är tillgänglig.

Tidigare i går måndag har chefsåklagaren sagt att hon ska utreda vilka brottsrubriceringar som kan komma i fråga.

• *Anders Forsström*

Assange Case: 'Legal corruption, one of the worst I've seen'

radsoft.net

24 Aug. 2010

STOCKHOLM — Leif Silbersky is perhaps Sweden's most famous and most powerful lawyer. He's been retained by Julian Assange. He's now had an opportunity to look through the case files for the Assange affair.

'This is corrupt. It's one of the worst cases I've seen. And I've never been rung up by so many foreign correspondents, and they can't understand how this could have happened either.'

Silbersky says the arrest of Julian Assange and its reversal is so bizarre he can't find the words. 'What's going on here? First you arrest someone on the basis of almost no evidence at all? For a crime most people consider heinous? And then you confirm his identity to the media? This has damaged my client and his organisation-- but most of all it's damaged belief in our Swedish legal system!

'It shouldn't be possible for things like this to happen. A woman can't just ring up a police station [*correction: two women visited the police station --A.B.*] and get them to arrest someone only on her word. It's not right. I can say that I have never had so many foreign correspondents contacting me and they don't understand how this could happen. They're understandably critical of our legal system.'

<http://radsoft.net/news/20100824,00.shtml>

AB: 2010-08-21

Anhållan mot Assange hävd

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange är inte längre misstänkt för våldtäkt. Han måste därför inte infinna sig hos polisen.

– Jag anser inte att det finns anledning att misstänka att han har begått våldtäkt, säger chefsåklagare Eva Finné i ett pressmeddelande.

Julian Assange anhölls i sin frånvaro sent på fredagskvällen misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande. Han nekar till anklagelserna men lovade via medarbetare att han skulle infinna sig hos polisen inom kort.

Det behöver han inte längre göra.

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné hävdade beslutet vid 17-tiden på lördagseftermiddagen, eftersom hon inte längre anser att det finns skäl för att han ska vara fortsatt anhållen.

– Som jag har förstått är misstankarna om våldtäkt helt avskrivna. Därför har åklagaren Eva Finné beslutat att häva anhållan, säger Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på åklagarmyndigheten i Stockholm.

Misstankarna om ofredande kvarstår dock fortfarande.

– Så är det. Utredningen om ofredande fortsätter, säger Karin Rosander.

Tidigare i dag var Assange misstänkt för våldtäkt på sannolika skäl. Vad ligger till grund för att misstankarna om våldtäkt inte gäller längre?

– Jag vet inte vad det beror på. Det var en annan åklagare i går och jag vet inte om Eva Finné har ny information eller om hon bara har gjort en helt annan bedömning.

Åklagaren själv har inte gått att nå och tänker enligt Karin Rosander inte kommentera ärendet i dag.

– Hon behöver mer underlag och måste gå vidare med utredningen först, säger Karin Rosander.

Julian Assange är känd som en av grundarna till sajten Wikileaks, som det senaste året har avslöjat flera missförhållanden-- bland annat inom den amerikanska militären.

Senast publicerades 90 000 hemliga dokument från den amerikanska krigsmakten om kriget i Afghanistan. Publiceringen var ett samarbete mellan Wikileaks, New York Times, The Guardian och Der Spiegel och omfattade information om kriget som tidigare inte varit känd offentligt gjordes.

Julian Assange befinner sig i Sverige sedan en tid tillbaka för att delta i olika aktiviteter och planera inför en eventuell etablering i Sverige. Orsaken är att Sveriges yttrandefrihetslagstiftning innehåller det starkaste skyddet i världen för skydd av källor.

”Ser allvarligt på anklagelserna”

Han har haft kontakt med den socialdemokratiska Broderskapsrörelsen och Piratpartiet. Julian Assange skrev också i veckan på ett kontrakt för att bli kolumnist i Aftonbladet. Hittills har dock ingen kolumn publicerats.

– Jag ser mycket allvarligt på de här uppgifterna. Vi avvaktar allt vidare samarbete tills vi får klarhet i vad som hänt, säger Jan Helin, chefredaktör för Aftonbladet.

Enligt polisens utredningsledare i Stockholm har Assange ännu inte hört av sig efter att anmälningarna mot honom blivit kända.

– Vi har inte hört hans version av det här ännu. Han har dessutom rätt till advokat, säger Ola Törndahl, vid polisen i city.

I ett mail till Aftonbladet som kom vid 10-tiden i morse skriver Julian Assange:

”Självklart är anklagelserna om våldtäkt inte sanna.”

Han anhölls i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande.

– Det är allvarliga brott som man anklagas för så med hänsyn till de inblandade så säger jag ingenting mer, sa Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand i samband med anhållandet.

Men beslutet hävdades alltså under lördagseftermiddagen av chefsåklagare Eva Finné.

– Jag anser inte att det finns anledning att misstänka att han har begått våldtäkt, skriver hon på åklagarmyndighetens hemsida.

Aftonbladet fortsätter att söka Assange för en kommentar.

*Johanna Petersson
Jessica Balksjö
Anders Munck*

AB: 2010-08-21

30-åriga kvinnan: Jag utsattes för övergrepp

Berättar om anklagelserna mot Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange

Aftonbladet har pratat med en av kvinnorna bakom anmälan för våldtäkt mot Julian Assange.

När hon kom i kontakt med en kvinna som berättade att Assange hade våldtagit henne gick de båda till polisen.

Kvinnan är i 30-årsåldern och vill nu gå ut med sin berättelse i Aftonbladet för att berätta om vad anklagelserna handlar om i sak och för att korrigera en del felaktigheter i den nyhet som publicerades i Expressen i morse.

Under sitt besök i Sverige har Julian Assange träffat de båda kvinnorna. Han misstänktes först ha våldtagit den ena, misstankar som på lördagseftermiddagen drogs tillbaka av chefsåklagare Eva Finné, men han misstänks fortfarande för ofredande av den andra kvinnan.

Kvinnorna och Assange träffades under hans vistelse i Stockholm och har inte tidigare träffat vare sig honom eller varandra.

Kvinnan i 30-årsåldern uppger att hon för sin del anser sig vara utsatt för ett sexuellt övergrepp, eller ofredande, men inte en våldtäkt.

Upprinnelsen till polisanmälan kom i fredags. En annan kvinna kontaktade henne och berättade en liknande, men värre historia. Den kvinnan är mellan 20 och 30 år. Lämnat detaljerad redogörelse

Av hänsyn till den pågående polisutredningen vill kvinnan i 30-årsåldern inte berätta fler detaljer i nuläget, men hon har lämnat en mycket detaljerad redogörelse till polisen. Även den andra kvinnan har lämnat ett detaljerat vittnesmål till polisen.

– Jag trodde direkt på hennes uppgifter eftersom jag själv haft en upplevelse som liknande hennes berättelse, säger kvinnan till Aftonbladet.

De båda kvinnorna beslöt nu att gemensamt gå till polisen för att lämna sina uppgifter.

"Känner mig inte hotad"

– Det är helt fel att vi skulle vara rädda för Assange och därför inte velat anmäla, säger kvinnan, han är inte våldsam och jag känner mig inte hotad av honom.

I båda fallen har det handlar om frivillig sex till en början som i ett senare skede övergått i övergrepp.

– Den andra kvinnan ville anmäla för våldtäkt. Jag gav min berättelse som vittnesmål till hennes berättelse och för att stötta henne. Vi står fullt ut för uppgifterna, säger kvinnan till Aftonbladet.

"Inte iscensatta anklagelser"

De konspirationsteorier som översvämmar nätet just nu avfärdar kvinnan i 30-årsåldern bestämt.

– Anklagelserna mot Assange är förstås inte iscensatta av varken Pentagon eller någon annan. Ansvar för det som hänt mig och den andra tjejen ligger hos en man med skev kvinnoyn och problem att ta ett nej.

• *Jessica Balksjö*

SvD: 22 augusti 2010

Journalagaren JO-anmäl

I fredags anhölls Julian Assange i sin frånvaro misstänkt på sannolika skäl för våldtäkt i ett fall och ofredande i ett annat fall, av journalagaren Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand. Mindre än ett dygn senare river chefsåklagare Eva Finné upp beslutet. Nu JO-anmäler en organisation journalagaren och kallar hennes agerande "en katastrof för rättssäkerheten".

Johann Binninge, ordförande i "rättssäkerhetsorganisationen RO", har JO-anmält journalagare Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand.

– Det är en katastrof för rättssäkerheten. Att frihetsberöva någon är ett allvarligt beslut som åklagaren måste ha på fötterna för att fatta, säger Binninge.

– En persons utsaga utgör inga bevis, säger Johann Binninge.

Han säger att för "Kalle Andersson i Växjö" hade beslutet aldrig hävts och medierna hade aldrig skrivit om det-- därför vill organisationen passa på att rikta fokus mot problemet nu.

RO är ett partipolitiskt obundet, fristående nätverk.

– Vi får titta på den här anmälan och se efter vad som avses, säger Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör vid Åklagarmyndigheten.

Är det vanligt att ett häkningsbeslut kan grundas bara på anmälarens uppgifter?

– Ja, det kan finnas omständigheter som gör att man fattar beslut så. Men allt eftersom ett ärende växer är man som åklagare skyldig att ständigt ompröva, särskilt när man har beslutat om tvångsmedel, säger Rosander.

• *Sofia Ström*

DN 2010-08-23

Sven-Erik Alhem: Åklagarna måste förklara sig

Åklagarna i Stockholm måste förklara sig. Det kräver den tidigare överåklagaren Sven-Erik Alhem, som kallar anhållandet av Julian Assange, för en "flopphistoria". Samtidigt går åklagarmyndigheten ut och säger att beslutsunderlaget i ärendet blev betydligt större andra dagen.

Klockan 14, fredag. Under fredagseftermiddagen upprättas en anmälan om sexbrott hos polisen i Stockholm. I ena fallet rörde det sig om en kvinna i Enköping, som framförde anklagelser om våldtäkt, i andra fallet om en kvinna från Stockholm som ansåg sig ofredad av Julian Assange.

I tidningsuppgifter har en av kvinnorna uppgett att det från början handlar om ömsesidigt frivilligt sex, men att den misstänkte sedan gått för långt och överträtt kvinnornas gränssättning. En av kvinnorna, som intervjuas i tidningen Expressen, uppger att de inte var hos polisen "med avsikt att anmäla något brott", men att den som tog emot deras berättelse uppfattade det som de varit utsatta för ett övergrepp.

Klockan 21.20 fredag, På fredagskvällen anhålls Julian Assange i sin frånvaro misstänkt på sannolika skäl för våldtäkt i ett fall och ofredande i ett annat fall. Anhållandet görs av jouråklagaren Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand. Klockan 16.30 lördag, Chefsåklagare Eva Finné river upp beslutet att anhålla Julian Assange. Rättsläget efter lördag kl 16.30: Misstanke om brott kvarstår mot Julian Assange, dock inte om våldtäkt. Utredning pågår fortfarande.

Historien om brottsmisstankarna mot Wikileaks grundare, den världskände Julian Assange, rullades i går upp i världspressen och ämnet hade över en miljon träffar på google under lördagen. Samtidigt växer också kritiken mot åklagarna och polisen.

Frågorna som ställs på flera håll i världen över och inte minst bland erfarna jurister är dels hur man kunde anhålla Julian Assange och ange starka misstankar för att mindre än ett dygn senare ta tillbaka anhållandet, dels varför blev det offentligt. En av de som skarpast kritiserat åklagarnas handlande när det gäller sexbrottsmisstankarna mot Julian Assange är Sven-Erik Alhem.

– Det här är väldigt egendomligt och förvirrande, säger han till DN.se.

Enligt den tidigare överåklagaren så är det fråga om flera brister och misstag i åklagarnas handlande som måste förklaras, inte bara inför själva anmälarna och den misstänkte eller svenska allmänheten, utan för världen.

– För det första så sker anhållandet på den starkare misstanken "sannolika skäl". Det berättar att misstankarna är särskilt starka. Sedan hävs beslutet några timmar senare, utan att något nytt i fallet verkar tillkommit. Det är mycket förvirrande.

– För det andra brukar ett anhållande i frånvaro inte offentliggöras. Det gagnar inte precis saken utan ger den misstänkte en chans att undkomma. Nu skedde det likväl med pukor och trumpeter. Och så blåses allt plötsligt av!

– Inte minst när en sådan här sak händer en välkänd person inför en hel värld behövs det någon sansad åklagare som träder fram och som kan redogöra och rätta ut de här frågetecknen, säger Sven-Erik Alhem, som numera är ordförande i Brottsoffer-jourernas Riksförbund, BOJ.

Åklagarmyndigheten gick under lördagen ut med ny information på sin hemsida, och där skriver myndigheten att beslutsunderlaget för chefsåklagaren Eva Finné var större än det var när beslutet om anhållande togs. Åklagarmyndigheten menar också att det är vanligt att beslut om tvångsmedel, som anhållan, fortlöpande "omprövas allt eftersom en förundersökning fortlöper".

När det gäller offentliggörandet och bekräftandet om att det var Julian Assange som var anhållen, skriver myndigheten följande: "Normalt offentliggör Åklagarmyndigheten inte namn på anhållna personer och myndigheten tog heller inte initiativ till att offentliggöra namnet. Uppgifterna om anhållan nådde-- på ett sätt som myndigheten inte känner till-- en nyhetsredaktion. Åklagaren bekräftade uppgifterna."

Just den högre misstankegraden "sannolika skäl" är, vad DN.se erfar, mer regel än undantag när det handlar om våldtäkt, vilket skulle kunna tala för en slentrianmässig eller automatiserad bedömning av misstankegraden i samband med anhållanden. Saken bekräftades också direkt av jouråklagaren Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand, som i går till DN.se sa:

– Det är normalt att ange "sannolika skäl" i samband med anhållande om våldtäkter.

En enkel sökning på internet, där DN.se jämför användandet av den högre misstankegraden "sannolika skäl" och den lägre graden "skäligen misstänkt för" i samband med anhållande för våldtäkt visar också på samma sak. En bred majoritet av de som anhålls i Sverige, misstänkta för våldtäkt, har "anhållits på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt".

– Ja, jag kan givetvis inte uttala mig om statistiken. Däremot kan jag säga att det från rättssynpunkt är viktigt att ha två skilda misstankegrunder och att använda dessa. Detta för att vi ska ha en så schysst, objektiv och koncis rättsprocess som möjligt. Vi använder ju dessa misstankegrunder också när det gäller häktning och det berättar för allmänheten, såväl som för de inblandade, hur rättsläget ligger till, säger Sven-Erik Alhem.

Julian Assange & Anna Ardin: Årets bröllopspar!

Helena Palena
23 augusti 2010

Anna Ardin är tillbaka på banan. Hon har öppnat sin blogg igen. Hon måste ju ta tag i sitt senaste projekt tidningen Islam & Politik som är ute nu. Leif Silbersky säger att soppan är det värsta han sett. Han företräder Julian Assange och Claes Borgström företäder Anna Ardin och den andra kvinnan som anmält. Hela grejen är en världsnyhet. Allas blickar på Sverige. Alhem anser att Assange drabbats hårt av anklagelsen.

Julian Assange talar ut i Aftonbladet:

-- Det jag kan säga är att jag aldrig, vare sig i Sverige eller i något annat land, haft sex med någon på ett sätt som inte byggt på total frivillighet från båda sidor.

Då kan man undra vem det är som far med osanning. Om nu 30-åringen är Anna Ardin som valsar runt i bloggvärlden så kanske hon ljuger. Eller så råder det delade meningar om vad som är ofredande och våldtäkt.

Jag tycker dessa två är lika på något sätt. De har äktenskapstycke och drogs väl till varandra. Båda är i giftasför ålder. Om dom nu träffats. Om det nu är Anna Ardin som är 30-åringen vill säga. **Hon är 31 år och från Visby.** Vi får väl se vad utredningen kommer fram till. Men det skulle bli ett snyggt par och förmodligen bli århundradets bröllop om dom kom till skott. Vad sägs om Mrs Anna Ardin Assange?

Dock säger Assange att han inte har en aning om vilka dom två kvinnorna är som anklagat honom för sexbrott. Assange, som uttalar sig för Aftonbladet, riktar kritik mot åklagaren som först anhöll honom. Åklagaren själv ångrar dock inte sitt beslut.

Uppdatering: Oj, så mycket spännande man hittar på nätet. Så här skriver Kunskaparen på Flashback:

Det är väldigt mycket som talar för att den som startade det här drevet mot Assange är den socialdemokratiska feministen och pressekreteraren för Broderskapsrörelsen, Anna Ardin. Låt oss sammanfatta:

- Ardin var den som bjöd in Assange till Sverige. Hon jobbade ideellt som hans pressekreterare under hans tid här. Hon ordnade bla ett seminarium med Assange på LO-borgen. Vad jag minns tog hon även emot honom på flygplatsen. Hon har säkerligen spenderat mycket tid med honom, inklusive festande.
- Hon har exakt samma ålder som anmälaren, 31 år.
- Hon bor på Södermalm, där den ena påstådda incidenten inträffade.
- Assange träffade de anklagande kvinnorna i samband med hans officiella ärende i Sverige.

- Anna Ardin är uttalad feministisk aktivist med tydliga radikalfeministiska tendenser (radikalfeminism = feminism som fokuserar på "mäns makt över kvinnor via sexualiteten"). Hon har tidigare bloggat just om gränsdragningar under sex. Hon är således mycket motiverad att göra en anmälan av ideologiska och principiella skäl. Trots att det inte var Kvinna 1 (Ardin) som påstod att hon hade utsatts för "våldtäkt", så övertygade hon Kvinna 2 om att gå till polisen och följde även med dit personligen.
- Kvinna 2 uppgav att hon efter sin natt med Assange sökte efter andra kvinnor som han träffat under sitt besök. Den enklaste att få tag på är förstås Anna Ardin, eftersom hon arrangerade Assanges besök, stod som kontaktperson överallt osv.
- Ardin har jobbat som jämställdhetsrepresentant vid Uppsala Universitets studentkår. En av de främsta uppgifter sådana har är att handlägga just anmälningar mot sexuell diskriminering och liknande.
- Ardin är både expert på att göra anmälningar om "sexuella övergrepp" och, såsom pressekreterare, på att hantera press och tidningar.
- Hon har arbetat på GT, en systertidning till Expressen, den tidning som publicerade nyheten.
- Hon har twittrat om att Assange ville gå på kräftska. Det är mycket sannolikt att hon följde med. Den påstådda incidenten med Kvinna 1 inträffade på eller efter samma kräftska.
- Anna Ardin har lösenordsskyddat sin egen blogg, precis efter att hennes namn har börjat cirkulera. Hon har raderat twittringar som handlade om henne själv och Assange.
- Piratpartiet har raderat bilder och information som kopplar ihop Anna Ardin och Julian Assange.

Uppdatering 2: Det var Anna Ardin som anmälde Julian Assange. Det bekräftar den kristna Broderskapsrörelsens ordförande Peter Weiderud till Newzglobe.

Det blir förundersökning mot Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange om ett fall av ofredande. Kvinnornas målsägarbiträde Borgström är mycket kritisk och tänker överklaga besluten.

<http://parnassen.wordpress.com/2010/08/23/julian-assange-anna-ardin-arets-brollopspar>

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Hon anmälde Assange

newzglobe.com
2010-08-23

Politiska sekretären i socialdemokratiska Broderskapsrörelsen, Anna Ardin, bjöd för drygt en vecka sedan in Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange till ett seminarium. I helgen anmäldes Assange för sexuellt ofredande. Bakom anmälan står Anna Ardin.

- Hon är sjukskriven, säger den kristna Broderskapsrörelsens ordförande Peter Weiderud till Newzglobe.

Peter Weiderud, ordförande i broderskapsrörelsen, är sparsam med kommentarer. Han förklarar att Assange var inbjuden för att diskutera mediernas roll i konflikter-- ett seminarium som ägde rum i LO-borgen i Stockholm i lördags.

Bakom inbjudan stod Anna Ardin, som efteråt kontaktade polisen och anmälde Wikileaks grundare för sexuellt ofredande.

- Alltihop är en polissak och det här har hänt på hennes fritid. Jag har ansvar för att hon mår väl, understryker Peter Weiderud och tillägger att Anna Ardin-- som även är pressansvarig hos Broderskaparna-- är sjukskriven efter det inträffade.

Misstankarna om våldtäkt har åklagaren däremot släppt. Det påstådda brottet-- som nu alltså är avskrivet-- skulle ha skett i Enköpingstrakten. Misstankarna som gäller sexuellt ofredande ska ha ägt rum i Stockholm.

Det var två kvinnor, varav den ena är Anna Ardin, som på fredagen polisanmälde Wikileaks grundare, vilket resulterade i att jouråklagare Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand beslutade att anhålla Julian Assange i sin frånvaro, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt.

Maria Häljebo Kjellstrands agerande är nu anmält till Justitieombudsmannen, JO, av en organisation som kallar sig Rättsorganisationen, RO.

- Att frihetsberöva någon är ett allvarligt beslut som åklagaren måste ha på fötterna för att fatta, säger Johann Binninge, ordförande i RO, till Svenska Dagbladet och slår fast:

- En persons utsaga utgör inga bevis.

Till TT säger chefsåklagare Eva Finné att hon räknar med att kunna fatta ett beslut den här veckan om hur ärendet ska hanteras.

- Jag ska grundligt sätta mig in i och ta ställning till rubriceringsfrågorna de närmaste dagarna. Jag har inte beordrat något förhör med Assange, säger Finné.

Newzglobe söker Anna Ardin och chefsåklagare Eva Finné för en kommentar.

Tomas Hedlund, 08-587 066 30

Ola Söderlund, 08-587 066 09

<http://www.newzglobe.com/sv/artikel/20100823/s-kvinna-anmalde-wikileaks-grundare>

SvD: 24 augusti 2010

Assange-anmälare får Borgström

Advokat Leif Silbersky har åtagit sig uppdraget att företräda Julian Assange. De två kvinnor som polisanmält Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange har begärt att få advokat Claes Borgström som målsägarbiträde. Borgström har accepterat uppdraget och lämnat in en ansökan om att bli förordnad till Stockholms tingsrätt.

- Det de har utsatts för bedömer jag i vart fall som sexuellt ofredande och eventuellt ett allvarigare sexualbrott. Att det skulle handla om att Assange utsatts för en smutskastningskampanj från Pentagon har absolut noll substans, det kan jag säga efter att ha hört kvinnornas berättelser och också läst polisens förhör med dem, säger Borgström till TT.

Båda kvinnorna har, enligt Borgström, träffat Assange i samband med dennes föreläsningsturné i Sverige. De är i 25-35-årsåldern. Kvinnorna har berättat att Assange var nykter när han ofredade dem.

- Jag tycker inte att det är det minsta konstigt att jouråklagaren begärde honom anhållen i sin frånvaro, säger Borgström. Han framhäver också att inte heller kvinnorna har några skäl att smutskasta Assange.

Advokat Leif Silbersky har åtagit sig uppdraget att företräda Julian Assange uppger Aftonbladet.se. Enligt Silbersky tog Assange kontakt med honom och har givit honom fullmakt att försvara honom mot de anklagelser om sexuellt ofredande som förts fram av två kvinnor.

TT

AB: 2010-08-25

Förundersökning mot Wikileaks Julian Assange

Misstänks enbart för ett fall av ofredande

Åklagare inleder förundersökning mot Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange om ett fall av ofredande. Den anmälan som till en början rörde våldtäkt läggs dock ner.

– Jag är kritisk till och besviken över att förundersökningen är nedlagd i det ärendet, säger kvinnornas advokat Claes Borgström till Aftonbladet.

Åklagaren lägger alltså ner den anmälning som från början rubricerades som våldtäkt. Anledningen är att åklagare Eva Finné efter att ha granskat fallet inte anser att något brott begåtts.

Advokat Claes Borgström, som representerar de två kvinnorna, menar att anmälan inte borde lagts ner.

– Min bedömning är att det är fråga om sexuellt ofredande där. Jag kommer också att begära överprövning av beslutet att lägga ner förundersökningen.

Han är också kritisk till att anmälan läggs ner utan att hans klient förhört igen.

– Det som är mest upprörande är att man lägger ner utan att höra min klient ytterligare och ställa kompletterande frågor. Man behandlar inte målsägande på det här sättet i mål som det här.

I det fall där åklagaren inlett förundersökning om ofredande anser Borgström dessutom att brottsrubriceringen ska vara sexuellt ofredande, inte ofredande.

Åklagare Eva Finné vill inte uttala sig om hur starka misstankarna om ofredande är mot Assange.

– Det vill jag inte uttala mig om. Det räcker med skälig misstanke för att man ska inleda en förundersökning, säger Finné.

Chefsåklagaren har givit utredare i uppdrag att förhöra Assange med anledning av misstanken om ofredande.

– Det får utredaren och Leif Silbersky komma överens om när det ska ske, säger Finné till Aftonbladet.

Den första misstanken, som till en början rubricerades som våldtäkt, avskrevs redan i lördags. Finné har nu även avskrivit misstanken om sexuellt ofredande i det fallet. Finné förklarar att det inte innebär att hon misstror kvinnan.

– Men innehållet i förhöret ger inte stöd för att något brott begåtts, skriver Finné i ett mail. Den förundersökningen läggs därför ned.

Advokat Claes Borgström är kritisk till att Assange inte hörts tidigare.

– Det har tagit alldeles för lång tid. Det här beslutet som fattats nu förstår jag inte varför man inte tog i måndags.

• *Olof Jönsson*

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/article12454548.ab>

Fd lagman: Vi behöver en ny rättsrötedebatt

Brita Sundberg-Weitman
Newsmill
 2010-08-29

Fredag eftermiddag den 20 augusti 2010 upprättar polisen i Stockholm en anmälan om sexbrott. Två kvinnor har berättat att en man som de var för sig haft frivilligt sexuellt umgänge med inte har respekterat kvinnornas villkor för umgänget. Mannen är Julian Assange, grundare av Wikileaks, inbjuden till Sverige av Broderskapsrörelsen för att delta i ett seminarium med rubriken "Krigets första offer är sanningen".

Samma kväll beslutar en jouråklagare att anhålla Assange i hans frånvaro, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande. Nästa dag upphäver en chefsåklagare beslutet och meddelar att ingen misstanke om våldtäkt föreligger; frågan om Assange kan misstänkas för något annat brott ska utredas vidare. Fyra dagar senare meddelar chefsåklagaren att anmälan helt avskrivits beträffande den ena kvinnan och att misstanke om ofredande (ej sexuellt ofredande!) kvarstår beträffande den andra. Samtliga beslut har meddelats utan att Assange förhörts.

Fd kammaråklagaren Rolf Hillegren anser inte att något anmärkningsvärt skett. "Misstankegraden sannolika skäl är en mycket låg grund av misstanke.... Om någon anmäler någon för ett allvarligt brott och lämnar trovärdiga uppgifter är det i princip åklagarens skyldighet att anhålla den utpekade om det exempelvis föreligger flyktfara eller risk för att den misstänkte försvårar utredningen" (Newsmill 25/8).

Jouråklagaren, som grundade sitt beslut på en muntlig redogörelse för vad kvinnorna berättat för polisen, uttalar: "Det brukar räcka i sådana fall" (Expressen 26/8). "Det är normalt att ange 'sannolika skäl' i samband med anhållande om våldtäkter" (DN 22/8).

Till skillnad från domstolarna anser alltså en del åklagare att det inte är så noga med rättegångsbalkens åtskillnad mellan "misstanke på sannolika skäl" och "skälig misstanke". Hur ska man eljest tolka upplysningen att man rutinmässigt anger "sannolika skäl" när misstanken är våldtäkt? Men om en åklagare inte lyckas uppnå sannolika skäl, krävs att det är "av synnerlig vikt" att den misstänkte tas i förvar, och den misstänkte riskerar inte att sitta mer än en vecka om den starkare graden av misstanke inte uppnås. Åtminstone domstolarna tar därför allvarligt på skillnaden mellan misstanke på sannolika skäl och skälig misstanke.

I fråga om tvångsomhändertagande av barn har jag funnit det illa att en ledamot av socialnämnd kan— utan att det gäller omedelbar fara för barnet-- besluta om omedelbar tvångshämtning av ett barn enbart på grundval av en muntlig redogörelse på telefon av en socialsekreterare. Risker för att föredragningen är bristfällig eller missförstås är uppenbar.

Det visar sig nu i fallet Assange att det kan gå lika lättvindigt till när det gäller åklagares beslut att anhålla någon. Antingen har i detta fall jouråklagaren fått en bristfällig muntlig föredragning av polisen eller hon har missuppfattat den eller dragit slutsatser som chefsåklagaren inte fann hållbara.

Till följd av beslutet att anhålla honom för våldtäkt fick Assange sitt namn internationellt nerfläkat, eftersom beslutet fick internationell publicitet via Expressen. Hade det inte gällt en "kändis" hade skadeverkningarna blivit ytterst begränsade (beslutet hävdades snabbt och han blev ju aldrig reellt frihetsberövad).

I fråga om barn däremot blir skadeverkningarna av en enda persons förhastade beslut om omedelbart omhändertagande vanligen bestående. Jag har överhuvudtaget aldrig sett något exempel på att domstol hävt ett sådant beslut, och det förekommer knappast att en domstol avslår en socialnämnds ansökan om LVU-vård i fall där beslutet redan föregripits av en ledamot i socialnämnden.

Det är bedrövligt att numera inte något av riksdagspartierna visar det minsta intresse för att ta ett samlat grepp om rättssäkerhetsfrågor. Dags för en ny rättsrötedebatt?

Brita Sundberg-Weitman: Pensionerad lagman, författare till bl a "Saklighet och godtycke i rättskipning och förvaltning", "Rättsstaten Åter!" och "Sverige och rättsstaten på 2000-talet"

Kommentar

Polisänmälan mot Assange registerades kl. 16:11. Åklagrbeslutet fattades kl. 17:00. Förhöret med den berörda kvinnan (våldtäkten) påbörjades kl 16:21 och avslutades kl. 18:40.

Med andra ord så fattade åklagaren beslut om att Assange skulle anhållas i sin frånvaro 1tim och 40min. innan förhöret med kvinnan avslutades.

Allt detta sammantaget med att Assange över huvud taget inte fick någon som helst chans att kommentera detta eller en chans till att ge sin syn på saken. Vad som hittills framgått så har polisen över huvud taget inte ens försökt att nå Assange innan fallet lämnades över till tjänstgörande åklagare.

Är verkligen detta förenligt med svensk rättspraxis? Samt är detta förenligt med Sveriges Grundlag (viklen f.ö. skulle vara ett krav på att våra barn skall lära sig i grundskolan för att kunna uppnå fullgoda studieresultat).
— *Bengt Hesdorf*

<http://www.newsmill.se/artikel/2010/08/29/fd-lagman-vi-beh-ver-en-ny-r-ttsr-tedebatt>

Entire Assange-case from Swedish perspective

*Analysis by Aktivorum
Augusti 31, 2010*

Every text has a story to tell. Here is how the Assange story goes according to the analysis we made during its events unfolding.

As many know I have written several analyses in swedish regarding the Assange-case. However us people discussing this case forgot one thing. The case really is about Mr Julian Assange and the future of Wikileaks in Sweden. Most of the people involved do not understand swedish language.

Also, using google translate is no solution. Its not just about the words. Its about the content and context they are mentioned in. Using english media doesnt work. You get no understanding of the situation in Sweden just by reading what the world press reports. Specially not when the case itself includes internal swedish politics.

This text was really written for Wikileaks and world media. I wanted them to understand what has happened and why, as they thought this was about international politics.

As you will hopefully understand reading this text, it really was about internal swedish politics from the start. More or less any world celebrity in the same situation would have gotten the same treatment by the same people due to the completely baseless radical feminist thory that rape is about power, not about sex.

On final note I had to write this in a hurry to make sure it was done before Monday, thus the bad grammars ;)

The text itself begins here:

What happened and how I look at it

The first news in Expressen is the double rape suspicion and warrant in absence against founder of Wikileaks (issued Friday 17.00) by the prosecutor on call Kjellstrand. Internet is divided in two sides, the CIA-conspiracy side claiming innocence and the Feminist-male-bashing side claiming guilty. None of them have basis for their claim. Wikileaks twitter refers to being warned for dirty tricks.

The case is very similar to the case of the former secretary of Labor S-O Littorin accused of hiring a callgirl. The accusation in media itself caused harm before even reaching court.

Aftonbladet: The older of the two women comments the case, she says it was consensual sex at first but then Assange "went too far". However it is sexual molestation for her, not rape. She is quoted saying it is about a man having trouble taking a no for an answer.

It is at this moment we at Aktivarium as the first Swedish blog introduce the idea of this being neither CIA-trick, nor rape but a conflict between radical feminist idea of sex-life and the real world sex-life.

(16.48 Saturday) Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné reverses Kjellstrands decision completely and causes the biggest media frenzy we have seen in ages. Since they have not yet talked to Assange the dismissal of the warrant must be made based on the same information the warrant was made upon. Important to remember here is that the later, lesser charges gets fuel in media because of the first rape-charge. Had the initial charge been "sexual molestation" media would not have been in "frenzy". Rape is special and unique cause rape is interpreted by feminists as structural male power abuse. Basically the strong guy beating the weak guy, as a student at law school said: Rape is a shame-crime.

Aftonbladet have comments from Assange who says he have no idea who the women are, no idea what the accusation is about and have never had sex without it being consensual. When asked the stupid question if he had sex with anyone at all while in Sweden. Assange rightly told the reporter that is a private matter.

When we commented on this, we went with the theory that this was a cultural clash between theory-sex-life of radical feminist fantasy and real world sex-life. The real problem here was people in media assuming guilty until innocent. The principle in court is innocent until guilty.

Leif Silbersky in Dagens Nyheter (DN) comments that it is unusual for higher-prosecutors to overturn lower-prosecutors' decisions. But it happens and it is to their credit they can confess a mistake since the accusation itself can cause a lot of damage.

The Assange case by now could be seen as example on how radical feminism makes people act crazy anytime the word "rape" is even mentioned. People also overestimate the value of gossip not realizing it is for entertainment purpose, not facts. There is also irony in the subject of Assanges seminar being "The truth is the first victim of war" clearly same is true about media war.

Rumors online tell names of the two women who made the accusations. They are claimed to be Anna. A (Christian social democrats) and Amelia.A (the pirate party). Both are active in politics and thus objects of public interest. Early on it is revealed Anna.A is a well-known radical feminist which partly validates our theory what the case really is about: The Sexual politics of radical feminism.

Anna.A was already known to us as she had earlier tried to ban juvenile lyrics in student-songs at Uppsala University. The claim she was behind the accusation was strengthened by the fact that she just closed her blogs while Google-cache revealed the radical feminist content. One post said "Rape is a part of men power" "It is time to end the male ideal" which proves she in fact is heavy into the radical feminist viewpoint where the dominant opinion is rape is not about sex but about power.

Now our suspicions were confirmed. It was neither a serial rapist nor a conspiracy by the CIA. It was two young women with warped view of men, unrealistic idea of sex-life and last but not least, a feminist prosecutor on-call with unrealistic picture of what rape means according to the law. [*This is a very slender basis for "confirmation".--A.B.*]

By this moment Johan Binnige, president of a legal rights organization, files a complaint with the Justice Ombudsman against on-call prosecutor Kjellstrand for issuing a warrant with not enough information. Former chief prosecutor Sven-Erik Alhem also criticizes the Prosecutors office in DN: He has two strong points

- a) "Probable cause" is a relatively strong degree of suspicion; that the warrant was rescinded just a few hours later without anything new in the case is very confusing.
- b) Also, an arrest *in absentia* is usually not made public. It would give the suspect a chance to escape.

Göran Lysen, Professor of International Law, in DN: "It smells of bad feminism here. Rape cases should be investigated objectively and impersonally as regards the matter as regard to all other crimes."

A well known Law Blog writes: Assange-story is a scandal. All newspapers went out with the name. All may now creep to the cross. The story is perhaps the clearest illustration of the hollowness of integrity protection in the media society.

An opposing blog writes: "I have met a sufficient number of victims of rape to say that it is not something a woman simply register or even talk about."

We commented: Women are not clones, but individuals. Some women are more likely than others to easily report and talk about sex. Some women would never report an obvious rape. Other women could easily notify police of a completely fictional rape and continue to argue that even when they knew they were filmed during voluntary sex. [Here](#) is proof of that.

For this reason it can't be argued that "Somebody knows how difficult it is for a woman to notify police" No they do not know because they have no experience of the entire female population. They have to learn that there are a number of women (fortunately a minority) that is completely contrary to what people are used to on this issue. The important point here is that claiming one woman makes a false/unfounded accusation doesn't mean claiming this is something common for women. It is one/a

few person/persons doing wrong, not women as a group doing wrong. That the motive for doing it is female doesn't mean most females with that motive would notify the police. Whether she is that kind of woman is simply bad luck, nothing else!

Amelia.A, on twitter replies on the rumors: No I did not have sex with /that/ man. An obvious Clinton joke, people in general and the blog Aktivarium specifically no longer think she is involved cause with such a strong personality she would probably have punched the guy and ended the intercourse, not notified the police.

However the rumors about Anna.A are becoming stronger and stronger. It s soon obvious she is most likely the older woman who earlier commented on "hard to take a no" in Aftonbladet. She is correct age, lives at correct place (Södermalm) and the profile of strong feminist opinions fits. She is soon outed on the blog "Gotiska klubben" who actually gives their post an English title to cause international attention. Title is "Anna Ardin, most hated woman in the world?" Because her name is in the title, everyone visiting linked articles or the toplist at wordpress now knows the name.

Aktivarium writes on this: We are not yet certain she is the correct person but here are the reasons Gotiska klubben think she is: age, place, profile, proximity to assange, closed blogs etc.

The Prosecutors office was engulfed in a media storm. The now [famous video](#) with Rosander [Karin Rosander, spokeswoman for Finne] on Al-Jazeera is made. The Al-Jazeera reporter asks how the mistake was made. Rosander told them it could not be called mistake because it was normal procedure. Of course world media did not agree. Even if something is normal (common) that doesn't mean it is correct or ok.

Surely, the first step is to try and contact the person who is being accused?
I cant give you any details concerning the investigation.

Wouldnt it be logical to try and talk to him?
Uhh... I cant comment on that, unfortunately.

You feel a little embarrassed by all of this?
No not at all, thats not in question.

Uhh... Why not?
Because this is normal procedure.

Well, is it quite normal to accuse somebody of rape and then... two hours later say, no, thats not the case?
Yeah it is quite common that new information gets into a case and that you have to revise uhh... the decisions.

This video makes it obvious Rosander have no idea what she is dealing with. She says lots of weird things, give an overall unprofessional impression and just the body language of the reporter tells a lot of how he feels. Generally Swedish people are embarrassed over this Prosecutor's information.

Also by this moment just one of the accusations remain, and that is a lesser crime comparable to stealing a car— and against the other woman, the rape charge is not

nothing. Had that been the initial accusation this would not have made media waves all over the world. It is now clear there was a huge error made in the police/justice system.

Aktivarum does a new update: Two English-speaking blogs are also beginning to translate all the information coming from Sweden:

<http://nicholasmead.com/2010/08/21/how-to-smear-a-hero/>

<http://ibnkafkasobiterdicta.wordpress.com/2010/08/22/the-legal-twists-and-turns-of-the-rape-charges-against-julian-assange/>

Now the prosecutor's office start with the stonewall tactics. When asked about this they reply they can't comment the investigation in progress. What progress? There is not even a definition of crime. We assume they are being instructed by a PR-person on how to avoid more bad media.

This means they neither confirm a serious accusation, nor drop the case completely (because the second the case is dropped people start asking questions). So to avoid questions they keep the absolute lowest rated crime possible, molestation (not sexual) which could be stuff like raunchy phone calls.

Because no information arrives we review what we know. Cultural Marxism means dividing the people of the world in groups with more power and groups with less power. The groups with less power are seemed as special needs groups. Radical feminism means seeing female sexuality as the group with less power and male sexuality as the group with more power, then you use the government to take power from the strong and give to the weak. Basically saying women decide what is ok in sex, men don't. Anna A. is a confirmed radical feminist. The younger woman is unknown cause she is not active in politics.

Anna A. is also has worked with women's issues at Uppsala University, specially with sexual harassment cases. She is working with encouraging women to report just about anything they don't like from guys. The more we read about her the more extreme her opinions on the issue seem. On [her?] university website, a text regarding sexual harassment goes: "With sexual harassment we mean any unwelcome behavior based on gender or/and sexual nature".

Basically she is outlawing for guys to hit on girls at all without the girls more or less wearing a sign telling it's ok. As told earlier, radical feminist ideas about love and sex are in real conflict with how things happen in the real world when guys and girls hook up. They want things in line with a simple theory of what things "should" be like.

By the time of our next post at Aktivarum, the name of Anna.A (Anna Ardin, press contact for Assange) has been confirmed. She is clearly the older of the two women and the one the molestation charge refers to. Nobody knows however what this molestation is supposed to be about. Wild rumors and speculation result because of the prosecution office not explaining their actions. Soon The Guardian with sources in Sweden claims it has to do with having sex without protection.

"Both women reported that they had been involved in consensual sexual relationships with Assange, but each reported a separate non-consensual incident of a similar character in which Assange allegedly had sex with them without using a condom." The Guardian.

Clearly if this is true, it should not even be a police matter. There is no rule saying people absolutely have to have sex the way the partner wants it. That's a matter of individual choice.

Now some words about the rhetorical tactic of guilt by association. This means making people look guilty by referring to something that looks similar. The leftwing blog "Sverige är inte världens navel" claims "I don't know anything about the accusations against Assange. I know that celebrities like him have raped women before" Another Swedish female feminist blog Isobels Verkstad : "I was not surprised of the accusations against Assange, I don't know him, but celebrities like him have raped women on earlier occasions."

As we can see, structuring language like this is not a coincidence. It's a technique based on human psychology. Associating A with B makes people assume they would be linked. In fact that's just an illusion as the claim A is no evidence for claim B. Clearly the more radical feminist blogs assume Assange is guilty, the liberal blogs assume he is innocent (or guilty of just molestation which could be any party trick gone wrong and is not a serious crime)

In our next blogpost we ask if the Swedish justice system is fair towards men in sex crime at all? We again referred to how Littorin, a member of the government made the conclusion he did not have a chance against the accusations in the media and resigned. *[There is no basis for this interpretation. He had plenty of opportunity to respond to the accusation, both before and after publication. Also, the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues were clearly unwilling to proclaim his innocence-- of years ago purchasing sex from a woman, which is not a crime in most countries.--A.B.]*

Now Former Chief Prosecutor Sven Erik Alhem asks in "Juridiken Idag" if there was a breach of the secrecy regarding the preliminary investigation. When Expressen asked and had all details, the prosecutor's office confirmed and this could according to Alhem be illegal.

Our analysis and discussion on the matter show how the presumption of innocence practically doesn't exist because media do not want to be seen as accusing the women of lying. Thus they must assume the women do not lie and that means Assange is assumed guilty until proven innocent. The women are assumed innocent until proven guilty of the accusation so in all practicality, the accusation itself is seen as a [evidence of a] crime. This is per definition wrong. Accusing without foundation is stupid, and steal the resources police need for real violent forced-sex rapes, but it's not a crime.

Basically what the case now really is about is media scrutiny. And media is aimed both on the accused and the accusers. The younger woman's name however is not mentioned because she is not (as the older Anna Ardin) active in politics.

Because of the details in the Guardian, now speculation goes wild on the nature of the sex itself. We discuss how media shows Assange like a Rock Star and thus groupie-sex would be a natural consequence, since we know this is more or less guaranteed among some women. Even when the man with media light on is a violent criminal, some women are very attracted.

We also discussed how he first had sex with Ardin, and then with a younger woman. It is logical to point out the accusation was not even made until the women talked to each **other**. Thus Anna Ardin found out Assange had sex with a younger woman 3 days after her.

"The alleged molestation of Ms A was said to have occurred on the morning of Saturday 14 August. The alleged rape of Ms W was said to have occurred on the morning of Tuesday 17 August." *The Guardian*

It is very common that women become really angry over their partner having a new younger woman. That is simply a matter about female psyche. A few words based on Evolutionary psychology. Young women are stars with lots of male attention, however that doesn't last. Younger women eventually replace the older ones for male attention. In fact "midlife crisis" describes a man in the age where you have most money and power and thus more access to supermodels in their 20s than the man had when he was in the 20s.

The point here is simple: When an older woman does not accuse the guy until hearing he had sex with a younger woman, we know she was not as angry until she heard he replaced her. The older woman waits 6 days to go to police, the younger woman waits 3 days to go to police. When talking to each other they immediately go to police after "talking" however they did not see it as rape, they say they wanted to know if they could force mr Assange to test himself.

The POLICE make it a matter of rape. Also I personally suspect the police are responsible for leaking the information to the Expressen reporter on the same evening. However researching that matter is not allowed for source protection (ironically, the same laws that made Assange choose Sweden in the first place) It doesn't matter though, very few persons COULD tell Expressen details of the warrant for arrest.

The point here is that molestation while being illegal is not even a serious offense, the real important thing at this moment was what Al-Jazeeras reporter called the "DEFAMATION IMPLICATIONS" it has on everyone there was rape charges in the press. That is a way more serious matter than accusation of molestation. At this point Aktivarium published a post commenting how now we have three different debates in association to the Assange-case:

Debate on sex
Debate on justice system
Debate on press

On the sex debate, some women we speak to claim Assange did not act like a "gentleman" and they also claimed to have heard he did not show proper respect to women in general, and young women specifically. This is claimed on Flashback by women who know Anna.A and the younger woman.

OUR RESPONSE: This was just ridiculous. Had the women not liked the way Assange behaved why would they want to have sex with him? Many women claim women don't like player-types. This is evidently wrong. If women did not like players, the players could not even be players in the first place. You have to be liked by women to have sex with women. Casanova himself declared this 100s of years ago.

We say this is image management. Some girls don't want it to be known to others what they really like and choose to go for. This is a problem but helping them lie about it don't solve the problem. This should be solved by creating an environment where women feel safe to tell others what they go for in the real world. Neil Strauss book "The Game" gives a detailed picture of the problem. The only real solution is public education and discussion.

On the press debates and justice-system debates however there is a competition about aiming guilt. Some blame the press for publishing. Some blame the prosecutor office for even issuing arrest before having all the proper information needed.

"The alleged molestation of Ms A was said to have occurred on the morning of Saturday 14 August. The alleged rape of Ms W was said to have occurred on the morning of Tuesday 17 August."

Our final post in this matter is posted on Thursday at 16:00. An internet forum is copying an article from Resumé magazine telling the details of the entire case-- how Expressen's reporter jumped into a car and drove very fast 135 km to the Expressen building in Stockholm.

Some people who know Anna Ardin and the younger woman tell details at the internet Forum Flashback. Their claims makes even the older feminist women take Assanges side. One woman say that he promised to call and did not do so. She also pays some things for him and according to a young woman that made her feel used when his phone was off.

"Welcome to Sweden, Mr Assange. You should know that paying for sex is illegal here, and if you don't pay, you'll be accused of rape and molestation." This humorous comment was made when somebody talked about how the younger woman after paying some things for Mr Assange felt used. Some younger women clearly don't get this "equality" feminist thing goes both ways. An older feminist got furious and said something like: "I have been an active feminist over 30 years and such claim even makes me wanna twist your ear".

Basically the older women seem to be true liberal feminists. For them feminism means equal rights. However some of the younger women seemed to be radical feminists. For them feminism means the opinion women have lesser power on collective basis than men and thus the right for special treatment in everything. Its basically entitlement-feminism.

Thus it s proven the liberal feminists takes Mr Assanges side when the argument is he let her pay. The argument is that if a woman had sex and let the guy pay, nobody would say he would feel abused and have reasons to ask police if he had been violated when she did not return calls.

The older feminists not only often are on Assanges side. They get furious when they hear younger women claming to be feminists while having the opinion women should be treated specially for being women. That is against everything feminism normally stands for. Thus it s important to remember normal (liberal) feminism and radical feminism are not in agreement at all.

Claes Borgström himself (who is now at the women's side) appears to be a radical feminist. So his opinions on rape are as likely to be ideological opinions as based in the actual law text. Remember Borgström himself is the absolute example of what he attacks, He is a white heterosexual rich male. That his ideology is about attacking heterosexual white males clearly does not include himself.

There is also another aspect. Blog of Erik Laakso (another white man) says: Now you are in Sweden Assange Here we treat women with respect. However earlier (and

probably unknown to Mr Assange) in Sweden we had a debate about a muslim refusing to shake hands with a woman for cultural/religious reasons. And in that debate many regarded forcing the Swedish way on the foreigner was in fact a racist thing to do.

AFTONBLADET SUNDAY: They write the rape-charge was about a condom being ripped. I just read this and the first thought from me is: If a guy ripping a condom commits rape, then a woman lying about being on the pill is also committing rape. The interpretation is crazy, clearly political. When the law was written there is no chance they intended this use.

Observe the police station in question has special focus on prostitution. Thus people there are more likely to be into the radical feminist theory on the matter of sex for men being about power. The police meets a lot of bad men, misanthropy could easily appear in such an environment.

Finally: Important to remember is that the driving force behind these accusations of rape was the police at Klara närpolisstation in central Stockholm, not the two women involved. Borgström, asked about this by Aftonbladet, replies: "They are not trained in the law."

Basically the radical feminist agenda is declaring women raped when they don't even see themselves as raped. This is nothing new. I include [this link](#) for information how ideologically motivated feminists did the same thing in USA, declaring girls raped of their boyfriends against their will. It's a career move for the feminists because politicians seldom can see through the bogus claims. Also it's a chivalry thing. Men are groomed to protect women from harm.

The key to this case is to remember three things:

- 1) The media coverage caused by a leak in police or at the prosecution office itself caused more harm than any sentence on molestation could do. Journalist Staffan Dopping commented on this and said that, regardless of guilt or innocence in court, media already took its toll on the person targeted by the media coverage.
- 2) While police called the prosecutor at 17:00, the younger woman (who was the only one regarded as a rape victim) was questioned [by the police] until 18:40. According to the radio program "Medierna" the policewoman questioning the younger woman did not have contact with the prosecutor's office.
- 3) The decision from prosecutor Eva Finné to drop the rape charge completely was based on transcripts from the questioning of the younger woman. Rosander's claim in Al-Jazeera that Finné had more information would then completely rest on what the policewoman was told by the younger woman during 17:00-18:40. That means 1 hour/40 minutes was all the time between an international media frenzy and a rape charge being dismissed due to insufficient grounds.

— Erik founder of Aktivorum blog

Comments...

<http://aktivorum.wordpress.com/2010/08/31/the-entire-assange-case-from-swedish-perspective-analysis-by-aktivorum/>

Supporters dismissed rape accusations against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange... but the two women involved tell a different story

Angella Johnson
Daily Mail (U.K.)
29th August 2010

It is a story as intriguing and confusing as a Stieg Larsson blockbuster: celebrated internet whistleblower becomes embroiled in a complex sex scandal involving two women, not long after he had masterminded one of the biggest intelligence leaks of all time-- against the U.S.

That the action takes place in Sweden, Larsson's home country, and that the protagonist is the flag-waver for freedom of information [*an example of the "impartial journalism" for which the Daily Mail is infamous--A.B.*] Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks, provides added piquancy.

Assange, 39, was attending a seminar in Stockholm earlier this month when he found himself facing charges of rape and sexual molestation-- charges that were then, amid much confusion, withdrawn and which he strenuously denies.

What does not seem to be in dispute is that he had sex with the two women within four days.

The scandal made headlines around the world, forcing the usually strident campaigner to go to ground in Stockholm, claiming it was a smear campaign, possibly initiated by the CIA or the Pentagon. [*Assange has not claimed that the smear campaign was instigated by the CIA or the Pentagon, although others have suggested that explanation.--A.B.*]

His supporters pointed out that the allegations came just a few weeks after WikiLeaks became embroiled in a dispute with the Pentagon over its publication of classified war documents, which the U.S. says endangers the lives of its soldiers and their Afghan allies. The website plans to release more documents.

Sources in Sweden take a different view-- they **insist** [???] it was Assange's louche behaviour and his chauvinistic attitude that led to the charges.

One of the women claimed in a Swedish newspaper: 'The responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man who has a twisted attitude to women and a problem taking no for an answer.' [*According to the newspaper.--A.B.*]

Adding to the confusion was the seemingly speedy decision by the Swedish police and prosecution service to charge Assange and issue a warrant for his arrest, even before formal statements had been taken from the women, only to have the rape charge dropped 24 hours later. The sexual molestation charge was then reduced to one that is punishable by little more than a slap on the wrist.

As ever when such cases are mired in conflicting claims, the truth can take a long time to surface. But The Mail on Sunday has managed to obtain copies of the women's police statements, which are made available to the media in Sweden. Though heavily

redacted, with details of the sex allegations blacked out, they make uncomfortable reading. [*"Uncomfortable" in what sense and for whom?--A.B.*]

Assange had flown into Stockholm on Wednesday, August 11, where several of the WikiLeaks internet servers are based, to speak at a seminar organised by the Social Democratic Party, the equivalent of Britain's Labour Party, three days later.

It has been reported that the Australian lives a nomadic life, but curiously he applied for a visa to work permanently in Sweden soon after his arrival. [*Why is that "curious"?--A.B.*]

Woman A, who works for the Christian branch of the party, was the main organiser but they had never met before. The attractive twentysomething, described by friends as hardworking and fun-loving [*in contrast to the adjectives applied by the writer to Assange--A.B.*], offered to let him stay in her one-bedroom flat in Södermalm, Stockholm.

She planned to visit her family on the other side of the country and would be away until the Saturday seminar. But she returned on the Friday, anxious about the amount of work still to do for the seminar.

According to a police source: 'They had a discussion and decided it would be OK to share the living space, then went out together for dinner.

'When they got back they had sexual relations, but there was a problem with the condom-- it had split.

'She seemed to think that he had done this deliberately but he insisted that it was an accident.'

Whatever her views about the incident, she appeared relaxed and untroubled at the seminar the next day where Assange met Woman B, another pretty blonde, also in her 20s, but younger than Woman A.

In her police statement, Woman B described how, in the wake of the Afghanistan leaks, she saw Assange being interviewed on television and became instantly fascinated-- some might even say obsessed. She said she thought him 'interesting, brave and admirable'.

Over the following two weeks she read everything she could find about him on the internet and followed news reports about his activities. She discovered that he would be visiting Sweden to give a seminar, so she emailed the organisers to offer her help. She registered to attend and booked the Saturday off work.

She appears to have dressed to catch his eye, in a shocking-pink cashmere jumper. But, she says, among the grey-suited journalists who filled the room she felt uncomfortably out of place.

Undeterred, she bagged a seat in the front row and was asked to buy a computer cable for Assange. No one bothered to thank her, she later complained.

Assange, dressed in grey jeans and a suit jacket, spoke earnestly for 90 minutes on the theme 'The first victim of war is the truth'. He could not have failed to notice the attractive blonde taking photographs of him.

What unfolded could be described as akin to the meeting of a groupie and a rockstar. The woman loitered outside the building before approaching a member of his entourage, who invited her to join a lunch at a modest local eatery called Bistro Boheme.

The party consisted of two Social Democrats, a freelance journalist friend of Assange, the man himself and Woman B-- who was the only female.

'He has a twisted attitude to women'

One of the men present recalled her as a person of a seemingly nervous disposition who didn't fit in. 'She was a little bit strange,' he said. 'Definitely an odd character and keen to get Julian's attention.'

The woman admitted trying to engage her hero in conversation. Assange seemed pleased to have such an ardent admirer fawning over him and, she said, would look at her 'now and then'. Eventually he took a closer interest.

She explained in her statement that he was tucking into cheese served on Swedish crispbread when she asked if he thought it was good. Assange looked at her directly and started to feed her.

His next move was pure computer geek-- he told her that he needed a charger for his laptop, and she eagerly offered to help. Assange smiled, put his arm around her back and said: 'Ah yes, it was you who gave me a cable.'

They went on a vain search for the charger. She bought him a travel card for the metro because he said he didn't have any money. On the train he was recognised by a young man who gushed in admiration about WikiLeaks.

If she felt a thrill from this brush with fame, Woman B doesn't say.

They ended up at the city's Natural History Museum, where Assange headed to a computer console and, to the woman's clear annoyance, twittered about his day.

At 6pm they entered a bijou cinema to watch a short film about the ocean, called Deep Sea. In the darkness Assange became amorous. At one point they moved to the back row, where it is clear from the woman's statement that the pair went far beyond kissing and fondling.

After the show, they wandered towards a park. He turned to her and said: 'You are very attractive... to me.'

Assange said he had a traditional Swedish crayfish party to attend and needed a power nap, so they lay side by side on the grass and he fell asleep. She stayed awake and woke him about 20 minutes later. When she asked if they would meet again, he replied: 'Of course.'

What he did not tell her was that the party was being hosted by the woman he had slept with two nights before and whose bed he would probably be sleeping in that night.

By the time she had arrived home, 46 miles outside Stockholm, and charged her mobile phone, there was a message from Assange asking her to call. He was still at the party.

The next day Woman B tried to call him but his phone was turned off. She eventually spoke to him on the Monday when he agreed to meet her in the evening and suggested they spend the night at her flat. She wanted to go to a hotel, but he said he would like to see her home.

Again she bought his £10 train ticket because he had no cash and said he didn't want to use his credit card in case his movement was being tracked.

He spent most of the 45-minute journey surfing the internet on his laptop, reading stories about himself and twittering or texting on his mobile phone. 'He paid more attention to the computer than to me,' she said bitterly.

It was dark by the time they arrived in her suburb and the atmosphere between them had cooled. 'The passion and attraction seemed to have disappeared,' she said.

Most of what then followed has been blacked out in her statement, except for: 'It felt boring and like an everyday thing.'

One source close to the investigation said the woman had insisted he wear a condom, but the following morning he made love to her without one.

'The passion seemed to have disappeared'

This was the basis for the rape charge. But after the event she seemed unruffled enough to go out to buy food for his breakfast. Her only concern was about leaving him alone in her flat. 'I didn't feel I knew him very well,' she explained.

They ate in an atmosphere that was tense, though she said in her statement that she tried to lighten the mood by joking about the possibility that she might be pregnant.

They parted on friendly terms and she bought his train ticket back to Stockholm. When she asked if he would call, he said: 'Yes, I will.' But he did not and neither did he answer her calls.

The drama took a bizarre and ultimately sensational turn after she called the office of Woman A, whom she had briefly met at the seminar. The two women talked and realised to their horror and anger that they had both been victims of his charm.

The issue of unprotected sex left a fear of disease. It is believed that they both asked him to take a test for STDs and he refused. Woman B was especially anxious about the possibility of HIV and pregnancy.

And it was in this febrile state that the women, who barely knew each other, walked into a police station and began to tell their stories. Woman A said afterwards that she had not wanted to press charges but had gone to support the younger woman, who wanted police advice on how to get Assange to take a medical test.

In any event, the police woman at the reception and two male officers, one from the sex crimes unit, believed there was enough evidence to call the female duty prosecutor, who issued the warrants.

The story was leaked to a Swedish tabloid and Assange's high profile led to the case being taken over by a senior female prosecutor who, after reading the statements, concluded there was no evidence of rape. She agreed to the sexual molestation charge related to the first woman, but even that was watered down last week. Some legal observers now believe that will also disappear.

Claes Borgstrom, the lawyer representing the women, said they were upset about the way the case had been handled. 'This case is a regressive sign for women that it's not worth reporting when something like this happens,' she said. *[Assuming that "she" refers to Borgström, it is the wrong gender-- although Mr. Borgström, an ardent male feminist, might well be flattered by the journalistic sex change.--A.B.]*

'I was struck by the senior prosecutor's statement that it's not that she didn't believe it but that she didn't feel it was a crime. That's why I'm going to a higher prosecutor to demand that the case is reopened.'

Assange's lawyer Leif Silbersky said yesterday that he was unable to comment about the case until Tuesday. It is expected that the Swedish prosecution service will issue a statement about the case then.

Whatever the outcome, one thing is certain-- Assange's attempts to portray himself as an online saint, exposing the secrets of the superpowers, has been dealt a damaging blow. *[I am not aware that Assange has ever portrayed himself as a saint of any kind, online or offline. This gratuitous conclusion is clearly intended to deal the sort of "damaging blow" for which the article fails to provide any justification.--A.B.]*

Photo caption: **Denial:** Mr Assange **admitted** having sex with two women within four days of each other. *[Emphasis added-- A.B.]*

* * *

Reader comments

The authorities withdrew the rape charges and without a Swedish Harriet Harman out to destroy all men there seems little substance in the allegations worth following up. He might have been a cad but since when was that an indictable offence. This is a non-story so why is the DM milking it for all its worth.

In contrast, given the sordid business surrounding Dr. Kelly and then Huttons white wash I'd have given a lot more credence to agencies in the UK or US attempting a smear job. It's well documented that happened to Dr. Kelly, but Assange seemed well prepared to counter this smear who ever tried it on.

Perhaps the DM should concentrate on facts a bit more than pure speculation.

-- Mike, alicante

The guy is plainly a traitor to civilization. He wants to take us down, take us back to the 13th Century alongside the Taliban. He is arrogant beyond reproach, he believes he can get away with anything, he has no conscience-- we have guys fighting, dying daily,

being maimed and this guy set up a site to specifically encourage others to provide secrets to him and his team. Then THEY make the call what to put on the site-- what about other classified documents they receive wonder who hands they end up in. This guy is a narcissistic fool. Come on governments sort him out. Where is an umbrella when you need one!!

-- MC, Atlanta

The US has plenty of femme fatale spies. They'll not hesitate in using them against him. But in saying this, I really don't agree with these leaks. It will just give the enemy more reason to be more barbaric than they already have. These leaks (as whistle blowing) don't appear to help the general public; they just create the environment where more people will be killed.

In this respect, the good of the greater many is more important than this person. He has played dirty, they should as well. If this was about corruption in office rather than issues on a battlefield, then I would have total sympathy.

I think his chances are slim to none over the next 5 years. Otherwise others will leak with impunity as well. Russia teaches lessons, I think the US might as well.

-- Troll, London Bridge

Eeewww, yuck! I wouldn't classify his alleged actions as rape, but I would say he allegedly acted like a scrounging Lothario. He made this young woman buy his train tickets and computer parts??? Why, oh, why would she give him the time of day? And, why, oh, why, would either woman sleep with him? He looks like a dark lord from Star Wars. Gross.

This does not scream CIA or Pentagon smear story to me. This screams of two young women who felt used and became angry. Keep it in your pants buddy...

-- Lisa, Jacksonville, Florida

Wonder how much they've been paid. It is hardly likely when the US was out for his blood that he would have been involved in some activity likely to cause himn problems. He may be chanvinistic but so are most men.

-- Diana, Geneva

Nothing surprises me now what USA authorities are doing. They are denying their history so they have never learned from it.

-- Acushla, Australia

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1307137/Supporters-dismissed-rape-accusations-WikiLeaks-founder-Julian-Assange--women-involved-tell-different-story.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

Assange says 'enemies' to blame for rape claim

Rob Hastings
The Independent
23 August 2010

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange resurfaced yesterday to dismiss as a smear a false rape claim that led to a warrant for his arrest being issued over the weekend then dropped just hours later. But as he remained under investigation in Sweden over

a separate allegation of sexual molestation, one of his accusers gave her side of the story to a Swedish newspaper.

The man behind the controversial website that last month released more than 76,000 classified documents about the war in Afghanistan-- and plans to release a further 15,000 in the coming weeks-- had been visiting Sweden in an effort to secure legal protection for WikiLeaks.

The alleged sexual assault is claimed to have been committed in a Stockholm apartment on the night of 13 August; the discredited rape accusation centred around the nearby city of Enköping. A warrant for Mr Assange's arrest was issued on Friday, and Swedish police are understood to have been searching for him for some 18 hours before the charge was dropped on Saturday afternoon.

After becoming the public face of WikiLeaks in recent months, Mr Assange had admitted he was expecting personal attacks as part of an effort by the political establishment to discredit him. He said he had been warned about "sex traps" and believed the allegations would do "great harm".

He told the Aftonbladet newspaper: "There have been headlines all over the world about my being accused of rape. They won't just disappear. And I know by experience that WikiLeaks' enemies will continue to bandy around things even after they have been renounced. I don't know who's behind this but we have been warned that, for example, the Pentagon plans to use dirty tricks to spoil things for us."

Mr Assange refused to clarify whether he had in fact had sex during his stay in Sweden, saying he did not want to "drag people's private lives through the dirt". But he said he had "never, whether in Sweden or in any other country, had sex with anyone in a way that is not founded on mutual consent."

The anonymous woman accusing Mr Assange of molestation-- a term that covers a broad range of offences involving inappropriate physical contact under Swedish law, and can result in fines or up to one year in prison-- denied that she was part of a conspiracy. "The charges against Assange are of course neither staged by the Pentagon nor someone else," she said. "The responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man who has a skewed perception of women and who has problems taking no for an answer."

Yet she seemed to contradict this by adding: "It is completely wrong to say that we would be afraid of Assange and therefore did not want to report him. He is not violent and I do not feel threatened by him."

The woman told Aftonbladet that both cases had involved mutually consensual sex which had escalated into assaults. "The other woman wanted to report rape," she said. "I gave my story as testimony to her story and to support her. I immediately believed her story, since it was very similar to the experiences I had myself."

A spokesperson for the Swedish prosecutor, Karin Rosander, told The Independent: "I'm not surprised that these rumours come up regarding this very well-known person." But she defended the move to place Mr Assange under arrest, saying the warrant was issued late on Friday by an on-call prosecutor. "The prosecutor who took over the case had more information, and that is why she made a different assessment than the on-call prosecutor."

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in web furore over Swedish rape claim

- Allegation apparently leaked to press by police
- Story garners 1m hits before prosecutor steps in

*David Leigh
The Guardian
22 August 2010*

The founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, was himself the subject of a rapidly spreading online story when news cascaded across the internet for several hours at the weekend mistakenly saying he was being sought in Sweden on rape charges.

Before Stockholm's chief prosecutor made clear on Saturday afternoon that Assange was in fact neither charged with rape nor due to be arrested, the story had spread, generating more than 1,200 articles, available through internet news search, that received more than 1m hits.

"It was 7am when a friend who is Swedish and has been out on the net told me about the allegations," Assange told Stockholm daily newspaper Aftonbladet, which has hired him as a columnist: "It was shocking. I have been accused of various things in recent years, but nothing so serious as this." He said none of his sexual relations had ever been built on anything other than totally consensual activity.

The preliminary allegation, made on Friday night, and not further investigated at that stage, was apparently leaked by police to a tabloid in Stockholm, which published dramatic claims on Saturday morning that Assange was to be arrested.

The Swedish Prosecution Authority today said an "on-call" prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Assange late on Friday, only to see it revoked the next day by a higher-ranked prosecutor who found no grounds to suspect him of rape.

"The prosecutor who took over the case had more information, and that is why she made a different assessment than the on-call prosecutor," said Karin Rosander, a spokeswoman for the authority.

One of two women involved told Aftonbladet in an interview published today that she had never intended Assange to be charged with rape. She was quoted as saying: "It is quite wrong that we were afraid of him. He is not violent and I do not feel threatened by him."

Speaking anonymously, she said each had had voluntary relations with Assange: "The responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man who had attitude problems with women."

Sources close to the woman said that issues arose during the relationships about Assange's willingness to use condoms.

In her interview, she dismissed the idea, seized on by many conspiracy theorists that 'dirty tricks' lay behind the rape allegations, because of WikiLeaks' defiance of the US

government. She said: "The charges against Assange are of course not orchestrated by the Pentagon."

Swedish prosecutors said today that a decision would be taken early this week whether to continue investigations into lesser possible charges against the nomadic Assange, which he also denies.

Some of WikiLeaks' computer servers are currently based in Sweden, and he has sought to shelter under Sweden's journalistic source protection laws for the organisation's crusade to promote worldwide leaking of information. Assange and his co-activists at WikiLeaks have refused US defense department demands that they cease publishing thousands of leaked military documents about the US war in Afghanistan, and making accusations of murder of civilians.

US generals have accused WikiLeaks of wholesale leaking that does too little to protect informants and the identities of Afghan villagers who co-operated with US and British forces.

Assange has riposted that it is US soldiers who have "blood on their hands" and he is seeking to edit sensitive files before posting them online.

A former US army intelligence analyst, Bradley Manning, is in military custody at Quantico, Virginia, accused of turning over to outsiders a huge quantity of classified material which subsequently appeared on WikiLeaks. Bradley reportedly told fellow computer enthusiasts that he was horrified by what he found.

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Radikalfeministiska bimbos borde lära sig att hålla käft

Isobel Hadley-Kamptz
Journalisten
23 augusti 2010

Jag vet inte ens var jag ska börja. Som många andra vaknade jag i lördags till beskedet att Wikileaks grundare och frontfigur Julian Assange anhöllits i sin frånvaro för våldtäkt och sexuellt ofredande. Uppgifterna var knapphändiga och förvirrande, men åklagare uttalade sig och att han faktiskt var anhöllen var uppenbart sant.

Min första reaktion var bestörtning, som så många andra beundrade jag honom otroligt för hans arbete för ökad transparens i världen. Jag har aldrig träffat honom, men goda vänner har arbetat ihop med honom nyligen med bl a byggandet av Thaileaks, och Wikileaks är ett ljus i det pågående antifrihetliga mörker som sänker sig över västvärlden.

Just därför är det ledsamt att Wikileaks kommit att förknippas så starkt med en person. Vi är alla mänskliga, även om idolporträtten på Assange antyder något annat, människor gör emellanåt förfärliga saker mot varann. Olle Lidbom skriver bra om hur medielogikens kändiskultur bidragit till detta, men Assange själv tycks heller inte ha motarbetat kulten [*Han har sagt en del kloka ord om denna, mycket vanliga problematik.--A.B.*] Det är lätt att begripa, vem vill inte vara internationell superstjärna? [*Snarare, vem kunde driva en internationell verksamhet som WikiLeaks utan att ses och höras?--A.B.*]

Om vi alla är mänskliga, med människans potential till grymhet, så förvärras effekten av den potentiella grymheten dramatiskt när vi får makt över andra. Det gäller både konkret makt hos politiska ledare, chefer och föräldrar, och emotionell makt. Makt förvrider oss, den som har mycket makt tenderar att ta den för given, riskerar att sluta uppfatta omvärldens eventuella avvikande viljor. Detta är banal psykologi. [*Det är i alla fall banalt.--A.B.*]

Därför blev jag trots min förfäran inte så förvånad av anklagelserna mot Assange. Jag känner honom inte, men män med makt väljer ibland att utöva den också fysiskt, också sexuellt. Bara för att jag sympatiserar med Assanges politiska gärning finns det ingenting som säger att han inte också skulle kunna vara våldtäktsman.

Så kände uppenbarligen inte en del av de män som sympatiserar med Assange. Omedelbart dök det upp bloggposter om "feministmaffian", där det spreds vanföreställningar om att våldtäktsanklagade i rätten måste bevisa sin oskuld snarare än bevisas skyldiga. [*Vem har sagt det?--A.B.*] På Flashback och olika piratparti-forum gick diskussionen hög både om CIA:s potentiella inblandning, om radikalfeministiska svenska bimbos som inte fattade att när man väl hade en alfahanne i sängen skulle man fan låta honom göra vadhelst han önskade, i dag ser jag hur en person som alltså kallar sig "integritetsombudsman" publicerar namn och bild på en kvinna som han ryktesvägen förstått kanske är en av kvinnorna som anmälde Assange [*vars namn och bild man tydligen för Ms. Hadley-Kamptz del gärna får publicera hur mycket som helst-- därför att "det finns ingenting som säger att han inte också skulle kunna vara våldtäktsman."--A.B.*]

Reaktionerna från många håll handlade om allt annat än det potentiella brottet. Var det inte mediekritik (möjligen rimligt) eller så småningom när våldtäktsanhållan drogs tillbaka kritik mot rättsväsendet (definitivt rimligt) så var det konspirationer och framförallt kritik mot de anmälade kvinnorna. [*Misstänkar brukar inte betraktas som kritik.--A.B.*]

Om något obehagligt över huvud taget hade hänt var det de puckade tjejernas fel som antingen var bete i en honungsfälla eller bara inte förstod att man inte säger först ja och sen nej till någon som Assange. [*Vem har sagt det?--A.B.*] Dessutom var de säkert

feminister! Att det uppenbarligen var en politiskt aktiv feminist som gjorde anmälan för ofredande tycks i vissas ögon alltså vara ett säkert tecken på att anmälan var falsk. Bjästa all over again, med utbytta detaljer efter de specifika omständigheterna.

För ett drygt år sedan blossade det upp en liten diskussion om piratpartiet och våldtäkter, där kopplingen mellan integritet och integritet ifrågasattes. En centerkvinna gjorde en halsbrytande jämförelse mellan unga män som våldtar och unga män som röstar på piratpartiet och många blev, rätt rimligt, upprörda.

Jag vill ogärna säga "vad var det jag sade", inte minst för att jag då var en av dem som upprördes å piratpartiets vägnar, men låt oss åtminstone säga att en del av dem som talar vackert om integritet inte tycks mena kvinnors fysiska integritet. Det gäller verkligen inte alla inom piratpartiet eller dess utkanter, men kopplingarna mellan den obehagligaste antifeminismen och integritetsrörelsen är alldeles för starka för att det ska kännas det allra minsta trivsamt för dem av oss som faktiskt visst tror att våldtäkter förekommer.

Visst, konspirationer finns också ibland, bortom Dan Brown, utomjordningar och hemliga sällskap, men våldtäkter är väldigt väldigt mycket vanligare. [*Just därför är anklagelser om våldtäkt särskilt nyttiga i sådana fall som Assanges.-- A.B.*] Och så länge vi fortsätter att behandla kvinnor som vågar tala om dem på samma sätt som en del av Assanges tillskyndare gjort med de anmälande kvinnorna nu är det ett minst lika stort problem som ökad övervakning och kontroll.

PS. Det här betyder inte att jag utgår från att Assange är skyldig till något, om det vet jag ingenting. Jag hoppas att han är oskyldig, och hoppas ännu mer att Wikileaks agerar så att sammanblandningen av person och organisation upphör. Folk gör ibland hemska saker. Det är bland annat därför Wikileaks arbete är så ohyggligt viktigt. [*Då så. Detta gör att det föregående dravlet inte är så farligt, eller hur?--A.B.*]

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange still being investigated over one charge

Swedish police will question WikiLeaks founder over alleged molestation-- but a second case against him has been dropped

*Associated Press
The Guardian
25 August 2010*

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange no longer faces sex abuse charges in Sweden, after the country's chief prosecutor decided to investigate only one of two complaints against him, and not as a sexual offence.

Assange— who has denied both accusations— is still suspected of molesting a woman on August 13, but molestation is not a sex crime under Swedish law, said Karin Rosander, a spokeswoman for the Swedish Prosecution Authority. It covers a wide range of offences, including reckless conduct or inappropriate physical contact with another adult, and can result in fines or up to one year in prison.

Sweden's chief prosecutor Eva Finne formally closed another case involving a woman who claimed Assange had raped her. Finne had dismissed the rape charge over the weekend, and recalled a short-lived arrest warrant, before deciding on Wednesday that the case couldn't be prosecuted as any other type of sex crime either.

"The investigation is therefore closed in regard to this complaint since there is no suspicion of a crime," Finne said in a statement.

Assange was in Sweden partly to seek legal protection for WikiLeaks, an online whistleblower that has angered the Obama administration by publishing thousands of leaked documents about US military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan. The group says it has computer servers in Sweden and other countries.

Assange suggested that the accusations, coming as WikiLeaks prepares to release a new batch of classified documents, were part of a smear campaign. In an interview with a Swedish newspaper, Assange pointed a finger at the Pentagon, which has warned WikiLeaks that the leaked documents could endanger US soldiers and their Afghan helpers. Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon's press secretary, said on Sunday called Assange's charges "absurd."

The lawyer representing both women, Claes Borgstrom, also dismissed any foreign involvement in their complaints. "There is not an ounce of truth in all this about Pentagon, or the CIA, or smear campaigns. Nothing like it," Borgstrom told Swedish news agency TT. Borgstrom criticised the prosecutor's decision, saying both complaints should be investigated as sex crimes. *[Borgström is one of Sweden's most ardent male feminists.--A.B.]*

Investigators have not released details about either case, though a police report obtained by the Associated Press shows both women had befriended Assange in connection with a seminar he gave in Stockholm on August 14. The report shows they filed their complaints together six days later.

An on-call prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Assange on suspicion of rape later that day, but Finne revoked it within 24 hours.

Assange's lawyer Leif Silbersky lashed out at prosecutors for the way they handled the case, especially that they identified his client by name to the media. "He has been cast as a rapist, labelled as a rapist and the international press have described him as a suspected rapist. Now he has ended up in a situation where they have dispelled the sexual parts, and what remains is molestation," Silbersky said.

[Now it would be nice to learn something about the two women involved. But that is unlikely in the current Swedish atmosphere of doctrinaire feminism, which usually asserts with mindless ferocity that it is an abuse of women to so much as raise simple questions about their actions and motives in such contexts. A corollary is that one may not say such things as this without being labelled as an insensitive male dinosaur, in which case I gladly plead guilty.--A.B.]

Överprövningsbeslut i Assangeärendet

*Åklagarmyndigheten
2010-09-01*

Överåklagare Marianne Ny har beslutat att förundersökningen om våldtäkt ska återupptas. Hon har också beslutat att förundersökningen om ofredande ska utvidgas till att omfatta samtliga händelser i anmälan.

Ur beslutet:

Med ändring av åklagarens beslut den 25 augusti 2010 förordnar jag att förundersökningen avseende anmälan K 246314–10 återupptas .

Förundersökningen i anmälan K246336-10 avseende ett fall rubricerat som ofredande utvidgas till att avse samtliga i anmälan omnämnda händelser vilka är att rubricera som sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

– Vi har gått igenom ärendet och jag anser att det i den första delen finns anledning att anta att brott som hör under allmänt åtal har begåtts. Det finns också skäl att genomföra fler utredningsåtgärder. I den andra delen gör jag en annan bedömning av rubriceringen, säger överåklagare Marianne Ny vid Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg.

Marianne Ny kommer att vara förundersökningsledare i ärendet. Hon får bistånd i handläggningen av vice chefsåklagare Erika Lejnefors på Västerorts åklagarkammare i Stockholm. Erika Lejnefors kommer att ha de löpande kontakterna med Polisens utredare och utföra förundersökningen på Marianne Nys uppdrag. Alla frågor av större vikt, som beslut om eventuella tvångsmedel och att slutföra förundersökningen, ska dock beslutas av Marianne Ny.

– Av hänsyn till den fortsatta utredningen och till alla berörda är det inte möjligt att lämna några närmare uppgifter ur förundersökningen, säger Marianne Ny.

AB: 2010-09-01

Assange fortfarande misstänkt för våldtäkt

Kvinnornas advokat: Jag är väldigt nöjd

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange misstänks åter för våldtäkt. Dessutom utvidgas ärendet till att även omfatta sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

– Han är extremt förvånad, arg och bestört. Han undrar vad det är som händer, säger advokat Leif Silbersky.

Affären kring anklagelserna mot Wikileaks grundare och frontfigur Julian Assange fortsätter. En jouråklagaren anhöll ursprungligen Assange i hans frånvaro misstänkt för en våldtäkt och ett fall av sexuellt ofredande. Den anhållan hävdes dock av en ordinarie åklagare efter knappt ett dygn.

När åklagare Eva Finné granskat fallet beslöt hon att lägga ner anmälningen om våldtäkt och bara inleda förundersökning i ett fall av ofredande.

Advokat Claes Borgström, som representerar de två kvinnorna, menar att åklagaren borde utreda två fall av våldtäkt och begärde överprövning av åklagarens beslut.

I dag beslutade alltså överåklagare Marianne Ny att förundersökningen om våldtäkt ska återupptas. Dessutom kommer det fallet som rubricerats som ofredande rubriceras som sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

Claes Borgström säger till Aftonbladet att han är väldigt nöjd med överåklagarens beslut.

– Man kan inte veta hur det här slutar men det är en återupprättelse för de här kvinnorna som anklagats för att hitta på det här.

Enligt Borgström är det enda logiska nu att Assange förhörs om våldtäktsanklagelserna och även delges misstanke om våldtäkt.

– Han måste höras. Men sen vet vi inte hur åklagaren beslutar att väcka åtal ser ut.

Borgström tycker inte att det är något konstigt i att anhålla Assange för våldtäkt, lägga ner undersökningen och sen återuppta den igen.

– Det ligger i juridikens natur att man gör olika bedömningar på samma underlag. Nu visar det sig att överåklagaren, överåklagaren och jag haft samma uppfattning. Det är bara chefsåklagarens uppfattning som skiljer sig.

Julian Assanges försvarare Leif Silbersky är inte lika nådig i sitt omdöme om åklagarens agerande.

– Jag är givetvis mycket förvånad och bestört över turerna. Jag vet inte hur många samtal jag fått från internationell media där man undrar hur det kunnat bli så här.

Silbersky är kritisk till att åklagaren först bekräftar för medierna att Assange misstänks för våldtäkt och sen helvänder för att sen misstänka honom igen.

– Jag utgår från att vi har ett system som är rättsäkert i Sverige men först stigmatiserar man honom som våldtäktsman. Sen försöker man tvätta bort den anklagelsen för att sen åter stigmatisera honom.

Marianne Ny blir ny förundersökningsledare i ärendet.

Fakta: Julian Assange

Mannen som bakom Wikileaks heter Julian Assange. Väldigt lite är känt om hans bakgrund och Assange har i flera år odlat myten om sig själv som en nätets David mot Goliat. Julian Assange har ingen offentlig bakgrund, hans ålder är oprecis och han har ingen bostadsadress. Själv säger han att hemlighetsmakeriet är viktigt för att skydda honom mot fiender. Allt tyder på att Assange är en före detta hacker från Australien. Han säger sig ha grundat Wikileaks tillsammans med människorättsaktivister från hela världen som han träffat på nätet. Enligt Assange själv var kinesiska dissidenter inte bara orsaken bakom grundandet. De ska också ha varit delaktiga i att bygga upp sajten.

• *Olof Jönsson*

BBC headline, 1 Sept. 2010

“Wikileaks rape inquiry reopened”

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AB: 2010-09-01

”Jag har haft bättre veckor”

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange om misstankarna

Så är Julian Assange än en gång misstänkt för våldtäkt. Och Wikileaks grundare fortsätter neka till sexbrott. I en exklusiv intervju berättar Assange om hur alla turer påverkat honom, vad han tycker om den svenska rättvisan och vad han tror ligger bakom sexanklagelserna.

Aftonbladet träffade Assange på en restaurang i Stockholm i eftermiddag. Det har gått några timmar sedan han fått beskedet att våldtäktsutredningen återupptas, ett beslut som omedelbart skapade nya rubriker över hela världen.

Wikileaks grundare ser trött ut, det är uppenbart att de elva dagar som gått sedan två unga kvinnor anmälde honom för sexbrott har satt sina spår. De juridiska turerna har varit många. Assange var först misstänkt för våldtäkt. Sen bara för ofredande, ett brott han förhöordes om i måndags.

Enligt vad Aftonbladet erfar handlar misstanken om att han ska ha tagit av sig kondomen då han hade sex med en av kvinnorna.

I går beslöt överåklagare Marianne Ny att återuppta förundersökningen om våldtäkt. Och misstanken om ofredande utvidgades till att omfatta även sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande. Vad Assange rent konkret ska ha gjort är dock belagt med sekretess.

– Jag säger samma sak som jag har sagt hela tiden. Jag har inte gjort någonting med de här två kvinnorna som inte varit helt frivilligt från båda sidor.

Men varför tar då åklagaren upp utredningen igen?

– Jag vet inte. Jag har inte fått veta vad jag anklagats för.

Har du utsatt någon av dem för något slags sexbrott?

– Som sagt. Allting har varit helt frivilligt.

Det har nu gått en och en halv vecka sedan du först anhölls i din frånvaro, misstänkt för våldtäkt. Hur har den här tiden varit?

– Jag har haft bättre veckor. Journalister från hela världen ringer hela tiden. Fast det är i och för sig inte ovanligt.

Vad tycker du om åklagarnas agerande?

– Det här är en fullständig cirkus. Ingen har frågat mig eller min advokat om min version. Det var först när jag förhördades i måndags som jag fick veta vad ofredandet handlar om. Jag är väldigt upprörd. Och även bekymrad över det svenska juridiska systemets brist på respekt för människors integritet.

Vad frågade poliserna om?

– Några frågor var av intim karaktär. En stor del av förhöret gick åt till att jag ville ha garantier för att det jag sa inte skulle lämnas ut till pressen. Jag förklarade att jag var kritisk till att det läckte i början.

Fick du några garantier?

– Ja. Och jag litar på förhørsledarna.

Frågade de om din relation i stort med den här kvinnan?

– Nej, de var inte intresserade av den typen av information. Jag bad dem titta i min mobil för att få stöd för min version av tidpunkter för olika möten och annat. Men de tackade nej.

Hur mycket skadar den här situationen dig och Wikileaks?

– Det stör mig och organisationen en hel del. Vi har mycket att göra och det här tar mycket kraft. Jag har upplevt många attacker mot mig som person. Men det här är det som varit svårast att hantera.

• *Oisín Cantwell*

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Expressen: 2010-09-02

Här är förhöret med Assange— ord för ord

Expressen kan i dag avslöja innehållet i förhöret där Julian Assange konfronteras med misstankarna att han utsatt en kvinna för ofredande. På en direkt fråga medger Wikileaks-grundaren att kvinnan avvisat hans sexuella inviter.

- Ja, ibland men inte på något sätt som var betydelsefullt. Nej, inte något som skulle vara onormalt, berättade han för polisen.

2 september 2010 Åklagaren tiger om Assangeutredning 1 september 2010 Julian Assange: Verkar vara någon slags rättslig cirkus 1 september 2010 Silbersky: Assange är arg och besviken 1 september 2010 Sven-Erik Alhem om Assange: "Väcker stor förvirring" 1 september 2010 Assange misstänks för våldtäkt— igen

Förhöret med Julian Assange hölls i måndags kl 17.43 av en utredare på Stockholmspolisens familjevårdsgrupp. Assanges försvarsadvokat, Leif Silbersky var

med under förhöret. När Assange förhördes varhan enbart misstänkt för ofredande eftersom den tidigare misstanken om våldtäkt avskrivits.

I går blev han på nytt misstänkt för våldtäkt som ska ha begått den 17 augusti. I polisens förhör ställde förhörssledaren frågor till Assange angående vad som hänt mellan honom och en kvinna bosatt i Stockholm mellan eftermiddagen den 13 augusti och fram till morgonen den 14 augusti, då han höll sitt föredrag i LO-borgen.

När förhöret inleddes delgavs Assange att han var misstänkt för att ha ofredat kvinnan vid ett tillfälle i hennes bostad. Ofredandet ska ha bestått i att han haft oskyddat sex med kvinnan. Hon ska, enligt Expressens källor, anklagat Assange för att medvetet ha gjort hål på en kondom och sedan haft sex med henne. Leif Silbersky reagerade spontant när han fick höra vad det handlade om:

- Var det allt?

Assange svarade kortfattat efter en stund.

- Det är inte sant.

Men sedan blev Wikileaks-grundaren misstänksam och ville veta om det han sade under förhöret skulle kunna komma att lämnas ut till massmedia. Han frågade särskilt om Expressen ska få ta del av förhöret. Då ingrep Leif Silbersky och varnade Assange:

- Du måste försvara dig själv genom att ge din version. För annars kommer det ut, om du inte svarade, då måste åklagaren gå till rätten med det.

- Okej, säger Assange då men vill först veta hur mycket han "måste" ge av sin "version" och har ett enskilt samtal med sin advokat.

Till slut svarade Assange på polisens frågor.

Han medgav att han och kvinnan hade haft sex natten och morgonen från den 13 till 14 augusti och hävdade att han använt kondom.

Polisen: Och det var en gång eller var det flera gånger?

- Flera gånger.

Polisen: Och första gången hade ni alltså kondom?

- Ja.

På en senare följdfråga om kondom användes vid samtliga tillfällen svarade Assange att så var fallet.

Förhörssledaren tar sedan upp en särskild händelse, detaljerna är sekretessbelagda. Men av polisens fråga framgår dock att kvinnan sett något som gjort henne misstänksam, att Assange ändå kan ha haft oskyddat sex med henne. Hon ska, enligt förhöret, ha ställt en direkt fråga om saken till Assange. Han medgav att kvinnan frågat honom.

- Och vi diskuterade det inte något mer, överhuvudtaget, inte alls, säger Julian Assange i förhöret.

Polisen ville också veta om kvinnan någon gång under natten avvisat hans sexuella inviter.

- Ja, ibland men inte på något sätt som var betydelsefullt. Nej, inte något som skulle vara onormalt, svarar Assange som hävdar att allt han gjort varit fullständigt "normalt".

Förhöret avbröts kl 18.37 efter att Julian Assange förklarat för polisen att han på fredagen fått höra "en massa otroliga lögner" om sig själv men att han inte trott "någon" hade för avsikt att gå till polisen.

FL: Att hon avvisade en sexuell inbjudan från dig?

Ja ibland men inte på något sätt som var betydelsefullt. Nej inte något som skulle vara något onormalt.

FL: Om vi återgår till den första natten.
Fick du

∴ Ja.

FL: Då kommer jag fråga [REDACTED] om du har någonting som du vill ta upp.

FV: Nej.

FL: Leif, någonting som du vill...?

Adv: Jag har ett par frågor.

FL: Ja.

Adv: Vilken tid på dygnet hade ni , vad var klockan ungefär?

: Sent på kvällen och tidigt på morgonen.

Adv: Vad skulle du vilja säga, ungefär vilken tid?
Tre, fyra, fem...?

: Mellan 23 och 05.

Adv: Okej. Förekom det någon alkohol?

∴ Nej.

Adv: Varken du eller hon?

: Ja, jag kommer inte ihåg att jag skulle druckit någon större mängd. Vi kan ha druckit vitt vin till middagen. Men det var ingen kväll när vi drack en massa.

- Micke Ölander

Obs! Jämför detta trams med själva protokollet. --A.B.

Assange Gets New Counsel

Now it's up to Björn Hurtig.

*radsoft.com
7 Sept. 2010*

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's civil rights foundation Rättssäkerhetsorganisationen (RO) have on behalf of Julian Assange sent a request to the district court for a change of counsel.

Assange's new lawyer is to be Björn Hurtig of Försvarsadvokaterna on Kungsholmen.

'This comes as a complete surprise for me', says Leif Silbersky.

RO sent the application on Assange's behalf. The application says, amongst other things, that Silbersky 'is not committed enough and is difficult to get in contact with'.

'This is a unique situation for me', says Silbersky.

Silbersky has to approve the request for the court to allow it.

'But of course I'll approve it', says Silbersky who adds that he doesn't think he's at all inaccessible. 'I spoke with Assange an hour ago and he mentioned nothing of this. And my older clients know the contrary-- I'm easy to reach.'

Former RO board member Billy Butt might be the cause for the action, suggests Silbersky but RO strike back. 'Butt isn't here any longer', says current RO board member Johann Binninge who filed the complaint against prosecutor Maria Kjellstrand who leaked the story to Expressen. 'He was a board member for a year but after that left the organisation. There's absolutely no connection.'

Billy Butt-- who still writes op-ed articles for RO-- comments: 'I've got nothing to do with this. But Silbersky is not a competent rape lawyer. So this is the best thing Assange could have done.'

Assange has now requested solicitor Björn Hurtig. Hurtig has previously been under contract to the US embassy in Stockholm, defending Steven Gilchrist Glover who was accused of possession, and even appearing in Swedish television dramas.

'Assange came to our offices a week and a half ago and told us he wasn't happy with Silbersky', said Binninge. 'He said he didn't feel a 100% commitment from Silbersky. And this morning I received an SMS message from him saying he wanted to submit the application.'

<http://rixstep.com/1/20100907,00.shtml>

AB: 2010-09-09

Assanges nye advokat Björn Hurtig tycker att ärendet skötts mycket märkligt

Julian Assange har bytt försvarare. Sedan i går representeras han av advokat Björn Hurtig.

– Det verkar vara ett märkligt skött ärende, säger Björn Hurtig till Aftonbladet.

Utredningen kring våldtäktsanklagelserna mot Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange fortsätter. I tisdags skrev Julian Assange ett brev till Stockholms tingsrätt där han sparkade sin försvarsadvokat Leif Silbersky. Han begärde att i stället få representeras av advokat Björn Hurtig. Nu bekräftar Björn Hurtig för Aftonbladet att han sedan igår är förordnad försvarare åt Assange.

– Det stämmer. Jag har pratat med honom i telefon men inte sett alla handlingar än.

Hurtig vill nu fokusera på fallet och inte kommentera schismen mellan Assange och Silbersky.

– Jag tycker att Leif Silbersky är en utomordentligt skicklig advokat och att det som hänt är mellan dem.

En jouråklagaren anhöll ursprungligen Assange i hans frånvaro misstänkt för en våldtäkt och ett fall av sexuellt ofredande. Den anhållan hävdes dock av en ordinarie åklagare efter knappt ett dygn. När åklagare Eva Finné granskat fallet beslöt hon att lägga ner anmälningen om våldtäkt och bara inleda förundersökning i ett fall av ofredande.

Senare beslutade överåklagare Marianne Ny att förundersökningen om våldtäkt skulle återupptas och att fallet som rubricerats som ofredande rubriceras som sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

Björn Hurtig har många tankar inför att ta över ett fall med så många turer och säger spontant att han tycker att hanteringen av ärendet varit märkligt.

– Allt det här och ändå så har han varken förhört om våldtäkten eller frihetsberövats. Jag har lite funderingar och undrar vad som hänt.

• *Olof Jönsson*

Assange Case Should Set Off Alarms

rixstep.com
9 Sept. 2010

The news that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was suspected of rape echoed around the globe. So strange that the woman filing the complaint did not herself claim she'd been raped. It might be considered appropriate that people in general intuitively

understand what rape is. But what are the chances when the prosecutors themselves don't seem to have a clue?

After the case was dismissed and then reopened, the case dossier-- which is not public information-- was published in the tabloid press. There's undeniable irony in that the freedom to leak information praised by Assange is now being used to try to trip him up. But this is a matter of a person who-- until otherwise proven-- is innocent.

Chief prosecutor Marianne Ny, on special assignment to develop new methodologies for sex crime cases, has explained that this case can take a long time, possibly months. This is remarkable considering that in March of this year in a DN interview she stressed the importance of handling matters swiftly for sex crime cases. That methodology doesn't seem to apply in the Assange case.

Everyone understands the consequences that hurt a person who has such suspicion pointed in their direction as with Assange. That a prosecutor goes public with a suspicion and then neglects to swiftly investigate the suspicion must be in conflict with fundamental principles of civil rights.

The Assange case should set off alarms. Is there an attitude about this type of crime which leads to fundamental civil rights being pushed aside? To swiftly investigate the case should be simple. This is reasonably a matter of interrogating the parties, reviewing mail correspondence, things like that. Maybe a few hours work. Interrogations must obviously be held swiftly as people's memory is influenced and altered, particularly when the interrogations are published in the tabloids.

Assange is being hung out as a suspected rapist and he's harmed by it. But this doesn't seem to bother Marianne Ny.

Postscript: Ny Reacts

Marianne Ny (pronounced 'knee') reacted to the above op-ed by publishing yet another 'non-story' on the official website -- merely to say 'the investigation progresses'.

<http://rixstep.com/2/1/20100909,00.shtml>

* * *

"Fallet Assange borde få larmklockorna att ringa"

I fallet Assange gäller inte vikten av en snabb hantering av sexualbrottsärenden. Det skriver Carin Stenström om fallet Assange.

Nyheten att Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange misstänktes för våldtäkt utbasunerades över hela världen. Besynnerligt var att kvinnan som gjorde anmälan inte själv uppgav att hon blivit utsatt för våldtäkt. Det kan tyckas angeläget att folk i allmänhet intuitivt förstår vad en våldtäkt är. Men frågan är vilken förutsättningen för det är när åklagarna inte verkar ha någon aning.

Efter att ärendet lagts ner och återupptagits har förhörspötkollet, som ej är offentligt, publicerats i kvällspressen. Det ligger onekligen en ironisk poäng i att den av Assange hyllade friheten att lämna information nu brukats på ett sätt som slår undan benen på

honom själv. Men det är alltså fråga om en person som— till dess annat visats— är oskyldig.

Chefsåklagare Marianne Ny, med specialuppdrag att utveckla utredningsmetodiken vad gäller sexbrottsärenden, har förklarat att ärendet kan ta lång tid, kanske månader. Det är märkligt med tanke på att hon, i mars i år, i en DN-intervju betonade vikten av en snabb hantering av sexualbrottsärenden. I fallet Assange gäller tydligen inte den metodiken.

Alla inser vilka konsekvenser som drabbar en person som får en sådan misstanke riktad mot sig som Assange. Att en åklagare offentligt uttalar en misstanke och det därefter verkar negligeras att skyndsamt utreda misstanken måste stå i strid med grundläggande rättsprinciper.

Fallet Assange borde få larmklockorna att ringa. Finns det en attityd kring den här typen av ärenden som gör att grundläggande rättssäkerhetsintressen åsidosätts? Att snabbt utreda fallet borde vara enkelt. Det handlar rimligtvis om att förhöra parterna, granska mailkonversation och liknande. Kanske några timmars arbete. Förhör bör självklart hållas skyndsamt eftersom minnesbilder påverkas och förändras. Särskilt när förhørsprotokoll publiceras i kvällspressen.

Assange är uthängd som misstänkt våldtäktsman och lider skada av det. Just det förhållandet verkar dock inte bekymra Marianne Ny.

• CARIN STENSTRÖM, *fri skribent*

U.S. Against Safe Havens for WikiLeaks

*Tom Hayden
Peace and Justice Resource Center
September 9, 2010*

Swedish prosecutors have reinstated rape charges against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, after issuing and dropping them two weeks ago. Headlines over the accusations have all but eclipsed public discussion of the whistleblower organization's plan to disclose another 15,000 classified US documents about the Afghanistan war.

As of September 8, Swedish media were reporting that Assange still has not been called for questioning, much less been detained, a situation his lawyer terms, "weird, especially given the degree of suspicion that is hanging over him."

As long as the Stockholm sex investigation continues, Assange may be blocked from obtaining resident status. And he has been asked to step aside as WikiLeaks spokesperson by a once-close ally, the Icelandic parliamentarian Birgitta Jonsdotter, who has authored pro-whistleblower legislation there.

According to one Swedish peace campaigner, "By this one move, at least three things are [being] shaken around-- disturbing Julian, WikiLeaks, and perhaps preventing Sweden from once again becoming a country favoring ideals that will be inconvenient and scary for some. [*Why the anonymity of this source?--A.B.*]

The Swedish national election is scheduled on September 19, pitting the pro-US governing coalition against one led by the Social Democrats and Greens, who recently adopted an anti-war platform. *[Alas, not entirely anti-war, as indicated below by Stefan Lindgren.--A.B.]*

A longtime Swedish peace campaign leader, Stefan Lindgren, thinks the WikiLeaks controversy will have little impact on the upcoming election. The WikiLeaks documents exposing Afghanistan as a failed war are helpful to the peace movement, he notes. The ruling coalition has little interest in drawing attention to their support of the war and hidden agenda of NATO membership. The opposition [red-green] is proposing a troop withdrawal beginning in 2011 and ending in 2014: "too little, too late.. But still progress," Lindgren says.

"If they [the governing coalition] win and stay in power, then we might see some real efforts to make trouble for WikiLeaks in Sweden. But I am sure they already control all traffic to and from the [WikiLeaks] server, so in a way they can just lean back, hand over everything to the Pentagon, and wait for an opportunity," Lindgren added.

At this point it does not appear that Assange raped anyone. The questions being investigated thus far seem to be whether there was unprotected sex. One woman has accused Assange not of being dangerous but having difficulty "taking no for an answer." The flip-flop of prosecutors over the rape charge has added to public questioning of their credibility.

Nor is the theory of a CIA conspiracy, now ricocheting around the blogosphere, backed by solid evidence thus far. But there is little doubt about Pentagon pressure to prevent Sweden from becoming a sanctuary for WikiLeaks.



Anna Ardin

The woman at the center of the controversy is 31-year old Anna Ardin, a research student from Uppsala University and political secretary for a faction of the Christian Social Democrats. Ardin was involved in inviting Assange to speak at a conference on the media three weeks ago. He stayed at her apartment and the two apparently had sex

the same night, if not previously. Then, after Assange became involved sexually with the second woman a few days later, he was reported to the prosecutor by Ardin.

Conspiracy theories swirling around Ardin are based on circumstantial evidence. First, she is accused of being a “radical feminist” who has written a blog on taking “legal revenge” against men. Second, she is the cousin and apparent friend of Lt. Col. Mattias Ardin, the deputy head of Swedish Joint Forces attached to NATO in Afghanistan.

There are serious unanswered questions about how Expressen, a right-wing tabloid, already had the story before asking the prosecutors for confirmation and going public on August 20. Perhaps someone in law enforcement, or Ardin herself, provided the background information to Expressen.

Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt formally denies that the US has contacted Swedish authorities about WikiLeaks. But Pentagon spokesmen describe a “very robust” investigation with active support from the FBI and Justice Department.

Meanwhile US Private Bradley Manning is already in military custody facing accusations of downloading and transferring thousands of classified files which were published by the New York Times, Der Spiegel, and the London Observer. In addition, Manning is accused of releasing video last April of killings of civilians in Baghdad in 2007, during which US helicopter crews were recorded laughing and joking. Protests in support of Manning have been held across the country.

Will the mainstream media back away from publishing the next batch of 15,000 documents which WikiLeaks describes as even more incendiary than the first files?

WikiLeaks has stored its servers in multiple locations, including a supposedly safe facility in downtown Stockholm once used as a nuclear bomb shelter. Will that protect WikiLeaks from the full blast of governments and corporations defending their secrets at any cost? Having mostly driven the Taliban out of their Afghanistan sanctuary, will the Pentagon succeed in destroying a Swedish sanctuary for whistleblowers like WikiLeaks?

- *Eva Ehrstedt contributed research and translation.*

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Seven-step method for legal revenge

*<http://annaardin.blogspot.com>
January 19, 2010*

I've been thinking a lot about revenge the past few days, and have come across a web page that provides what can be loosely described as a seven-step method for taking revenge:

How to Get Legal Revenge

*By an eHow Contributor
http://www.ehow.com/how_2296915_get-legal-revenge.html*

Revenge, they say, is a dish best served cold. What this means is that if you are still burning with anger and passionately seeking vengeance for something, you will probably not get a good revenge in a legal manner. Revenge can indeed be sweet, but only if your victim truly receives a just punishment for a past wrong, and if nothing can legally be done to you for your role in making sure this punishment came to pass.

1. Think long and hard about over whether you really need revenge. It is almost always better to forgive than to repay, and if you are considering vengeance on a friend, you probably owe it to her to give her the benefit of the doubt first and talk to her. If you can get a heartfelt apology, revenge may not be necessary.
2. Consider the nature of the crime. If you're dead-set on revenge, you should know not only who you want revenge against, but exactly why you want revenge against him. Revenge should not just be taken against a person, it should be taken against an action.
3. Keep in mind the old saying, "Let the punishment fit the crime". A good revenge is one that is related to the wrong that was committed against you. For example, if you want revenge on someone for cheating on you and dumping you, the punishment should have to do with dating/sex/fidelity.

4. Brainstorm punishments that fit the category of your required revenge. To continue the example, you could break up your victim's current relationship, or make sure his new girlfriend cheats on him, or put a damper on his sex life, or set him up with a bad partner.
5. Come up with schemes to enact each of these punishments. A series of letters and photographs that make the new girlfriend think he's still seeing you might be able to break up a relationship. Asking a friend for a favor might let you corrupt the new girlfriend. Use your imagination.
6. Rank your schemes from low to high in terms of probability of success, effort and cost required, and satisfaction if achieved. The ideal revenge scheme should combine a high probability of success with satisfaction that is not outbalanced by the cost.
7. Put into action a revenge plan that you think will work. Remember, keep your goal in mind, and make sure your victim suffers in the same way she made you suffer.

Tips & Warnings

Make sure the revenge is related to the crime; random pranking is a lame form of revenge. Revenge is rarely as satisfying as you think; forgive if possible.

Responses by Al Burke to inquiries from friends abroad...

Sept. 7. *How significant is the following, do you think?*

Sujet : Le Monde.fr: Perquisition dans les locaux de l'hébergeur suédois de WikiLeaks et The Pirate Bay

Evidemment : 1/ tant qu'il s'agissait de pédophilie, ça ne gênait pas trop les hypocrites qui nous gouvernent et qui s'agitent sur le sujet que comme prétexte, mais depuis qu'il y a wikileaks, c'est autre chose, il faut faire pression, cela menace la cohésion du système répressif mondialisé 2/ après les accusations de viol visant le chef de wikileaks, maintenant on attaque son serveur la concordance entre les deux mesures est évidente, le soucis de faire un exemple aussi ...au moins c'est la preuve que nous sommes bel et bien entré dans l'aire du totalitarisme "soft". Ça ne valait pas la peine de faire un tel tintamarre hystérique et hypocrite pour la "chute" du mur de Berlin pour arriver à ce point ...mais c'est bien de cela qu'il s'agissait faire un tintamarre ici sur des pseudos libertés que "les peuples" auraient gagné (allez leur demander à ces peuples ce qu'ils en pensent maintenant de "ces" libertés au rabais !) pour passer en douce là à la mise en marche du mécanisme sécuritaire planétaire du système dominant aux abois (arrestations et exécutions extra-judiciaires, procès politiques camouflés en droit commun, vols et camps secrets de la CIA, campagne de peur ici sur la terreur ailleurs contre campagne de terreur là-bas, etc, etc ...) la liberté de la presse, de la libre circulation des hommes et des idées n'est plus d'actualité, ce fut un prétexte agité par "l'occident" pour défaire le concurrent soviétique, rien d'autre, le pouvoir est toujours entre les mains des mêmes, il aurait même tendance à se rétrécir, et les méthodes répressives à devenir de plus en plus "soviétiques" tandis que les "grands médias" occidentaux vont tous à la même soupe

Response. Not enough information available to know whether WikiLeaks was a target of the raid-- and there probably never will be. It is in the nature of such directed actions to disguise them as something else, of course.

Assuming that the accusations of pedophilic activities are true, they provide a perfect cover for messing around with the databases of WikiLeaks and Pirate Bay as a bonus. But pedophilia is occasion enough for such a raid, and the pressure to act is mounting in Sweden.

The law on child pornography was recently sharpened to include possession of illustrations depicting it. So it is now illegal to own and look at Japanese mangas depicting sexually active under-16s, for example. Pirate Bay has criticized that change (as have a couple of brave judicial experts) and that may have something to do with the raid. But, again, pedophilia is itself a more than sufficient target.

P.S. 8 Sept. Today's news in the Swedish press regarding the raid on the web hotel used by WikiLeaks and Pirate Bay does not even mention pedophilia. Instead, it is said to have been directed against distribution of pirate-copied films in a co-ordinated action in 14 countries instigated by Belgian authorities. The CEO of the web hotel reportedly stated that he at first expected the visiting police to home in on the WikiLeaks servers, but that they never went near them.

Also, Assange said today that WikiLeaks had been told by two informants in U.S. intelligence agencies that Sweden has been under pressure by the U.S. government to prevent Assange from establishing himself in this country. He also speculated that the prosecutor who decided to re-charge him with suspicion of rape and sexual molestation did so as a career move. That conforms with my guesswork in response to another inquiry a couple of days ago:

At the moment, it is not possible for an outsider to understand the strange behavior of the Swedish prosecutors. A preliminary guess is that the latest turn of events is politically motivated. If they succeed in convicting Assange for something, it will relieve the government of the dilemma posed by his application for residency. It is a certainty that they don't want him here; but if they were to get caught directly interfering with his application, there would likely be a public outcry.

Even if there is no case against him, putting him through the prosecutorial and media mill might cause him to become so thoroughly disgusted with Sweden that he voluntarily withdraws his application. That would also solve the government's problem.

Of course, the government will never admit to pressuring the prosecutors' office, and it probably doesn't have to. The prosecutor who has reopened the case presumably does not need to be instructed in its political dimensions, and may very well share the political inclinations of the government. Doctrinaire feminism may also be playing a role in the spectacle.

The possibility that Assange might be guilty cannot be dismissed. But at this point, no one with a sense of justice can have the slightest confidence in any guilty verdict that might eventually be brought about.

9 Sept. Follow-up inquiry

Now I see from last week's International Herald Tribune that Assange is being charged by two women for "rape" for having continued a session of consensual sex without a condom. That is a new definition of "rape", and, so far as I can tell, a crime without material evidence. How can one not be suspicious of such proceedings against an individual who has annoyed the war machine?

Response 10 Sept. I have also read that the one woman who is alleged to have been raped (the other is alleged to have been subjected to mere sexual molestation) did not herself go to the police. Rather, someone to whom she related her story-- whatever it turns out to be-- filed the complaint on her behalf. The alleged rape victim has also been reported to have stated that she, herself, never claimed to have been raped and that at no time was she ever afraid of Assange.

If even half of all this turns out to be true, then of course it will be a major scandal of prosecutorial abuse. At this point, however, it is all hearsay channeled through Sweden's evening tabloids. Assange asserts that he has yet to be informed of exactly what illegal behaviour he is suspected of-- in itself at least a minor judicial scandal, as several legal experts have pointed out.

Certainly one must be suspicious of the whole business; I never intended to suggest otherwise. Assange himself has speculated that the U.S. was probably not behind the original accusations, but is undoubtedly exploiting it to the hilt. That seems like a reasonable preliminary assessment.

Assange has expressed the suspicion that the original accusations were motivated by some sort of personal animosity against him which he has not specified. "Radical feminism" is almost certainly involved in subsequent developments. Many of its proponents in Sweden are quite rabid and are constantly on the lookout for ways to get even with us filthy male bastards; we are to be assumed guilty until proven innocent. The journalistic profession's own journal has published a column by an angry young thing in which she explained her bitterness at and sense of betrayal by Assange on the grounds that, among other things, "There is nothing that says that he could *not* be a rapist." I kid you not.

-- A.B.

Hurtig: "Assange kommer vilja kräva kompensation av staten"

Johan Björkdahl
Dagens juridik
2010-09-10

I tisdags bytte Julian Assange advokat från Leif Silbersky till Björn Hurtig från Försvarsadvokaterna. Dagens Juridik har frågat honom om turerna i Assange-ärendet.

Hur ser du på att jourhavande kammaråklagare valde att bekräfta uppgiften om att Assange var misstänkt för våldtäkt?

– Det var mycket oansvarigt gjort och dessutom regelvidrigt. Som jag ser det är detta en väldigt tydlig illustration över obalansen mellan den åtalade och det allmänna vad gäller möjlighet att informera och påverka opinionen. Den som är misstänkt för brott kan beläggas med yppandeförbud, medan myndigheter formligen kan basunera ut anklagelser och uppgifter som kan verka graverande och skada den åtalade. Media har en enorm makt och även domare är människor som läser nyheter och påverkas av de bilder som målas upp. En enskild individs intressen blir väldigt små när mediedrevet går. Där måste myndigheter ta ett stort ansvar, något som de gång efter gång misslyckas med.

Vad tycker du om att JK nu väljer att utreda saken?

– Det är naturligtvis mycket bra. Förhoppningsvis kommer denna utredning att lyfta debatten kring frågan om rätten att betraktas som oskyldig till att frågan avgjorts inför domstol. Det är en bärande rättstatsprincip som nu riskerar att urholkas på grund av vinningslystnad från enskilda myndighetspersoner. Det krävs ett krafttag för att komma tillrätta med detta. Meddelarfriheten finns till för att avslöja felaktigheter i myndigheternas agerande inte för att peka ut och misstänkliggöra individer som inte funnits skyldiga av domstol.

Planerar du och din klient att vidta juridiska åtgärder och kräva kompensation från staten?

– Just nu är min prioritet att försöka få åtalet mot min klient nedlagt. Sen får vi efter att själva huvudfrågan blivit avklarad ta itu med de skador som min klient lidit på grund av myndigheternas agerande. Min klient känner sig givetvis mycket förfördelad. Det väger tungt när en kammaråklagare väljer att peka ut en enskild individ i samband med så pass allvarligt brott. Detta har fått mycket stora konsekvenser som djupt påverkat min klient. Det finns olika vägar att gå för att få upprättelse för en sådan här sak, bland annat via JK.... Jag kan säga att min klient säkert kommer att vilja kräva kompensation från staten.

<http://www.dagensjuridik.se/2010/09/hurtig-assange-kommer-vilja-krava-kompensation-av-staten>

Aftonbladet's 'Inside Story'

A timeline including excerpts of case testimony

radsoft.net
2010-09-14

Aftonbladet claim to have a copy of the Assange case files. They've published a special supplement to their hardcopy edition with details of the Assange case they've not revealed online.

Aftonbladet is a tabloid-- meaning they arbitrarily mix truth with fiction and hyperbole. Their articles are at best 'hearsay of hearsay'-- the testimony of the girls is

not corroborated and Aftonbladet's version isn't corroborated either. That being said, one can construct a timeline based on the Aftonbladet supplement.

2010-08-11 (Wednesday). Julian Assange arrives in Stockholm. He is invited by Anna Ardin of the Brotherhood Movement, an adjunct of the Social Democrat Party. Ardin is to be out of town for a few days and lets Assange stay at her flat on Tjurbergsgatan on Södermalm in Stockholm. Assange uses much of his time to meet with journalists and organisations. He has dinner with friends and a US journalist who wants to talk about his new book on the Bush clan.

Sofia Wilén contacts the Brotherhood Movement on or shortly after 11 August to get a ticket to the Assange event. Admission is 'prio press' as Ardin posts on Twitter. Wilén is professedly a photographer and gets a ticket. She lives outside Stockholm (in Enköping) but claims to be a national government employee.

✓ 2010-08-13 (Friday). Ardin was to return to Stockholm first on Saturday 14 August but gets back early, already on Friday afternoon. 'He was there when I came home', Ardin tells the police. 'We talked a bit and agreed he could continue to stay there.' Ardin and Assange go to a local eatery for dinner, then return to the flat and have sex. They use a condom but the condom is found to be broken afterwards.

✓ 2010-08-14 (Saturday). Wilén attends the event arranged by Ardin, sits in the front row with her camera and takes pictures of Assange, hangs about afterwards, introduces herself to Assange, gets an invite to a lunch with the entourage at a 'bistro' a few blocks away, she and Assange see a short movie in a local cinema afterwards, then part. Assange attends a crayfish party in Ardin's courtyard where two members of Sweden's Pirate Party (likely Falkvinge and Troberg) and are also present.

✓ 2010-08-15 (Sunday). Assange, Falkvinge, and Troberg meet in the old town for a photo shoot concerning Sweden's Pirate Party offering server support to WikiLeaks. Wilén rings Assange but his telephone is turned off. She starts telling her work colleagues about her meet with Assange. 'They told me he must feel like I dumped him, so the ball's in my court if I want see him again', Wilén tells the police.

✓ 2010-08-16 (Monday). Wilén rings Assange again and this time he picks up. He tells her he's going to a meeting in the evening but should be able to connect with her about 20:30. Wilén wanders about in the city, eats some sushi, rings Assange back at 21:00 when he hasn't yet turned up. Assange picks up.

'He said he was in Hornsgatan and the meeting had just ended. He asked me to come and meet him, which I did.' Wilén and Assange walk to the old town, sit down at Munkbron, talk a while, then take the train to her home in Enköping. Wilén pays for Assange's ticket (SEK107/\$10).

Wilén and Assange have sex that evening with a condom. They have sex again in the following morning but without a condom. After sex in the morning, Wilén goes out and buys, then cooks breakfast-- oatmeal and juice. They joke about her possibly being pregnant. 'I was being sarcastic to defuse the situation.' Wilén and Assange ride together on her bike to the train station. Assange returns to Stockholm alone. Wilén asks Assange if he'll ring her. He says he will.

Assange is to meet Agneta Lindblom Hulthén of the Swedish journalists association at 12:00 noon but doesn't turn up until 16:00. One of his colleagues who'd been at the meeting the previous evening and who'd seen Wilén arrive at Hornsgatan starts

looking for him. He tries to reach Wilén as he suspected they'd spent the night together. He rings Assange but Assange doesn't answer.

✓ 2010-08-18 (Wednesday). Wilén calls Ardin and tells her she's had unprotected sex with Assange. She says she's upset he didn't use a condom and is afraid she might have contracted an STD or become pregnant. Ardin admits she too had had sex with Assange. Ardin rings an acquaintance of Assange's after the conversation with Wilén to convey the message to Assange that she wants him to move his things out of her flat.

✓ 2010-08-19 (Thursday). Ardin sends an SMS message to the same acquaintance of Assange's, saying he still hadn't moved his things out.

✓ 2010-08-20 (Friday). Assange moves his things out of Ardin's flat. He claims it's first on Friday he hears of her request.

Wilén and Ardin arrive at the Klara police station at 14:00. Wilén wants to file charges of rape; Ardin tags along to be of help. They talk to a female police officer who concludes they're both victims of sex crimes and decides to interrogate them separately. Of Wilén the female police officer writes the following in the report.

'She said she'd been raped in her home on the morning of Tuesday 17 August by a man who had sex with her against her wishes.' The female police officer ends her report with the following. 'Everyone I spoke to was in earnest agreement that this was a case of rape.'

Ardin, who only came along to help Wilén, tells the policewoman she also had sex with Ardin. She tells the policewoman the condom broke during sex and now accuses Assange of deliberately breaking it. The police conduct their interrogation of Ardin the following day on the phone.

The police send out a posse to Stureplan to visit upscale nightclubs in search of Assange. He is not to be found.

(Assange later tells friends about the broken condom but dismisses the idea it broke deliberately. He also insists he in no way raped the other woman either-- it was consensual unprotected sex.)

Niklas Svensson of Expressen gets wind of the story [*how?*], races back to Stockholm from Harpsund, he or someone else in his office rings up prosecutor on duty Maria Kjellstrand who corroborates the details, the charges, and the identities involved.

2010-08-21 (Saturday). Svensson's story hits Expressen online 05:00. A few hours later the other Swedish news sites have the story and soon it's all over the globe. The police are tipped off that Assange is staying at a hotel in Stockholm but he's already checked out by the time they arrive.

Chief prosecutor Eva Finné decides to take over the case and has the files sent to her summer cottage by messenger. She reviews the documents and immediately rescinds the arrest warrant. She adds the following to her decision. 'If the suspect turns up then tell him he's suspected of molestation X 2.'

2010-08-22 (Sunday). Karin Rosander is interviewed by Al Jazeera and somehow makes a mockery of herself and the country to a stupefied reporter and studio crew; Eva Finné is rumoured to be highly critical of the initial arrest warrant.

Wilén and Ardin contact Claes Borgström in the evening and he agrees to take the case. [*Isn't that the prosecutors' job?--A.B.*]

2010-08-23 (Monday). Assange retains Leif Silbersky as counsel and Silbersky immediately poses a rather obvious question. 'Why did the prosecutor corroborate

all that confidential information for the media?' The question is considered obvious because such behaviour is neither normal, acceptable, nor prudent-- particularly when the arrest is 'in absentia'. Announcing such an arrest only gives the suspect a chance to flee. The prosecutor's office refuse to this day to reply to Silbersky.

2010-08-25 (Wednesday). A Google search for 'Assange rape' yields 1.2 million hits. Finné clarifies that she doesn't mean she doesn't believe the women's stories, only that there is nothing criminal in them. Borgström, based on the same evidence, insists there is something criminal and that it was outright rape in both cases, and demands the case be reviewed by a prosecutor of yet higher rank.

Borgström is given an advance copy of the Aftonbladet article and replies with the following. 'I want to stress that there are significant details missing in this report, details I base my accusations of rape on, but I am prevented from revealing what these details are.'

Aftonbladet's reporters suggest to Borgström that it's in his clients' best interests to reveal the 'significant details'. Borgström replies with the following. 'It would hurt the investigation to make the information public at this stage. It's my opinion [Finné] was in error. I believe Assange will be accused of sex crimes.'

Aftonbladet's reporters tell Borgström they wonder how this can be if Ardin insists she's not been raped. Borgström replies with the following. '[Ardin]'s not a jurist.'

2010-08-30 (Monday). Assange meets with the police at 17:45. His solicitor Leif Silbersky is simultaneously involved in the 'helicopter robbery' case and can't make it earlier. Assange is told he is suspected of deliberately breaking a condom and denies this is so. He adds that he'll be staying in Sweden to fight the accusations and has no intention of fleeing the country. Assange also demands guarantees details of the case will not again be leaked to the media-- particularly Expressen.

2010-08-31 (Tuesday). Details of the interview the police guaranteed would not be leaked turn up in Expressen anyway.

Note: a Google search for 'Assange+rape' yields 4.38 million hits at time of writing.

<http://radsoft.net/news/20100914,00.shtml>

Assange Besieged

Making a Mockery of the Real Crime of Rape

ISRAEL SHAMIR and PAUL BENNETT

Counterpunch

September 14, 2010

The plot thickens as our favorite hero of the Matrix; our own "Captain Neo" Julian Assange, faces danger yet again. When we last parted company with the legendary founder of WikiLeaks, he was breathing a sigh of relief after dodging spurious double-rape charges. The complaints were dropped, and our hero was free to roam the globe once again. But soap opera plots are repetitive; the story was quickly recycled and now our brave captain is again under threat of being castrated on Stockholm's Stora Torget,

or whatever the latest craven penalty is for molesting sacred Nordic virgins in a land where Vikings once ruled.

In other words, the farcical rape charges have once again been leveled against the Pentagon's Public Enemy Number One. Julian Assange now stands accused of: (1) not calling a young woman the day after he had enjoyed a night with her, (2) asking her to pay for his bus ticket, (3) having unsafe sex, and (4) participating in two brief affairs in the course of one week.

These four minor charges, worthy of Leopold Bloom's mock trial in the Nighttown chapter in *Ulysses*, have been shaken and fermented until they were able to cook up a half-baked rape case! Step down Iran; Sweden takes the cake! While Iran is notorious for unyielding conservative sentences against adulterers, Sweden shows us what the liberal side of the coin looks like as she invents criminal charges for failing to telephone and for careless use of preservatives in consensual acts of affection. Worse, they are purposely conflating consensual sex with rape for political purposes. In this, Sweden makes a mockery of the very real crime of violent rape.

The Swedes have a practical reason behind their deceptively slapstick police-work. The WikiLeaks founder, pursued by malevolent forces around the world, sought momentary relief beneath Sweden's reputation as a bastion of free speech. But the moment Julian sought the protection of Swedish media law, the CIA immediately threatened to discontinue intelligence sharing with SEPO, the Swedish Secret Service. That got the present right-wing government out of its chair, as it does everything it can to bury the Prime Minister Olof Palme's legacy of careful neutrality.

The suspicion of whether the rape farce is an orchestrated campaign, might be illuminated by these facts: (1) Sweden sent troops to Afghanistan, (2) Assange's WikiLeaks published the Afghan War Diary which exposed this cruel and needless neo-colonial campaign. Furthermore, the expected release of new secret materials by WikiLeaks might just influence the general elections on September 19. Perhaps that explains the sudden police raid on a WikiLeaks server. *[Wrong, apparently. See correspondence below. A.B.]*

An American Tea Party website the RightwingNews.com suggested that "a CIA agent with a sniper rifle rattle a bullet around [Assange's] skull the next time he appears in public as a warning". Rest assured that the CIA is wiser than the Tea Party. They at least have learned the lesson of Che Guevara. Nowadays they ruin a rebel's reputation instead of wasting a bullet. They won't raise Assange up to become a martyr, they simply use his own erstwhile allies to reduce him to a laughing stock. They stain him with opprobrium. It is much more certain and final than the marksman's shot. History is witness to their growing efficiency in using this tactic. In the 70's, they could only bring themselves to say that Philip Agee was a womanizer and a drunkard. Nowadays they do not stint at charges of pedophilia, for example to humiliate Scott Ritter for failing to go along with George W Bush's charade of Iraqi WMD. As you might expect, the rape campaign against Assange might be just an initial volley. Perhaps they will decide he is a pedophile too. The unspoken threat is enough to send some faint-hearted supporters of WikiLeaks scurrying for cover.

The bullet can always come later, once the victim has been successfully isolated by the smear campaign. The Gospels tell us that hardly anyone followed Jesus to Golgotha, though just a week earlier the people of Jerusalem hailed Him with hosannas. A Jewish

anti-Gospel explains that this was the result of a successful smear campaign managed by Judas, a surprisingly modernist reading for an early medieval story.

For a smear that really sticks, you need to get it from an ex-apostle. An accusation by a Caiaphas does not impress. If you are targeting a leftist, hire leftists. For example, Trotskyites were willing and useful tools against the Communists. Pseudo Anti-Zionists are currently being used to hamstring a genuine Pro-Palestinian movement. Who are the Judases of this campaign against our Julian?

* An anonymous group claiming to be “Wikileaks insiders” uploaded a new site full of “revelations” about Assange’s past and present, claiming he lives in luxury in South Africa on donated funds— though he appears almost daily in Swedish media and police reports.

* Another ex-apostle is the Icelandic politician Birgitta Jonsdottir, who is misrepresented as a “Wikileaks spokesperson”. She called on Assange “to step down” and leave Wikileaks to drift without his guidance— as if WikiLeaks is somehow separate from Assange.

* The pseudo-progressive organization Reporters Sans Frontières attacked Assange for endangering the lives of innocent American secret agents in Afghanistan. Despite its ‘leftist’ terminology, RSF is a private organization drawing funds from US government sources aiming to destabilize Cuba. It is connected to Cuban émigrés in Miami.

* Anna Ardin (the official complainant) is often described by the media as a “leftist”. She has ties to the US-financed anti-Castro and anti-communist groups. She published her anti-Castro diatribes (see [here](#) and [here](#)) in the Swedish-language publication *Revista de Asignaturas Cubanas* put out by Misceláneas de Cuba. From Oslo, Professor Michael Seltzer points out that this periodical is the product of a well-financed anti-Castro organization in Sweden. He further notes that the group is connected with Union Liberal Cubana led by Carlos Alberto Montaner whose CIA ties were exposed [here](#).

Note that Ardin was deported from Cuba for subversive activities. In Cuba she interacted with the feminist anti-Castro group Las damas de blanco (the Ladies in White). This group receives US government funds and the convicted anti-communist terrorist Luis Posada Carriles is a friend and supporter. Wikipedia [*no connection with WikiLeaks--A.B.*] quotes Hebe de Bonafini, president of the Argentine Madres de Plaza de Mayo as saying that “the so-called Ladies in White defend the terrorism of the United States.”

However we do not have to accept the single-bullet theory. Life is more complicated than that. In addition to her anti-Castro, pro-CIA streak, Anna Ardin apparently indulges in her favorite sport of male-bashing. A Swedish forum reports that she is an expert on sexual harassment and the male “master suppression techniques”. Once, as she was lecturing, a male student in the audience looked at his notes instead of staring at her. Anna Ardin reported him for sexual harassment because he discriminated against her for being a woman and because she claimed he made use of the male “master suppression technique” in trying to make her feel invisible. As soon as the student learned about her complaint, he contacted her to apologize and explain himself. Anna Ardin’s response was to once again report him for sexual harassment, again because he was using the “master suppression technique”, this time to belittle her feelings.

Ardin is apparently involved with a “Christian” Social-Democrat group. The Swedish church has a precious few male priests: what was once the struggle for female equality has ended up with men being effectively removed from service. Nowadays very few Swedish male-female couples marry in the church, or get married at all; most Swedish gay couples, however, are proud to become “man and wife” in the church. This is all good news for wealthy Swedes: deserted churches sell their properties (once enjoyed by the community) to be fenced off by the nouveau riche created by the latest privatization wave. So much for Swedish social democracy! *[This is a very minor, and limited, phenomenon.--A.B.]*

The second accuser, Sofia Wilen, 26, is Anna’ friend. Here is a [video](#) of an Assange press conference where one can see the girls together. Those present at the conference marveled at her groupie-like behavior. Though rock stars are used to girls dying to have sex with them, it is much less common in the harsh field of political journalism. Sofia worked hard to bed Assange, according to her own confession; she was also the first to complain to police. She is little known and her motives are vague. Why might a young woman (who shares her life with American artist Seth Benson) pursue such a sordid political adventure?

The brilliant Israeli writer Gilad Atzmon describes, in his funny novel *My One and Only Love*, how the secret services employ young ladies for honey-traps. Is this the case here? Perhaps it is nothing more than a case of gold digging. New legislation, in Sweden and all over Europe, has made men extremely vulnerable to extortion scams of this sort. A young Swedish woman, 26 (her name withheld) succeeded in winning over a million dollars during the course of one vacation in Greece, as reported by the Daily Telegraph. She complained of being raped. Four men were arrested, their names disclosed, and their jobs jeopardized. She went back home a millionaire, her sacred identity safely preserved. Her success begs imitation: according to an EU report, Sweden has twenty times more rape complaints than were generated by the hot-blooded Italians. Most are dismissed right away, and justly so. *[How do the authors know that?--A.B.]*

Rape is a horrible crime, and it should not be stretched to encompass minor misdemeanors and moral failings (like the failure to give an encouraging phone call the next day). Tellingly, when the complainant’s advocate was asked why the young women were unsure whether they were raped, he replied: “They are not lawyers”. Rape (like murder) is a crime that one needs no lawyers to understand. Rape is a capital crime: if the rape charges are proved false, then certainly the complainant should be charged with criminal defamation.

As for Julian Assange, we need him. We need our captain Neo, whether chaste or womanizer, in order to uncover the secret doings of our governments behind the Matrix. For our own sakes, we must all do our part to protect him from castrating feminists and secret services alike.

- *Israel Shamir can be reached at adam@israelshamir.net*

<http://www.counterpunch.org/shamir09142010.html>

Geoffrey Robertson: 'We should stand up for Assange'

Sweden in violation of European civil rights.

rixstep.com
14 Sept. 2010

LONDON — 'Mr Assange has been the victim of utterly incompetent prosecutors who have severely damaged his rights-- the rights that every person in Europe has granted to them under the European convention', says leading international human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson.

'The Australian government should carpet the Swedish ambassador and make a formal protest against the treatment of Assange. Mr Assange may have been naïve but he is not a criminal', said Robertson, suggesting that higher authorities such as the ECHR would always come to Assange's aid.

'In due course I predict that the European Court of Human Rights would uphold Assange's position and order the Swedish government to compensate him. His lawyers should already be preparing for that eventuality.'

Suspensions have grown that Swedish authorities want to lay low with the case until after national elections 19 September. But such delays ignore Assange's right to have the matter dealt with promptly and correctly.

Geoffrey Ronald Robertson QC is the founder and head of Doughty Street Chambers in London and a member of the United Nations Justice Council.

<http://rixstep.com/1/20100914,01.shtml>

Assange: Ingrid Carlqvist Speaks Out

The famous author on Sweden's crazy treatment of rape accusations.

rixstep.com
16 Sept. 2010

Poor Julian Assange. He'd been warned that higher powers were going to try to smear him and his organisation WikiLeaks but he'd never have thought the pleasant and sexually eager ladies in Sweden would run to the police and ask if he'd raped them. And he'd never have imagined the police and the prosecutor would immediately believe every word the ladies said and without a critical review of the accusations arrest him in absentia.

Today the news of Sweden's strange attitude to rape accusations spread like wildfire across the globe. Johann Binninge, chairman of Rättssäkerhetsorganisationen, was interviewed by the Washington Post, the New York Times, and CNN. BBC Radio interviewed Billy Butt, also a spokesman for 'RO', who explained to a surprised reporter that this is precisely how things work in Sweden-- a woman walks into a

police station and claims a man has raped her and immediately they rush out to catch the criminal.

'The reporter from the Washington Post thought I was joking with him when I told him how it works', said Johann Binninge. 'When he understood that I was completely serious, that you don't need more than the word of a woman for the police to arrest someone for rape, he said: ARE YOU COMPLETELY MAD? THAT'S WORSE THAN IRAQ UNDER SADDAM HUSSEIN!'

Yes, thank you, there are a few of us who are aware of that. But not the prosecutors of course. Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand definitely doesn't apologise for her arrest in absentia of Julian Assange, not even after her boss Eva Finné gave her a slap on the wrist by rescinding the warrant and immediately dismissing the accusation of rape.

I've got only one thing to say: what Julian Assange was victimised by is not an 'accident in the workplace': this is how things work in Sweden, the country that is only beat by South Africa when it comes to rape cases. Not real rapes of course, but mostly the Julian Assange variety. And hereby we may get a new name for false rape accusations-- WikiLeaks Rape.

It pleases me immensely that the international media report on Swedish simpleton madness. Thank you, thank you Julian Assange for taking as you please of the liberated Swedish women. Thank you, thank you Anna Ardin and you other as yet unnamed lady who both had sex with the world's most famous hacker and thank you, thank you for getting pissed as shit because he had sex with you both and didn't drop to a knee and propose directly after the romp in the hay.

Thank you, thank you for ringing each other and gossiping and thereafter ringing the police and asking if you possibly had been raped. Thank you, thank you prosecutor Maria Häljebo Kjellstrand for being a Pavlovian Dog: when a woman says 'rape' you immediately issue an arrest warrant without the least bit of critical review.

Thank you, thank you Eva Finné who withdrew the warrant a few hours later and thereby let the whole world understand how crazy things are here in Sweden.

If the focus in the media keeps up, this might be the best thing that could happen. Keep your fingers crossed.

• *Ingrid Carlqvist is the famous activist and author of Not Without My Sons, the true story of George Pesor's fight for justice.*

<http://rixstep.com/1/1/20100916,00.shtml>

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Date: 2010-09-17
From: Diana Johnstone

Al,

I am rather fascinated and appalled by this story. I note the following passages:

"Welcome to Sweden, Mr Assange. You should know that paying for sex is illegal here, and if you don't pay, you'll be accused of rape and molestation." [...]

The older feminists not only often are on Assanges side. They get furious when they hear younger women claiming to be feminists while having the opinion women should be treated specially for being women. That is against everything feminism normally stands for. Thus it's important to remember normal (liberal) feminism and radical feminism are not in agreement at all.

Well, I am clearly an "older feminist"-- or rather, an older woman who was always as liberated as one can reasonably be without needing a liberation movement to do it.

From my perspective, I don't see what the "sexual liberation" movement has accomplished other than to make things sordid. "Making love" has been replaced by "having sex". Back in the ancient times when people "made love", a girl could be hurt that the guy didn't call the next day, but if it's a matter of "having sex", there is no commitment implied-- supposedly both were just having a good time.

And back before "sexual liberation", no one would have found it worth comment that a very attractive, famous man slept with two women within the space of a few days. So what?

If these Swedish women think men are all so horrid, why don't they just stick to lesbianism?

The second blonde is comically offended that, after deliberately forcing Assange to pay attention to her, he goes back to paying attention to what made her interested in him in the first place-- his work.

Poor Assange, he has all my sympathy.

Diana

De : editor <editor@nnn.se>
À : Diana Johnstone
Envoyé le : Jeu 16 septembre 2010, 23h 14min 38s
Objet : More on Assange

Diana,

Here [above] is some more stuff on the Assange case, all of it to be treated with caution [as indicated by my annotations]. The Swedish blogger at "Aktivarum" is evidently on a crusade against radical feminism and the facts he adduces-- some of them quite useful-- do not appear to confirm his principal conclusion-- that it is entirely a case of feminism gone mad.

The Daily Mail, as you probably know, is a British tabloid of doubtful probity.

Julian Assange & Anders Perklev

Meet Sweden's prosecutor general. Force yourself.

*rixstep.com
17 Sept. 2010*

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's prosecutor general has been calling some of the shots from behind the curtains in the Assange scandal. He talked with both Expressen and Dagens Juridik both this week and last.

Anders Perklev was appointed prosecutor general 1 April 2008. Previously he'd been on a leave of absence from the department of agriculture to research criminal case sentencing scales.

On 3 September he spoke with Expressen to explain why the Assange case has been such a circus. Perklev revealed he'd been a part of the case almost from the beginning and that it was he who chose to tell his subordinate Mats Åhlund to find a replacement for Maria Kjellstrand who'd made a right cock-up of the case. Åhlund chose Eva Finné who was out of town relaxing in her summer cottage for the weekend.

Perklev says his intention was to make sure the case had 'sufficient resources' but admits things turned out the opposite.

Eva Finné took over the case from her summer cottage on Saturday but already on Monday was occupied with other matters in the appeals court. One of the original policemen involved in the case (Mats Gehlin) attempted in vain to reach her-- he noted in his journal that he'd almost given up. (Why no one could tell him Finné was in court, as prosecutors often are, is unknown.)

One of the women accusers contacted the police, impatient nothing was moving forward. Claes Borgström doesn't give them a chance.

'If it's true the prosecutor was busy with another case in the appeals court, then this is serious. It's important in all criminal cases that the investigation proceed speedily.'

Borgström wanted the girls interrogated again already on Monday but Finné was busy and Gehlin was not allowed to decide things like that on his own.

One of the tabloid's typically amorphous 'sources' does the old 'foot in mouth' with the following. 'Kjellstrand was right in issuing an arrest in absentia warrant. Assange didn't have a permanent address and he could have left the country.'

So far so good, Clarence-- but then you don't blurt it out to the world media so he can escape, do you?

And you don't shout 'probable cause' in rape cases involving issues with condom use unless you 1) want to incur heavy damages and 2) become the laughing stock of the solar system-- the latter of which has of course now already happened.
Shocking Realisations

Dagens Juridik also has an interview of a sort with Perklev-- which strangely goes on for a few introductory paragraphs detailing Perklev's heroic rise to power. Finally Perklev begins to utter things.

1. *'We have every reason to review how we can better deal with media pressure.'*
Why not start by making sure your staff keep their big mouths shut?
2. *'The media attention to the Assange case came out of nowhere.'*
No comment necessary.
3. *'We were reminded of the different tempo with today's media.'*
But not about your ethics of office and the Secrecy Act?
4. *'Everything happens faster on the Internet.'*
This guy can go far.

Perklev refuses to admit anyone under his command has necessarily committed a crime; he refuses to look at the Kjellstand leak to Expressen as both a felony violation of the Secrecy Act and as counterproductive to the ostensible purpose of such a drastic measure as arrest in absentia on 'probable cause' where you don't even wait an hour to hear what the story really is.

All the world needs now is to hear Perklev's going to appoint someone to appoint someone to appoint a taxpayer-funded committee to spend the next two years investigating what on earth-- if anything-- they did wrong.

Assange to Seek Damages

Julian Assange's new counsel Björn Hurtig was interviewed by Dagens Juridik 10 September.

DJ: What are your comments on the prosecutor on duty corroborating Assange was suspected of rape?

BH: It was highly irresponsible and despicable. I think this is a very clear illustration of the imbalance between the accused and the state with regard to being able to influence opinion. Someone accused of a crime can be forbidden to speak publicly but the authorities blast out their accusations and details of cases that can be damning and harm the accused. The media have enormous power and even magistrates are people who read the news and are influenced by the images conjured up. The rights of an individual don't amount to much once media frenzy takes over. Authorities have a huge responsibility, something they time and again fail at.

DJ: What are your comments on the Chancellor of Justice now looking into the matter?

BH: Of course I think that's very good. This investigation will hopefully open the debate about having the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. This fundamental principle of law is being derailed by greedy people working for the authorities. We need a show of strength to fix this. We have freedom of information to expose transgressions by our authorities-- not to point accusing fingers at individuals who haven't had their day in court.

DJ: Do you and your client plan to take legal measures and demand compensation?

BH: The number one priority right now is to get the charges dropped. Then we can discuss the harm done to my client by the actions of the authorities. Of course my client feels very aggrieved. It's a big thing when a prosecutor points out someone in connection with such a serious crime. This has had very huge consequences that have hurt my client deeply. There are different means at our disposal to get justice in this matter, one of which is through the Chancellor of Justice. Yes, we'll be seeking damages.

<http://rixstep.com/1/20100917,00.shtml>

Assange Case: Evidence Destroyed Over and Over Again

Sensational news: extraordinary Internet detective work by Göran Rudling

Rixstep.com

30 September 2010

One of the women who filed charges against Julian Assange is Anna Ardin. She stood in the elections to the community council for the social democrats and she is a public person who should be examined. So I'll publish her name.

Anna Ardin is christian, feminist, social democrat, animal rights activist, and opponent of abortion on the left political scene. She's previously been in charge of equality issues for the student union of Uppsala University-- a job she won an award for. Today she works for the Brotherhood Movement and 'burns for peace and justice... for a just, open society of solidarity'. On her own blog she describes herself:

"A political scientist, communicator, entrepreneur, and freelance writer with special knowledge within faith and politics, gender equality issues, feminism, and Latin America."

On Saturday 14 August at 14:00 she wrote the following on her Twitter account: "Julian wants to go to a crayfish party, anyone have a couple of available seats tonight or tomorrow?"

Early on the morning of Sunday 15 August (02:00) she writes again at Twitter: "Sitting outdoors at 02:00 and hardly freezing with the world's coolest smartest people, it's amazing!"

When Anna Ardin files a police complaint against Julian Assange on 20 August these tweets are removed. Why? As far as I can tell, it's not common for victims of crime to delete blogs, clean up their cellphones, and try to get witnesses to attest to things that aren't true. Why is it so important to remove these particular tweets?

If you know that the 'reported molestation' takes place on the night towards 14 August, then it all becomes easier to understand. The tweets actually indicate that Anna really liked Julian and that there had been no molestation 24 hours earlier. You can't divine in the tweets that Anna Ardin thinks Julian has a 'warped view of womanhood and can't take no for an answer'. The tweets are more an attempt by Ardin to shine in the brilliance of Julian Assange. Why else would she publish them on the Internet?

The tweets don't match Anna's story given to the police on 20 August. So she simply deletes them.

In the beginning of September, I note that Anna Ardin has two identical 'miniblogs'-- one at Twitter and the other at Bloggy.se. It looks as if Anna Ardin's tweets are posted to both blogs at the same time. The tweets that are deleted from Twitter are still visible at annaardin.bloggy.se. Anna missed the fact that she has to delete on each and every blog. Bad luck.

To see if Anna Ardin is really trying to hide her Twitter tweets, I post a comment to Sara Gunnerud's article WikiLeaks "Heroes Can Also Do Stupid Things". The article is published at the Rebella blog, a social democratic feminist blog where Anna Ardin contributes and runs the website. In my comment I mention the deleted Twitter tweets. After five days, on 13 September, my comment is reviewed and removed directly. I then post a new comment where I mention that one can read the deleted Tweets at annaardin.bloggy.se. My comment is removed directly. A few hours later the entire Bloggy.se site is taken offline. When Bloggy.se reopens at 04:00 in the morning of 14 September, the tweets deleted from Twitter are also deleted from annaardin.bloggy.se

But it's not as easy to remove things from the Internet as Anna Ardin thinks. Google takes snapshots of how web pages look-- so called caches. If you search for the cached page for annaardin.bloggy.se you can see what it looked like on 19 August. Then you can compare the page with how annaardin.bloggy.se and twitter.com/annaardin look.

As we can see, Anna Ardin is doing all she can to hide her tweets. Tweets that indicate Julian Assange is actually innocent of at least the charge of 'molestation' that he's been accused of. It looks like Anna Ardin is doing all she can to get Julian Assange convicted. By deleting and denying acquitting circumstances, she's perhaps making herself guilty of false accusation.

Swedish Penal Code Chapter 15, 7 §: A person who, otherwise than in 6 §, with prosecutors, police or other authority falsely testifies to a criminal act, provides compromising circumstances, or denies acquitting or mitigating circumstances, shall be found guilty, if authority review such a case, of false accusation to imprisonment not exceeding two years or, if the crime is petty, to a fine or imprisonment not exceeding six months."

The Assange case gets really creepy if we take everything that's happened into account.... Julian lives in Anna Ardin's flat from 11 August until 19-20 August. During this time Julian and Anna have sex. Around 18-19 August Anna gets a call from a woman wanting to speak to Julian. When Anna realises that Julian's also had consensual sex with this woman, something happens. The two women who are both christians and are connected to the Brotherhood Movement and were at the seminar at the Brotherhood Movement realise immediately that Julian doesn't have any long term serious intentions with them. They decide after discussing the matter to file complaints against Julian Assange for sexual molestation.

It might seem strange that a christian social democrat feminist would avail herself of legislation to get revenge on a man who is 'unfaithful'. When you read about Anna Ardin's post about revenge, it's no longer strange. It's completely natural. Anna Ardin has for a long time wondered how she can exact revenge on a man who dumps her, is unfaithful. When the other woman turns up, she has the opportunity to do something about her ideas.

Anna Ardin plans it all well. She gets another woman to make the actual rape accusation. A case of 'revenge by proxy'. And then she gets help from Claes Borgström who's done all he can to try to get Julian Assange put on trial, frenetically cheered on by the feminist blogs.

But the truth wins out in the end. Anna's perfect 7-Step Programme for Legal Revenge failed. One deletion too few. And the Google cache. Too bad, Anna. The ways of the Lord are truly mysterious.

I'm very surprised that christian feminist 'equality' women can so idolise a WikiLeaks hero that they do all in their power to get him into bed as soon as they have the chance. And then, when they realise he's not as interested in them as they are in him, go to the police and accuse him of rape. This demonstrates an extreme contempt for the women who are real victims of violence and sexual crimes. Their behaviour is unconscionable.

If you're a groupie at heart, why not just try to keep quiet about it? It's nothing you should spread on the net or go to the police to talk about. As things look now, Anna Ardin's carefully planned character assassination and revenge on Julian Assange amounts to nothing more than a suicide bomb on her foot. A bit unlucky for Anna that Google cache keeps track of things like an Internet god. If you're going to delete, then delete good and proper.

All that remains is to see what the preliminary investigation leads to. According to the prosecutors: "The investigation is well advanced and only a small number of investigative procedures remain to be taken before a decision."

If the prosecutors conclude that this is a case of false accusation, then hundreds of thousands of men who claim most rape complaints are false will win their argument. This will unfortunately also lead to making it much more difficult to get justice for real victims. That would be a catastrophe.

But something good will come out of this story. We are going to learn that just because you're christian, feminist, social democrat, animal rights activist, and opponent of abortion, it doesn't mean you believe in equal rights for women and men.

- *Göran Rudling, born in 1951, is the editor of Samtycke Nu/Consensus Now, a site promoting sexual self-determination that uses the motto 'it is a human right to decide for oneself when and with whom we are going to have sex'. Rudling is a frequent contributor to Newsmill where he writes about the need to introduce democratic laws that are based on sexual activities needing to be consensual to not be considered criminal.*

<http://rixstep.com/1/20101001,01.shtml>

SvD: 18 oktober 2010

Assange får inte uppehållstillstånd

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange har fått avslag på sin ansökan om uppehålls- och arbetstillstånd i Sverige.

– Vi tog beslutet i dag, säger Gunilla Wikström på Migrationsverket.

I dag beslöt Migrationsverket att inte bevilja Wikileaks frontman Julian Assange uppehålls- och arbetstillstånd i Sverige.

– Han har fått avslag, men av sekretesskäl kan jag inte säga av vilken orsak, säger Gunilla Wikström på Migrationsverket.

Hon vill inte heller säga på vilka grunder Julian Assange sökte uppehålls- och arbetstillstånd.

– Men rent generellt kan man åberopa att man vill sammanleva med någon i Sverige bosatt, att man vill studera här, arbeta här, driva företag här, eller har någon annan anknytning, säger Wikström.

Ansökan från Julian Assange inkom på elektronisk väg till Migrationsverket den 18 augusti och migrationsverket har bara haft kontakt med honom via mejl.

Många medier rapporterade i somras att Wikileaks sökt utgivningsbevis för sajten i Sverige. Det var i samband med detta som han ansökte om uppehållstillstånd. En av förutsättningarna för att kunna få ett utgivarskap är att personen har uppehållstillstånd i landet.

Men Eva Bengtsson, verksjurist vid Radio- och tv-verket uppgav för SvD för två veckor sedan att det inte nåtts av någon ansökan.

– Nej, Wikileaks har inte inkommit med någon ansökan om utgivningsbevis hos oss.

I samband med att Assange uppgav att han skulle ansöka om utgivningsbevis exploderade dock en härva av våldtäktsanklagelser runt hans person. Två svenska kvinnor anklagade honom för våldtäkt [Nej, det gjorde de inte; det var deras "rådgivare" som hittade på tanken om våldtäkt.--A.B.] samt sexuellt ofredande i samband med en föreläsning om offentliggörandet av tusentals dokument om kriget i Afghanistan.

Just nu pågår en förundersökning, men överåklagare Marianne Ny har ännu inte beslutat sig för om hon ska väcka åtal för våldtäkt, sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

– Jag har pratat med åklagaren som säger att utredningen är relativt långt gången, men att det återstår ett fåtal utredningsåtgärder. Förhoppningsvis kan hon ta ett beslut inom kort, säger Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör vid Åklagarmyndigheten.

Det är inte klart om Julian Assange befinner sig i Sverige.

• Sofia Ström

Subject: Sam Adams Award Given to JA
 Date: 24 Oct. 2010
 From: David MacMichael

It worked! Thanks to Craig Murray and Dan Ellsberg, Craig was able to present Julian Assange with this year's SAAIL award, cum customary "corner-brightener candlestick" on live TV at London press conference yesterday marking the Mother of all Leaks!

So the deed got done. There was a very early announcement of the award presentation in what looked like a Danish or Scandinavian language very early on. But I cannot dig it out now. Perhaps, Frank, you will be able to fish it out and translate it for us.

I have been trying to find other media reporting on Craig's presentation, but so far in vain except for Craig's own blog account (below) in which, in his self-effacing way, he writes critically of his own role in giving the award to Julian.

If his account is not mere self-deprecation, then it was "my bad," as the young ones say now. It appears likely that my award "citation" did not reach Craig, or Dan, or Julian's folks in time for them to have and use it at the press conference.

I think it can still be used, as part of the presentation story, but it seems highly unlikely that any mainstream media will pick it up....for a host of reasons. So, as usual, it is up to us to try to get publicity for it....and perhaps to post it wherever we can.

And, not least, the award is out there for Julian to use in any way that he might think it helps.

A huge part of our motivation, of course, was to do what we could to help JA and WikiLeaks at this key juncture. Friday evening/Saturday morning was pretty interesting experience....adrenaline going. Only slight downside was my failure to get the citation to where it needed to be on time.

MANY THANKS TO CRAIG....and to Dan, for getting it done.

Pls let me know if you have trouble fishing out the MSWord version of the Citation; I tried to shape it so it would fit on one page.

It was not clear to me whether our resourceful colleagues could come up with the "corner-brightener candlestick" in time for the press conference, so I left out of the Citation the customary wording about the candlestick. Katharine, was it your doing in obtaining the candlestick at such short notice?

Comments/suggestions, of course, welcome. Here (immediately below) is Craig's account of the presentation. If any of you see any other coverage, pls let the rest of us know. Same, of course, if you are able to place stories about the award. (Craig being something of a perfectionist, I would take his self-deprecating sentences with two grains of salt and not include them in any write-up.)

Pls see "THIS JUST IN" at bottom of this email.

Adelante!

October 23, 2010

Julian Assange and Those Wikileaks Iraq Documents

I had the great pleasure today to present the Sam Adams Award for Integrity to Julian Assange at the big Wikileaks press conference in London.

I fear I did not do this very well. In fact I was merely trying to pass the award to Dan Ellsberg to present at the end of his talk, when he introduced me to make the presentation. I felt pretty shy at holding up a press conference being seen around the world, so I virtually threw the award candlestick at Julian and got off. The consequence of my lack of composure was that few people realised who I was or what had just been given.

Those who watched the full press conference on Sky or BBC red button will have seen me. Nadira said it just looked like some nutter had got up from the audience to give Julian a present. Oh well.

As for the Wikileaks document, the relentless detail of casual and routine torture and murder is chilling. But what I find most shocking is the fact that the military did in fact keep detailed and careful count of many tens of thousands of civilian deaths in Iraq--some 70,000 are detailed. Yet all the time it was claimed, again and again and again from Blair and Bush down, that there were no official figures on civilian deaths and no estimates could be given.

If there had been a tiny bit of honesty in the official version of events, there might be some reason to consider the British and American government's claims that British and American troops are put at risk because people know the truth.

This does not put soldiers lives at risk. What it puts at risk is the reputation of lying politicians and bureaucrats who send soldiers to their deaths.

Roger that!

Here below is award Citation paste-in:

Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence

Award for 2010 to Julian Assange and WikiLeaks

It seems altogether fitting and proper that this year's award be presented in London, where Edmund Burke coined the expression "Fourth Estate." Comparing the function of the press to that of the three Houses then in Parliament, Burke said:

"... but in the Reporters Gallery yonder, there sits a Fourth Estate more important far than they all."

The year was 1787—the year the U.S. Constitution was adopted. The First Amendment, approved four years later, aimed at ensuring that the press would be free of government interference. That was then.

With the Fourth Estate now on life support, there is a high premium on the fledgling Fifth Estate, which uses the ether and is not susceptible of government or corporation control. Small wonder that governments with lots to hide feel very threatened.

It has been said: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."
WikiLeaks is helping make that possible by publishing documents that do not lie.

Last spring, when we chose WikiLeaks and Julian Assange for this award, Julian said he would accept only "on behalf of our sources, without which WikiLeaks' contributions are of no significance."

We do not know if Pvt. Bradley Manning gave WikiLeaks the gun-barrel video of July 12, 2007 called "Collateral Murder." Whoever did provide that graphic footage, showing the brutality of the celebrated "surge" in Iraq, was certainly far more a patriot than the "mainstream" journalist embedded in that same Army unit. He suppressed what happened in Baghdad that day, dismissed it as simply "one bad day in a surge that was filled with such days," and then had the temerity to lavish praise on the unit in a book he called "The Good Soldiers."

Julian is right to emphasize that the world is deeply indebted to patriotic truth-tellers like the sources who provided the gun-barrel footage and the many documents on Afghanistan and Iraq to WikiLeaks. We hope to have a chance to honor them in person in the future.

Today we honor WikiLeaks, and one of its leaders, Julian Assange, for their ingenuity in creating a new highway by which important documentary evidence can make its way, quickly and confidentially, through the ether and into our in-boxes. Long live the Fifth Estate!

Presented this 23rd day of October 2010 in London, England by admirers of the example set by former CIA analyst, Sam Adams.

THIS JUST IN: Thanks to Bob Parry, editor of Consortiumnews.com, the story, with info sheet on what SAAII is, is now posted at:

<http://www.consortiumnews.com/2010/102410a.html>
"Wikileaks and Assange Honored"
Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence

* * *

Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence

Sam Adams Associates for Integrity in Intelligence is a movement of former CIA colleagues and other associates of former intelligence analyst Sam Adams, who hold up his example as a model for those in intelligence who would aspire to the courage to speak truth to power. Sam did precisely that, and in honoring his memory, SAAII confers an award each year to a member of the intelligence profession exemplifying Sam Adam's courage, persistence, and devotion to truth—no matter the consequences.

It was Adams who discovered in 1967 that there were at least 500,000 Vietnamese Communists under arms—more than twice the number that our military in Saigon

would admit to in that “war of attrition.” Gen. William Westmoreland had put an artificial limit on the number that Army intelligence was allowed to carry on its books. And Gen. Creighton Abrams specifically warned Washington that the press would have a field day if Adam’s numbers were released, and that this would weaken the war effort.

Westmoreland’s figures were shown to be bogus in January / February 1968, when Communist troops mounted a surprise countrywide offensive in numbers that proved that Adams’ analysis had been correct. But because Sam was reluctant to go “outside channels,” the CIA and Army were able to keep the American people in the dark.

After the Tet offensive, however, Daniel Ellsberg learned that Westmoreland had asked for 206,000 more troops to widen the war into Cambodia, Laos, and North Vietnam—right up to the border with China, and perhaps beyond. In his first such act, Ellsberg leaked Sam Adams’ data to the then-independent New York Times on March 19, 1968. Dan’s timely truth telling, and that of the Times’ Neil Sheehan, won the day.

On March 25, President Johnson complained to a small gathering, “The leaks to the New York Times hurt us...We have no support for the war. This is caused by the 206,000 troop request [by Westmoreland] and the leaks...I would have given Westy the 206,000 men.” On March 31, Johnson introduced a bombing pause, opted for negotiations, and announced that he would not run for another term in November 1968.

Sam Adams continued to press for honesty and accountability but stayed “inside channels”—and failed. He was not able to see that the supervening value of ending unnecessary killing trumped the secrecy agreement he had signed as a condition of employment. Nagged by remorse, Adams died at 55 of a sudden heart attack. He could not shake the thought that, had he not let himself be diddled, the entire left wall of the Vietnam memorial might not exist. There might have been no new names to chisel into such a wall. His story is told in his memoir, *War of Numbers*.

The annual Sam Adams Award has been given to truth tellers Coleen Rowley of the FBI; Katharine Gun of British Intelligence; Sibel Edmonds of the FBI; Craig Murray, former UK ambassador to Uzbekistan; former US Army Sgt. Sam Provance, who told the truth about Abu Ghraib; Maj. Frank Grevil of Danish Army Intelligence, who exposed the complicity of then-Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen in lying about “weapons of mass destruction,” in order to “justify” invading Iraq—and was imprisoned for it; Larry Wilkerson, Col., US Army (ret.), former chief of staff to Secretary Colin Powell at the State Department, who exposed what he called the “Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal;” and Julian Assange, of WikiLeaks, who accepted the award on behalf of WikiLeaks’ sources, including those who provided documents revealing “ground truth” about the violence and other abuses in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Julian Assange and Jan Helin at Aftonbladet offices

Helin's Legacy

See if you can find it.

rixstep.com
2010-10-24

STOCKHOLM (Rixstep) — One of the first things Jules Assange did on his fateful trip to Sweden was meet with the editor in chief of the country's biggest sleaze rag, Jan Helin who offered the WikiLeaks cofounder a bimonthly column. It's an understandable mistake.

Jan Helin likes people to regard him as a sort of Pulitzer Prize candidate when in fact he peddles sleaze like few others. 'When it bleeds, it leads', Robert Redford tells Michelle Pfeiffer, but seriously-- how far can one go? One thing's certain: Jan Helin can go there-- that's a promise.

When the rest of the world is still teetering under the massive impact of the WikiLeaks Iraq War Logs with real journalists coming out one after the other with further revelations and crushing condemnations, the Swedish media-- with Jan Helin in the lead-- are doing their very best to keep this out of sight.

Today's online edition of Aftonbladet... first mentions WikiLeaks about 90% of the way down that first page. Sleeping Swedes won't ever scroll that far.

So what's more important than the Iraq War Logs? Ask Jan Helin-- check his online edition. Here are a small fraction of the headlines preceding the obscure 'Brits Run Out of Petrol-- al Qaeda Leader Escapes'.

The New Laser Man-- Shots Fired in Malmö, Brangelina's Nanny's Betrayal, Scary Pictures of Michael Douglas, Marie Loses 44 Kilograms by Dieting, PSV Eindhoven/ Feyenoord Footie Match, Photos of Idol Contestants in Underwear Spreading on Internet, Luxury Shopping Tour by Football Hero Zlatan and Helena, Anita Sleeps on Her Balcony, Flowery Eva Mendes Has Curves in the Right Places, Stopping Use of Snuff Step by Step, What Facebook's Really Worth, Winter Fashions, Chanel Fashion Show in Saint Tropez, New York Wives Do Botox in Their Kitchens, Madonna's New Toyboy, 'I Know Too Much About Her Sex Life', Research: Mothers Get to Choose Children's Names, Bangkok Preparing for Floods, Red Elephant: Brand's and Perry's Wild Wedding, Slippery Roads-- Already Multiple Accidents, 'I Lived With a Porn Addict', Keith Richard's Bentley's Secret Drug Compartments, 50 Best Burger Restaurants in the US, New York Wives' 24 Best Tips, See Egypt by Horseback, Air Ballon, Sailing Boat, Protect Your Computer for only \$5, AJA? FTW? LOL? Internet Acronym Wordlist, Christer Sandelin Forced into Rehab, Lill-Babs Injured During Filming Session, Linda Takes 14 Painkillers Per Day, Show for Princess Victoria Has Blinking Boobies, Sexy Autumn Lingerie, Police Attacked by Escaped Chimpanzee.

The article on the British helicopter running out of petrol is immediately followed by a second massive coverage of the television programme Swedish Idol.

<http://rixstep.com/1/1/20101024,00.shtml>

Assange/WikiLeaks: The Betrayal of Sweden's Cultural Elite

A pint and a bit of afterthought at the Publicist Club once it's all too late.

Olle Andersson
rixstep.com
2010-11-08

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will be summoned to Stockholm for further interrogations in the next few days. If he doesn't turn up, he'll be sought internationally, according to informed sources. Not because he is guilty of rape-- if he was, then half of Sweden's male population would be behind bars-- but because he's to be destroyed.

Assange is high on the hate list of the US: anyone with a hand in the Afghanistan/Iraq cookie jar wants him silenced for good. But instead it's the Sweden of freedom of speech and freedom of the media who fell him, in good company with the opinion builders who kept silent about the macabre sex crime investigation because a molested woman never lies.

Remaining we have an Australian who gets to continue his lonely street race without any support whatsoever from our most common social debaters. Assange is bedraggled and the reputation of WikiLeaks is dragged through the gutter. **The leftists wash their hands.** But where's the heinous crime that silences the defenders of freedom of speech? Yep, the man's had unprotected sex with two women, and in the one case he's supposed to in addition have deliberately broken a condom.

This is the only reason those two women went to the police. They wanted to know if Assange could have a contagious sexual disease and if he could be forced to submit to a medical examination. That was all. This was never about rape. And then a number of remarkable twists when the social democratic crony and solicitor Claes Borgström enters the stage with his old colleague Marianne Ny in Gothenburg. Suddenly it's about rape after all.

Or as Borgström cryptically expressed it on the radio programme Ekot: 'a deed similar to rape which would have been considered a crime a few years ago [sic]'. The debate should have lifted the roof at this point. Do Borgström and Ny claim that unprotected sex is the same as rape and this is why Assange was hung out in the media with his name and everything?

The paradoxical happened: there was a deafening silence in the cultural media, the editors held their tongues. If this had been murder, espionage, or terrorism, the media would have jumped all over each and every detail, scrutinised the claims of the prosecutor, and dissected witness testimony into smithereens. The cultural media would have hunted the prosecutor with a blowtorch.

But now it's about suspicion of rape and suddenly the subject matter is protected by taboo and uncorroborated claims are regarded as sacrosanct. No one questions why Marianne Ny is sitting there and saying nothing for over two months, letting Assange boil in the kettle without even defence attorney Björn Hurtig knowing what the accusations are about.

Just as unique is the rejection from the Migration Authority. Hurtig has been denied details of why Assange was denied residence and work permits. This is otherwise the norm only in cases of terrorism where the Swedish Security Police are involved, says Hurtig. The alarms should be going off.

At whose behest are the Migration Authority acting? Does 'official Sweden' regard Assange as a convicted criminal-- or worse: a terrorist? Aftonbladet's Åsa Linderborg is obviously not interested. She says only 'it's common for non-Europeans to be denied residence permits'-- a lie when it's about well educated self-supporting occidentals. Linderborg also thinks the drawn-out investigation is totally OK: 'sometimes investigations take a long time, there's nothing strange about that'.

Yes it can be expressed like that. But the dilemma is that the prosecutor's stalling tactics and the cowardice of the cultural elite have given ammunition to the media in the US for their propaganda war against WikiLeaks. Thus CNN could harass Julian Assange in the studio without risking a backlash and CBS news anchors could demand the guilty be punished-- in other words WikiLeaks and the rapist and not the war criminals in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The side effect became the main effect in the media. A media expert from the US tells Al Jazeera that WikiLeaks is living on borrowed time, soon it'll be over. George W Bush's former speechwriter warns in the Washington Post on 3 August that the FBI have the right to arrest Assange anywhere in the world, no matter that it's against the law. The noose is tightening whilst our cultural bosses busy themselves debating antisemitism in cartoons.

All those involved should be held up to the same yardstick. For example, pawing around the backgrounds of the two women. What's the relevance that one of the

women's been a comet in the labour movement, targeting a seat in parliament in 2014, someone who already knows everyone worth knowing in the media establishment?

The same woman who described her time with Assange as 'a wonderful night' on her website and who coquettishly boasted she'd been a classic provocateur of high US standard in Latin America-- at least until the Swedish Security Police yanked her by the ear, the one who took the initiative to go to the police?

Is it a forbidden thought in the world of Linderborg and others that the other woman might be obsessed with Assange and continued to stalk him after the 'rape' only to feel scorned and dumped? The international media reported thoroughly on the police interrogations just as with any other high profile case.

So what's the problem here at home, which toe is hurting? Julian Assange has in a few short years accomplished more for free speech than the collected Parnasse will do in a lifetime. If the defenders of free speech in Marieberg and Skanstull had done their job, we would have had everything on the table a long time ago. It's too cowardly for words. Journalists and civil courage are a rare combination. And it'll end up as it always does: a pint and a bit of afterthought at the Publicist Club once it's all too late for Assange and he's applied for asylum in Switzerland.

<http://rixstep.com/2/1/20101108,00.shtml>

Note: This is a translation of an article originally published on the website Newsmill.com, which stimulated the following (untranslated) comments:

Man börjar onekligen undra lite vilka påtryckningsmetoder USA förfogar över... effektiva tycks de vara i alla fall. Sverige är redan en bananmonarki utan fri press och med ett med västerländska mått mätt korrupt rättssystem, vilket exponeras mycket tydligt av Assange-skandalen.

— Anton Bergquist

Som sagt mitt förakt för de etablerade journalisterna i tredje statsmakten har bara ökat och ökat de senaste åren. I mina ögon ter de sig inkompetenta och fega. Inte så konstigt att vanligt folk mer och mer vänder sig till alternativa källor för information, på gott och ont!

— Petter

... Naturligtvis är SÄPO inblandat i denna affär. Det är de som ligger bakom avslaget. Den borgerliga regimen vill inte skada vårt "goda" samarbete med USA genom att erbjuda en fristad till Assange. Behövs knappast nån djupare analys för att konstatera denna självklarhet. Smartt att först misstänkliggöra Assanges heder genom att skapa misstanke om sexbrott !

— Börje Lundberg

Ja det råder väl inte minsta tvivel om att det här är riggat av nån i Sverige på uppdrag av nån som har ett intresse att Assange misskrediteras. Vi är en lydstat i beroendeställning av andra.

— EKG

<http://www.newsmill.se/artikel/2010/11/06/kultursidornas-svek-mot-assange>

Letter from Swedish Counsel Bjorn Hurtig to English co-Counsel for Julian Assange

Note Neither Mr. Assange nor Counsel, nor WikiLeaks have ever received a single written word, at any time, in any form, from Swedish authorities on the Swedish investigation against our editor.

From: Björn Hurtig
Sent: November 14, 2010
To: Jennifer
Subject: Our client

Dear Jennifer,

Enclosed You will find a copy of the documents that I have would like to send to the prosecutor. I have not been able to have the document translated in detail, but I will now tell You the most important things in it.

First of all I comment the ongoing investigation and tell the prosecutor that I have asked her several times that they should hear my client so that we can be aware of the accusations. They have said no to this initially (and by this I mean for several weeks). Furthermore I remind her that I several times have asked her to give me the evidence in the case. She has said no to this also. I then tell her that I have asked my questions informally and in writing and tell her about a formal request that I made 14 September 2010. This formal request has not yet been formally answered, which I find to be a breach of Swedish law (23:18 Rättegångsbalken). I also tell her that Sweden has not followed art 6:3 of The European Convention of the 4 november 1950, because Julian has not been informed of the accusation in detail and in his own language. Neither has he been informed of the documents in the case in his own language. This is an incorrect behavior.

I then tell her that Julian is indeed willing to participate in a hearing. But I remind her that I asked her in writing (14 September) if he was free to leave Sweden for doing buissines in other countries and that she called me and said that he was free to leave. This is important because it means that Julian has not left Sweden in trying to escape the Swedish justice.

Then I remind her that Julian and I several times have tried to give them dates when he could come to Sweden and participate in a hearing, for example I spoke to the second prosecutor Erika Leijnefors during week no. 40 and told her that Julian could participate in a hearing the 10th of October (a Sunday) or some day the following week. The prosecutor in charge (Marianne Ny) said no to this. Other times Marianne Ny has said no to our proposals due to that one of her police officers was sick or because the time did not suit her. This is also important because it shows that Julian has tried but Marianne Ny has said no.

I go on reminding her that Julian has suggested that he could participate over a phone line and from an Australian Embassy. She has said not to this also. Then I tell her that Julian is willing to participate through a video conference or to make a written statement over the accusation and the questions they may have. This is of utmost importance, since it shows his willingness to participate. **I remind her of a ruling from our Highest Court; NJA 2007 s.337, in which the court did not put a man in custody**

although he was abroad and did not come to Sweden to participate in a hearing. It was not proportional to do such a thing, since he left Sweden rightfully (just like Julian) and thus did not try to escape the Swedish justice, he was willing to participate via phone or in writing and so forth.

In the second last section of the letter I tell the prosecutor that she should think of the damage that Sweden already has done to Julian by letting his name in public. I tell her that I have heard that there is a police investigation going on about the first prosecutor who let Julian's name out in public, which shows that it is a serious matter. If the prosecutor now goes forward with a request of Julian being put in custody it is my opinion that the damage could be enormous; whatever the outcome of the trial may be. Therefore I urge her to come back to me with a proposal of when and where we could have this hearing instead of her dragging Julian in to court.

In the last section I tell her that if she proceeds with her plans of a custody trial, I want all documents. This I say because I do not trust them to give me everything.

So Jennifer, these are the main things in my letter. I hope You understand what I am writing. If not, please call me. I will not be able to take Your calls today though, since I will be busy the rest of the day. If You do not call me, please let me know a.s.a.p. if I can send the letter to the prosecutor. I would like to send it first thing tomorrow morning. You may tell me by mail.

Best regards,
Björn Hurtig

<http://www.twitlonger.com/show/71m62q>

* * *

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
The European Convention on Human Rights

ARTICLE 6

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgement shall be pronounced publicly by the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.

2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.

3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

* (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

* (b) to have adequate time and the facilities for the preparation of his defence;

* (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

* (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

* (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

<http://www.hri.org/docs/ECHR50.html#C.Art6>

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Ny: 'I Don't Want to Discuss It'

Marianne doing the Isengard two-step. The stench is overwhelming.

rixstep.com
2010/11/18

STOCKHOLM (Rixstep) — Swedish national television SVT sent reporters to the Stockholm district court and to Isengard to follow the events and interview Marianne Ny. This resulted in a two minute two second spot on the evening news. The link is below. In the interests of truth, justice, and liberty, a full transcript is provided in case the clip suddenly disappears....

http://svtplay.se/v/2238947/assange_haktades_i_sin_franvaro

SVT: Today WikiLeaks's founder Julian Assange was arrested. He is suspected of amongst other things rape and sexual molestation.

NY: Er, what happens next is that we're going to issue an international warrant to get the arrest decision executed.

SVT: The site WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange is thus arrested in absentia on probable cause suspected of rape, sexual molestation, and illegal coercion. This is about the same events that earlier in the autumn led to a preliminary investigation started by one prosecutor, dismissed by another prosecutor, and finally was brought back to life again by a third prosecutor.

NY: This means that we can continue our investigation and have an interrogation with Assange.

SVT: Is there a new event behind this?

NY: This is the same investigation that's been conducted since the preliminary investigation was reopened in the beginning of September.

HURTIG: I find the evidence too weak and I also think it's too damaging for him to be arrested. And therefore I wonder about the prosecutor's reasons for having him incarcerated.

SVT: Now the prosecutor will shortly issue a European arrest order and that means an international search. But according to the defence, the hysteria is unnecessary. They could have questioned Julian Assange when he was in the country.

HURTIG: And then he has very demanding responsibilities in his profession. We all know that. Nobody can just scoot on over here when the prosecutor beckons. They can actually try to go along with the times we propose.

SVT: Have you proposed times when he could meet and be interrogated which the prosecutor refused?

HURTIG: Affirmative.

NY: We've not been able to get him to come to an interrogation.

SVT: And you've tried?

NY: Er, I don't want to discuss the measures we have taken but I merely note that er this is the measure we need to take so we can arrive at some form of closure to this investigation.

SVT: And Assange's solicitor said earlier this evening that he will appeal the arrest.



<http://rixstep.com/1/20101119,02.shtml>

Kommentar på Newsmill

Tommy Sandström

2010-11-18

Låt mig bjuda på en av kammaråklagare Marianne Nys juridiska spetsfundigheter, som står att läsa i en rapport om kvinnofridslagen. Jag har själv suttit oskyldigt inspärrad i tre dygn anklagad för grov kvinnofridskränkning, som kan ge upp till sex års fängelse.

"Först då mannen frihetsberövas och kvinnan i lugn och ro hinner få lite perspektiv på sin tillvaro, får hon en chans att upptäcka hur hon egentligen behandlas... Marianne Ny menar att lagföringen har god effekt som skydd för kvinnan, även i de fall **gärningsmannen** åtalas men inte döms."

Hur kan en gärningsman vara en gärningsman om han är oskyldig (det vill säga inte döms)? Sverige har för länge sedan kastat bort oskuldspresumtionen och istället infört partiska förundersökningar och omvänd bevisföring. Det har vi indirekt Marianne Nys egna ord på. Anhållande och häktning används som feministisk "bestraffning" och "skydd" för de i allt för många fall falskanmälade kvinnorna.

Hur rättssäkert verkar detta på en skala från ett till tio? Och vilken slutsats bör Assange dra av detta uttalande från Marianne Ny?

Tommy Sandström

<http://www.newsmill.se/artikel/2010/11/18/julian-assange-en-fallen-ngel>

Why our editor-in-chief is busy and needs to be defended

WikiLeaks staff editorial

2010-11-18

In October 2010 Julian Assange won the Sam Adams Award for Integrity. He has also been awarded the 2009 Amnesty International Media Award and the Economist Index on Censorship Award in 2008. It is important to remember that accolades such as these do not come without tremendous hard work.

The expose of the Afghan War Diaries was a moment of media history, orchestrated by Julian Assange. He brought together The New York Times, The Guardian and Der Spiegel, three of the world's most reputable newspapers to collaborate with WikiLeaks on exposing more than 90 000 secret significant action reports by the United States relating to the war in Afghanistan. This involved a huge amount of administration in order to co-ordinate all four media partners' publishing schedules and a lot of time to carefully construct the levels of trust needed to bring together three major newspapers who were also competitors.

Since 2007 Julian, WikiLeaks and the Sunshine Press have been behind international front page stories that have changed the world. However, every story exposing abuses

by powerful organizations, whether they be from New York or Nairobi results in a counter attack. Such the importance and veracity of revelations must be defended. Immediately after the Afghan War Diaries he conducted seventy-six interviews in three days maximizing the impact of the disclosures.

It is very important for WikiLeaks to create a global platform with which to reach all corners of the earth. This demonstrates to those who wish to expose wrongdoing and misconduct that there is a way to do so without putting themselves at risk. He remains a messenger who big governments and their agencies can, and constantly do, attack while all the time keeping the source of the information published safe.

Because of the nature of the work performed by WikiLeaks both the organization and Julian Assange are constantly under attack. Their servers are under attack. Their security is under attack and their work resources and finances are under attack. This results in a lot of time-consuming administration and means working through a lot of bureaucratic steps to re-establish the efficient running of an organisation. When finances are frozen, as was the case with Money Brokers Limited in August this year (the WikiLeaks account was closed because of "watchlisting" by the US after publication of the Afghanistan documents) it resulted in many letters back and forth, instructing a legal team to administer the situation and still to date there has been no resolution. In just the last 14 days he has met with more than 9 lawyers (excluding Swedish lawyers) in defense of WikiLeaks' publishing activities, agreements and sources. Similarly, Julian Assange is subject to these sorts of attacks on a personal level.

He and WikiLeaks both have been attacked in the media by Leon Panetta, Director of the CIA, Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and highest ranking officer in the US and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates not to mention the well recognized media personalities such as Marc A. Thiessen, a former bush administration chief speech writer and currently a Washington Post columnist who wrote "Assange is a non-U.S. citizen operating outside the territory of the United States. This means the government has a wide range of options for dealing with him." Christian Whiton, a Fox News contributor, said "WikiLeaks should be declared 'enemy combatants'," indicating they should be dealt with outside the law and Jonah Goldberg, a conservative syndicated columnist asked "why wasn't Julian Assange garroted in his hotel room years ago?"

Attacks such as these create an extreme need for security and he must always be conscious and personally vigilant—a task that is both time consuming and mentally exhausting. The major government players such as the CIA and the Pentagon do not stop at just Julian but also target many WikiLeaks volunteers or associates. Two volunteers and an American WikiLeaks spokesperson have been detained and questioned in the United States along with other individuals alleged to be participant to his publishing activities such as Bradley Manning, an alleged source who is being held as a political prisoner in the United States. Mr Manning's mother's house in Wales was raided by the FBI together with local police earlier this year.

The result is a constant need for legal and political support and managing this from afar and throughout many continents is no small task. Furthermore Julian Assange does not take these matters lightly having been privy to bad experiences in the past—while working on the extra judicial assassinations taking place in Kenya, two WikiLeaks' affiliates being assassinated.

Since the false allegations made about him in Sweden this August Julian has also needed to work extremely hard at ensuring the smear campaign launched against him has not affected the WikiLeaks brand. Making many public appearances and conducting interviews is absolutely necessary not to mention maintaining relationships with media partners who are so easily affected by such events.

In spite of the attacks against him, Wikileaks successfully released the Iraq War Logs in late October— a cache of over 400 000 US military intelligence reports relating to the war in Iraq. Due to the false allegations mentioned above the management of this leak was extremely difficult. However, he successfully made new lasting relationships and expanded the media partners to include Al Jazeera, Le Monde, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, SVT and also brought in Public Interest Lawyers and NGOs such as Iraq Body Count. The documents' release was increased to television as well as print media with two full-length documentaries being commissioned.

Julian Assange also readily offers to speak at many public events; especially those he feels will have a resonating effect on people's rights and liberties, ideals he holds close to his heart. Recently he presented at the United Nations Universal Periodic Review against the United States in Geneva where he offered up evidence from the Iraq War logs of the human right abuses such as the 109 000 deaths, 185 000 casualties, 66 000 civilian deaths and countless cases of torture conducted by America. The speech he gave lasted over two hours alone and the preparation for such an event is mammoth.

During his stay in Geneva the Swiss government was so fearful for his personal security that they offered two International Police and two Swiss Police as his bodyguards for the duration, yet another indication of the severity of the danger he encounters on a daily basis. In late September he spoke in London for Index on Censorship regarding Security and censorship in the age of WikiLeaks.

In the coming months Julian Assange aims to carry on the invaluable work and service that WikiLeaks offers the public. In due course he intends on providing information, as yet publically unknown. He has stifled many illegal attacks and remains victorious on all legal attacks against WikiLeaks.

<http://www.twitlonger.com/show/71lm5i>

Assange lawyer: Sweden breached Human Rights law

Charges never put in writing

*www.thinq.co.uk
18 November 2010*

Julian Assange's lawyer has slammed Swedish authorities' request for a warrant to arrest the WikiLeaks founder, denying that his client has refused to cooperate with investigations and claiming that prosecutors have never put charges in writing.

Björn Hurtig, Assange's Swedish lawyer, makes the extraordinary claims in a letter to his English-speaking co-counsel, made public by WikiLeaks in a link tweeted on micro-blogging site Twitter.

Hurtig claims Director of Public Prosecutions, Marianne Ny, who today made a formal request for a court order authorising Assange's arrest, has refused repeated requests to hand over the evidence against Assange. He claims to have made a formal request for the documents in writing on 14th September, which has so far gone unanswered-- in breach, he says, of Swedish law.

He also claims that Sweden is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights, having failed to adequately inform Assange of the accusations against him in his native language.

He also accuses Ny of refusing several offers by Assange to meet to discuss the charges-- in stark contradiction to claims made earlier today by Swedish authorities that they were seeking an arrest warrant due to the Australian journalist and activist's failure to cooperate with their enquiries.

Hurtig claims today's attempt to obtain an arrest warrant is illegal, because Assange has not attempted to evade justice. He claims Ny gave her consent to his client leaving the country on business during a phone call in September, in response to a formal request from Hurtig.

Since then, says Hurtig, Assange has offered to return to Sweden to talk to prosecutors in a private hearing, but these offers too have been refused.

<http://www.thinq.co.uk/2010/11/18/assange-lawyer-sweden-breached-human-rights-law/>

The Allegations Against Him are False

Statement by Julian Assange's Counsel Mark Stephens

November 18, 2010

On the morning of 21 August 2010, my client, Julian Assange, read in the Swedish tabloid newspaper Expressen that there was a warrant out for his arrest relating to allegations of "rape" involving two Swedish women.

However, even the substance of the allegations, as revealed to the press through unauthorized disclosures do not constitute what any advanced legal system considers to be rape; as various media outlets have reported "the basis for the rape charge" purely seems to constitute a post-facto dispute over consensual, but unprotected sex days after the event. Both women have declared that they had consensual sexual relations with our client and that they continued to instigate friendly contact well after the alleged incidents. Only after the women became aware of each other's relationships with Mr. Assange did they make their allegations against him.

The warrant for his arrest was rightly withdrawn within 24 hours by Chief prosecutor Eva Finne, who found that there was no "reason to suspect that he has committed rape." Yet his name had already been deliberately and unlawfully disclosed to the press by Swedish authorities. The "rape" story was carried around the world and has caused Mr. Assange and his organization irreparable harm.

Eva Finne's decision to drop the "rape" investigation was reversed after the intervention of a political figure, Claes Borgstrom, who is now acting for the women. The case was given to a specific prosecutor, Marianne Ny.

The only way the accused and his lawyers have been able to discover any substantive information regarding the investigation against him has been through the media. Over the last three months, despite numerous demands, neither Mr. Assange, nor his legal counsel has received a single word in writing from the Swedish authorities relating to the allegations; a clear contravention to Article 6 of the European Convention, which states that every accused must "be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him". The actions by the Swedish authorities constitute a blatant and deliberate disregard for his rights under the Convention.

We are now concerned that prosecutor Marianne Ny intends to apply for an arrest warrant in an effort to have Mr. Assange forcibly taken to Sweden for preliminary questioning. Despite his right to silence, my client has repeatedly offered to be interviewed, first in Sweden, and then in the UK (including at the Swedish Embassy), either in person or by telephone, videoconferencing or email and he has also offered to make a sworn statement on affidavit.

All of these offers have been flatly refused by a prosecutor who is abusing her powers by insisting that he return to Sweden at his own expense to be subjected to another media circus that she will orchestrate. Pursuing a warrant in this circumstance is entirely unnecessary and disproportionate. This action is in contravention both of European Conventions and makes a mockery of arrangements between Sweden and the United Kingdom designed to deal with just such situations.

This behavior is not a prosecution, but a persecution. Before leaving Sweden Mr. Assange asked to be interviewed by the prosecution on several occasions in relation to the allegations, staying over a month in Stockholm, at considerable expense and despite many engagements elsewhere, in order to clear his name. Eventually the prosecution told his Swedish lawyer Bjorn Hurtig that he was free to leave the country, without interview, which he did.

Our client has always maintained his innocence. The allegations against him are false and without basis. As a result of these false allegations and bizarre legal interpretations our client now has his name and reputation besmirched. Thousands of news articles and 3.6million web pages now contain his name and the word "rape". Indeed, three out of four webpages that mention Mr. Assange's name also now mention the word "rape"—a direct result of incompetent and malicious behavior by Swedish government prosecutors.

My client is now in the extraordinary position that, despite his innocence, and despite never having been charged, and despite never receiving a single piece of paper about the allegations against him, one in ten Internet references to the word "rape" also include his name. Every day that this flawed investigation continues the damages to his reputation are compounded.

Mark Stephens
Finers Stephens Innocent
<http://www.fsilaw.com>

SvD: 19 november 2010

Advokaten: "Jag har aldrig varit med om något liknande"

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange är nu efterlyst i hela världen. Men han har överklagat sin häktning till Svea hovrätt. Mark Stephens, Julian Assanges brittiske advokat, säger att häktningsbeslutet var "fullständigt onödigt", eftersom Julian Assange vid upprepade tillfällen har erbjudit att låta sig förhöras. Tingsrättens beslut att häkta Julian Assange har överklagats.

– Jag sitter och skriver på det nu, sa advokat Björn Hurtig när SvD talade med honom på fredagseftermiddagen.

I överklagandet skriver advokat Björn Hurtig att Assange vid flera tillfällen framfört att han ställer sig positiv till att delta i förhör och att han själv föreslagit flera tänkbara datum. Men inget av dessa datum har godtagits av åklagaren, vid ett tillfälle med förklaringen att en av utredarna var sjuk.

"Det ska dock hållas i minnet att Julian Assange är en mycket upptagen man med engagemang över hela världen", skriver Hurtig.

Innan Assange lämnade landet frågade han åklagaren om det fanns något hinder för det och det fanns det inte, enligt en telefonkontakt. Då fanns inte heller något önskemål om förhör. Assange lämnade alltså inte landet för att undkomma lagföring eller straff, skriver Hurtig.

Halva överklagandet har belagts med sekretess av tingsrätten då det rör innehållet i utredningen.

Mark Stephens, Julian Assanges brittiske advokat, säger att häktningsbeslutet var "fullständigt onödigt", eftersom Julian Assange vid upprepade tillfällen har erbjudit att låta sig förhöras. Först under de 40 dagar han stannade i Sverige efter polisanmälan. Sedan på svensk mark i Storbritannien i form av den svenska ambassaden, samt även på flera andra sätt, som genom en videokonferens.

– Det här är normala sätt att hålla förhör även när det gäller brott som mord eller terrorism, så vi kan inte förstå varför åklagaren agerar så här, säger Assanges brittiska advokat Mark Stephens till SvD.se.

– Jag har arbetat som advokat i 30 år och jag har aldrig varit med om något liknande, inte ens i fråga om kontakter med tredje världen. Det känns som om Marianne Ny försöker att komplicera saker och ting, samt få uppmärksamhet.

Stephens säger att häktningsbeslutet till att börja med går att överklaga i två instanser i Sverige. Sedan även i Magistrates court i England om och när ärendet hamnar där, eftersom den häktade måste gå igenom ett utlämningsförhör innan en utlämning kan ske. Om domstolen begär utlämning kan personen överklaga beslutet.

Hur ser gången ut i Storbritannien vid en internationell efterlysning?

– När arresteringsordern skickas till Europol i London, som sedan kontaktar vår advokatbyrå. Efter det hamnar arresteringsordern på International arrest department vid Scotland Yard, säger Mark Stephens.

– Det tar minst fem arbetsdagar.

Varför vägrar Julian Assange att åka till Sverige?

– Det handlar om mediacirkusen som han utsätts för. Men det viktigaste skälet är att det är svårt och komplext för Julian Assange att byta land. Det var ett av skälen till att han i första hand väntade i 40 dagar i Sverige på de här förhören. Han är övervakad av bland annat Pentagon och olika säkerhetstjänster

En begäran om att Assange ska efterlysas internationellt kom i dag från åklagaren till IPO, Rikskriminalens enhet för internationellt polissamarbete.

– Vi har kvalitetssäkrat den och håller nu på att översätter den till engelska. Den kommer att gå ut under eftermiddagen, säger polisintendent Tommy Kangasvieri till TT.

En internationell efterlysning läggs ut i tre system; det svenska, Schengensystemet SIS och Interpol. På frågan hur lång tid det brukar ta innan en efterlyst person grips svarar Kangasvieri:

– Det kan gå ganska fort.

Det finns tre vanliga sätt för polisen i det land där den efterlyste befinner sig att få tag på honom. Det enklaste är om vederbörande finns registrerad på någon adress i landet då man bara åker dit och hämtar honom. Många åker dit när de blir stoppade i trafikkontroller och deras körkort körs mot polisens register. Är de efterlysta kan de gripas på plats.

– Om de försöker lämna landet med flyg så säger det pling i systemet när deras pass kontrolleras, säger Kangasvieri.

TT: Assange avser ju överklaga häktningen i eftermiddag-- hur gör ni om hovrätten kommer fram till att han inte ska häktas?

– Då återkallar vi efterlysningen helt enkelt, säger Kangasvieri.

• *Sofia Ström*

WikiLeaks' Julian Assange to fight order for arrest

Channel 4
19 November 2010

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is to challenge a Swedish prosecutor's "bizarre and exotic" request for an international arrest warrant, his lawyer tells Channel 4 News.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to challenge Swedish prosecutor's call for an international arrest warrant to be issued (Image: Reuters)

Mr Assange's lawyers are to launch an appeal after a Swedish court yesterday ordered the detention of Mr Assange on suspicion of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion.

Mark Stephens, Julian Assange's UK-based lawyer, claimed to Channel 4 News that the prosecutor "jumped ahead" in her call for an arrest warrant, which is subject to an appeal in Sweden first.

Mr Stephens declined Channel 4 News an interview with Mr Assange directly on the basis that the prosecutor has not yet given Mr Assange details of the allegations against him, nor the evidence. He said Mr Assange has repeatedly asked to meet her and face police questioning.

"It makes it nigh on impossible to answer her. It is highly irregular. I have never seen this happen before," Mr Stephens said. "She is deliberately poisoning the media well by portraying Julian as a rapist who's running from justice," he added.

Prosecutor Marianne Ny told the Swedish press however that she was not aware of Mr Assange's willingness to meet, adding that "the district court shared our opinion that there is flight risk in this case".

Mr Stephens, a partner at Finers Stephens Innocent, said Ms Ny's "cynical ploy" is in breach of Swedish laws. "The co-counsel was not even told what the allegations were until they stood up in court yesterday," he added.

Mr Stephens claims there is an attempt to "disadvantage" Mr Assange by running a smear campaign against the WikiLeaks founder, who was responsible for the largest ever leak of classified Iraq war files last month.

The 39-year-old Australian has a team of more than 160 Pentagon staff focusing on his activities, Mr Stephens said, alongside security staff from Britain's own GCHQ, MI5 and MI6.

The precise nature of the allegations remain ambiguous Mr Stephens said, as under Swedish law the sexual offences detailed could be anything from a lewd comment or a grope, to worse.

While Ms Ny could not be reached for comment, a statement on the Swedish Prosecution Authority's website reads: "Due to the ongoing investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor cannot at the moment give more information concerning the suspicions or which investigation matters have been conducted".

Mr Stephens said the team of lawyers working on Mr Assange's behalf have over a century of legal experience between them and "not one of us have ever come across a case even in the Third World where the prosecution have declined to give information on the allegations or meet".

While he would not say where in the world Mr Assange is right now, it is understood he was in the UK earlier this week and had informed UK officials of his presence in the country.

Mr Assange remains willing to meet Ms Ny, Mr Stephens said. "For all the Swedish taxpayers' money she has spent on getting InterPol etc involved, she could have hired a private jet and met Julian by now," he added.

<http://www.channel4.com/news/wikileaks-julian-assange-to-fight-order-for-arrest>

Julian Assange to appeal Swedish arrest ruling

Submitted by admin

W.L. Central

2010-11-19

Attorney Mark Stephens tells AFP that Julian Assange intends to challenge the Swedish ruling, Björn Hurtig files appeal in Sweden, and the prosecution is up to more shenanigans.

AFP / ABC News:

"Stephens told AFP the decision by the court in Stockholm was "still a little premature because the Swedish process hasn't finished its course— there are still appeals (to be made) in Sweden." [...] Stephens blasted the Swedish prosecutor, saying that Thursday's hearing was the first time Assange's lawyers had heard the full details of the charges since the allegations were made public in August."

Svenska Dagbladet

SvD carries a similar story referring to Mark Stephens's statement. It also quotes Julian Assange's Swedish attorney Björn Hurtig saying that "There is no right to detain someone just because you want to interview that person whenever you want," and that he had just now been given access to the dossier for the first time.

SvD also carries a surprising statement by prosecutor Marianne Ny that Julian Assange "had been charged in absentia since the end of September," but she has "no further comments." If the prosecution office's timing of their case updates was already highly suspect, this makes it rather clear that a plan had been in place all along.

Rixstep

"Ny refuses to explain why she didn't take Assange up on previous offers from the WikiLeaks founder, why she has such blatant disregard for international law, who is pulling her strings, or if it's accepted praxis in Sweden to invite people to meetings with international arrest orders when they've already tried to meet you and you're the one always refusing."

Prosecution update:

In the meantime, the prosecutor's office is playing games again, saying they "will not announce the exact date for the international arrest warrant for Julian Assange, nor which other measures will be taken." The statement was available here, but has in the meantime mysteriously disappeared. Cryptome has the screenshots. (Thanks to @_anachronisme for pointing that out.)

Marianne Ny was also interviewed by SVT, where she avoided answering whether there are any new facts in the case that prompted this action. Please see the English transcript [here](#). Link to original video included in the post.

Le Monde

Björn Hurtig tells AFP he has filed an appeal against the warrant. An appellate court will be expected to make a decision relatively quickly.

<http://wcentral.org/node/321>

SvD: 20 november 2010

Brittisk advokat sågar överåklagare

Ännu är Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange inte gripen. Och överåklagare Marianne Ny avfärdar den rejäla sågning Assanges brittiska advokat utsätter henne för.

- Hon verkar mera ägna sig åt förföljelse än åt åklagarverksamhet och verkar inte särskilt intresserad av att nå fram till sanningen, säger advokat Mark Stephens till TT.

Assange häktades i sin frånvaro i Stockholms tingsrätt på torsdagen, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång. Men hans advokater har skickat in ett ännu inte behandlat överklagande av häktningen till Svea hovrätt.

En internationell efterlysning lades också ut på fredagskvällen. Därmed är Assange efterlyst i Sverige, i Schengenunionen och i övriga världen. Senast i torsdags var Assange i London. Men ännu finns inga uppgifter om gripande.

- Får vi reda på en specifik adress kommer vi självklart göra vad vi kan men ännu har vi inget hört om den här specifika individen, säger Eddie Townsend, presstalesman för brittiska polismyndigheten Scotland Yard.

Stephens upprepar att advokaterna har givit Ny flera ännu stående erbjudande att få förhöra Assange på svenska ambassaden i London, eller via videolänk-- men att Ny avvisat förslagen utan motivering.

Enligt Stephens var Assange även kvar länge i Sverige för att kunna förhöras, och att Ny godkände att han lämnade landet. Inte heller har advokaterna fått detaljer i bevisningen. Därför blir det omöjligt att bemöta anklagelserna-- ett brott mot svensk och internationell lag, enligt Stephens.

Han uppger att han arbetat i totalitära stater i Afrika.

- Inte ens där har jag sett en åklagare bete sig så exotiskt, ovanligt och på ett sätt som är så juridiskt irrationellt.

I fråga om erbjudanden om förhör vill Ny inte säga så mycket, eller om kontakterna med advokaterna.

-- Och jag kan av hänsyn till utredningen och den som berörs av den inte heller gå in på de närmare omständigheterna.

Hon noterar dock att tingsrätten, som fått all information i ärendet, delat hennes bedömning av flyktfaran. Ny säger vidare att advokaterna fått den mängd information, och vid den tid, som är typisk för sådana ärenden.

-- Det enda jag kan säga är att vi har bedrivit den här utredningen på det normala sättet.

TT

Borgström & Quick

A tale of how a political insider cynically exploits the system, taxpayers, and innocents for ego and profit.

rixstep.com
22 Nov. 2010

Thomas Quick is actually Sture Ragnar Bergwall. His name was changed in 2002 after a series of trials over an eight year period (1994 - 2001) involving Claes Borgström.

The trials involved eight (8) murders Quick confessed to. The verdicts in the trials have since been overturned as there was no evidence whatsoever and the only witness was Quick himself.

Quick has a history of mental illness and has repeatedly been hospitalised in mental institutions. He was called 'The Säter Man' in the media, a reference to the Säter hospital that had taken care of him.

Quick withdrew his previous testimony in a documentary sent in Swedish national television in December 2008. Prosecutor Eva Finné was called in to review the case. Finné threw out the verdict and things started unraveling for certain individuals.

Following is an account by investigative journalist Maria Wilhelmson published 14 January 2006.

We at Aftonbladet have for some time been in possession of articles that cast doubt on the claim Thomas Quick is a serial killer. Something that should also be called into question is the influence of Quick's solicitor Claes Borgström in getting his mentally ill client convicted of multiple murders without a shred of evidence.

The guilt of Thomas Quick has also been questioned earlier-- by journalist Dan Larsson and by criminal investigator Jan Olsson who left a murder investigation in protest. He thought there was an illicit interaction between the head interrogator and Thomas Quick. Quick was given help to 'remember correctly' when

reconstructing the crimes. Several of the parents of Quick's alleged victims don't believe he is guilty.

Quick's first solicitor gave up and quit after two years. He said the defence worked 'backwards'. After having worked all his life to defend his clients, it was suddenly the other way around in the Quick case. The prosecution and defence cooperated to get the accused convicted. The judicial process was derailed.

Thomas Quick is mentally ill and a mythomaniac. He has confessed to over thirty (30) murders, even murders of people who are still alive. He starts confessing to murders several years after they've been committed, in connection with his imminent release from a mental institution. Maybe he believed he had murdered or maybe he just didn't want to leave the security of his institutional life.

And because he's sick, he's not sentenced to prison but to continue living at the same institution (Säter) as before.

It's quite common that disturbed people take on crimes they've not committed. That things went so far in the Quick case that he was convicted of eight murders is a scandal. Facts and circumstances that hinted at his innocence exist but they have been ignored.

Someone who is especially to blame for what happened is our current equality minister Claes Borgström who took on the case after Quick's first solicitor. Richly compensated with taxpayer money for several years, Claes Borgström failed to look after the best interests of his mentally disturbed client.

I've reviewed the investigation of the 1998 murder of Israeli Yehon Levi. Seven years later in 1995 Quick takes on the unsolved murder after it's been featured in the media. He's convicted of the murder in 1997.

I've seen the video of the first reconstruction of the events at the place of the murder. It was made on 20 May 1996 and Quick remembers everything incorrectly. A half year later there's a new reconstruction. For six months Quick and the head interrogator have several conversations and Quick's memory works a lot better the second time around.

An example of Quick's poor memory is when he can't remember what weapon he used for the murder. He suggests a crowbar, a tyre cross, a car jack, a rock, a shovel, an axe, and a log before he gets it right-- a cudgel. The psychological explanation offered was that he had a hard time approaching the terrible memories. But if you study the interrogation and the reconstruction it's apparent he remembers things that can't be proven-- feelings and moods-- but not verifiable facts.

Claes Borgström dropped out of the case when he was appointed equality ombudsman. Quick announced in an op-ed in DN.se that he didn't want to help solve any more murders. With the help of Claes Borgström, a psychically ill individual has been convicted of eight murders with no evidence whatsoever and been branded as one of Sweden's worst criminals ever. And of course if he's innocent then the real murderers are still on the loose and nobody's looking for them.

Claes Borgström did not want to respond to the criticism directed at him for his representation of Thomas Quick but he'll get another chance. And how will the

Swedish bar association rule that a defence solicitor should behave when a mentally ill client wants to confess to crimes he's not committed?

Note: Borgström decided to preempt the bar investigation by filing a complaint against himself in April of this year. Months later (but before the Assange scandal) the conviction of Thomas Quick was overturned by none other than Eva Finné. Small world. The pieces of the puzzle are finally falling into place.

<http://rixstep.com/2/1/20101122,02.shtml>

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SvD: 1 december 2010

Assanges efterlysning ifrågasätts

Julian Assanges svenske advokat Björn Hurtig är mycket förvånad över att Interpol gått ut med en så kallad "red notice", det vill säga gjort australiern till en av världens mest eftersökta personer.

- Det är väldigt förvånande att Interpol vidtar så extrema åtgärder för något som hovrätten sagt är en våldtäkt av mindre allvarlig art. Detta känns löjeväckande, säger Hurtig, som tror att det finns andra motiv bakom beslutet och åklagare Marianne Nys vägran att låta Assange ställa upp på ett förhör via videolänk eller på en svensk ambassad.

- Det måste finnas något annat bakom det här. Det är min spontana reaktion. Och det handlar förstås om Wikileaks. Sedan får var och en dra sina egna slutsatser, säger Björn Hurtig.

Advokat Hurtig har vid häktningsförhandlingarna mot Assange i tingsrätten och hovrätten föreslagit åklagare Marianne Ny att hans klient skulle få ställa upp på förhör utomlands.

- Men hon vägrar. Hon säger att det handlar om ett så speciellt mål att han måste inställa sig personligen. Det är ju löjligt, han ska ju inte granska bilder på skador eller något annat. Jag vet katten om de inte är ute efter att få hans DNA. Det är ju något som känns märkligt i det här målet, säger Hurtig.

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange efterlyses över hela världen av Interpol.

Interpol meddelade i dag att man uppmanat medlemsländerna att gripa Assange med anledning av den svenska efterlysningen då han på sannolika skäl misstänks för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång.

Åklagare Marianne Ny utfärdade 20 november en efterlysning av Assange som Rikskriminalpolisen lade ut i tre system; det svenska, Schengensystemet SIS samt Interpol.

Julian Assange häktades den 18 november i sin frånvaro av Stockholms tingsrätt som på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt i augusti i Enköping, tre fall av sexuellt ofredande i Stockholm och Enköping och ett fall av olaga tvång i Stockholm.

Häktningen överklagades till Svea hovrätt som avslog överklagan. Hovrätten justerade dock brottsrubriceringarna något. Ett fall av sexuellt ofredande underkändes och togs bort samtidigt som hovrätten graderade ned misstankegraden för våldtäkt till ett mindre grovt brott.

Assanges advokat Björn Hurtig förklarade efteråt att han var "lite nöjd" med hovrättens beslut men valde ändå att överklaga det till Högsta domstolen (HD).

Advokatens inlägga kom till HD i går och ett beslut från domstolen kan komma tidigast på eftermiddagen.

Som skäl för att HD bör pröva häktningen av Assange åberopar advokat Björn Hurtig flera omständigheter i fallet.

Advokaten ifrågasätter om Assange kan häktas på grund av flyktfara eftersom han inte lämnat landet för att hålla sig undan den svenska polisen. Enligt Björn Hurtig var polisen till en början inte intresserad av att förhöra Assange och därmed var det fritt fram för honom att lämna landet. Han hävdar också att det var polisen själv som försatte sig i den situation som nu råder.

Björn Hurtig framhåller att Assange tidigt var villig att medverka i ett telefonförhör.

Om Sveriges högsta domstol upphäver häktningsbeslutet mot Julian Assange faller Interpols grund för den globala arresteringsordern bort. Då skulle man kunna räkna med att USA ber Interpol att låta ordern vara kvar, eftersom amerikanska myndigheter vill ha tag på Wikileakschefen.

Men experter som Reuters talat med ifrågasätter om det skulle gå att få Assange fälld i en USA-domstol och anser att myndigheterna står inför "oöverstigliga" hinder om de vill ha honom dömd.

- Det skulle bli mycket svårt för den amerikanska regeringen att åtala Assange för det han gjort, säger Mark Zaid, försvarsadvokat och specialist på fall om underrättelsetjänster och spionage.

Sammanlagt tre experter på amerikansk spionlagstiftning uppger för nyhetsbyrån att det inte skulle räcka för en åklagare att enbart bevisa att Assange har varit i kontakt med företrädare för en främmande makt, utan att det också krävs bevis för att han haft för avsikt att leverera hemligt material till den.

TT-AFP

AB: 2010-12-01

Sverige bakom offentlig efterlysning av Assange

Mäktiga intressen vill att wikileaks grundare grips

Julian Assange är en jagad man. USA och andra nationer har ett stort intresse av att han grips. Sverige ligger bakom att den internationella efterlysningen av Julian Assange blivit offentlig.

– Utan en begäran från Sverige hade vi inte ändrat statusen på efterlysningen, säger Interpols presstalesman i Lyon.

Fram till i går var Sveriges önskemål att den internationella arresteringsordern mot wikileaks grundare för misstankar om våldtäkt inte skulle vara offentlig.

Nu är den offentlig och tillgänglig för alla.

Tommy Kangasvieri är biträdande chef för Internationellt polissamarbete vid Rikspolisstyrelsen.

– I och med att åklagaren gått ut med den informationen offentligt i Sverige så har vi kommit överens med Interpol att de kan lägga ut detta på sin officiella hemsida, säger han. Vi gör det för att få in fler tips från allmänheten.

Interpol förnekar att man utsatts för några påtryckningar utifrån att göra Assanges efterlysning offentlig. Men av lätt insedda skäl finns det många som vädrar en konspiration här.

Även om Interpol inte har någon "most wanted list" är den svenska efterlysningen är ett viktigt vapen för dem som vill att Assange grips. Utan anklagelserna om våldtäkt under ett besök i Stockholm i augusti skulle wikileaksgrundaren vara helt fri att röra sig runtom i världen. Nu riskerar han att gripas så fort han försöker passera en gräns.

Onekligen en försvårande omständighet för en person som redan är jagad av mäktiga intressen.

Våldtäktsanklagelserna har ingenting med publiceringen av de hemliga dokumenten att göra men om Assange grips så kan andra länder begära honom utlämnad om han misstänks för andra brott där. Därmed inte sagt att Sverige eller något annat land där han grips automatiskt lämnar ut honom.

Något formellt åtal har ännu inte väckts mot Assange i USA men en brottsundersökning har inletts efter publiceringen av de senaste dokumenten. De som ligger bakom kommer att åtalas, enligt USA:s justitieminister.

Tunga maktspelare som Hillary Clinton hävdar att wikileaks offentliggörande av hemliga dokument är illegalt. Den konservative kongressmannen Peter King vill att Assange terroriststämplas och att USA använder "varje offensiv kapacitet som regeringen förfogar över för att stoppa ytterligare skadliga offentliggörandet av wikileaks".

Den välkände konservative talkshowvärden Bill O'Reiley tycker att den som är ansvarig för att dokumenten läckts ska avrättas alternativt fängslas på livstid.

Med andra ord är det inte konstigt att Assange gått under jorden och lever på hemlig ort.

När Daniel Ellsberg 1971 läckte ut den så kallade Pentagonrapporten om USA:s krigföring i Vietnam drog nära medarbetare till president Richard Nixon upp planer på hur han skulle drogas, misshandlas och eventuellt mördas.

Även om det inte finns några belegg för att USA den här gången planerar några "dirty tricks" så finns det mycket starka intressen som vill sätta stopp för wikileaks verksamhet.

Ur Julian Assange ögon är det fullt förståeligt att han vidtar försiktighetsåtgärder.

• *Wolfgang Hansson*

Sweden case: The lawyers speak up

Submitted by admin
W.L. Central
 2010-12-02

London-based lawyer Mark Stephens spoke with The Guardian: "Comparing the Swedish prosecutor to Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria, Stalin's notorious security chief, Mark Stephens said "neither Mr Assange nor his lawyers have been provided any further information beyond that reported in the press."

He continued: "This appears to be a persecution and a prosecution. It is highly irregular and unusual for the Swedish authorities to issue a red notice in the teeth of the undisputed fact that Mr Assange has agreed to meet voluntarily to answer the prosecutor's questions. Mr Assange has repeatedly sought meetings with the prosecutrix— both in Sweden and subsequently—in order to answer her questions and clear his name. It is relevant that Mr Assange sought permission from the prosecutrix to leave Sweden and she gave him her permission. Since leaving Sweden Mr Assange has continued to seek meetings with the prosecutrix, but his requests have either been ignored or met with a refusal."

He added: "At this point in time, we have no evidence pointing to a link between these allegations from August and the issue of the Interpol alert just two days after the WikiLeaks first release of US diplomatic cables. However, it is highly unusual for a red notice warrant to be issued in relation to the allegations reported as having been made, since Swedish law does not require custodial orders in relation to the allegation— indeed to our knowledge this is a unique action by the Swedish prosecuting authorities in applying for a red notice on the basis of these allegations.

"We are also investigating whether the prosecutor's application to have Mr Assange held incommunicado without access to lawyers, visitors or other prisoners— again a

unique request—is in any way linked to this matter and the recent, rather bellicose US statements of an intention to prosecute Mr Assange."

The Guardian also refers to Stephens's statements to The Times arguing that the arrest warrant issued was invalid: "The arrest warrant has been issued in circumstances where Assange has an outstanding appeal in Sweden," Stephens said in the Times, while a police source was quoted as saying Assange's warrant was "not a properly certified warrant so we can't act on it."

Stephens argued that although Assange was originally wanted on a charge of rape, this had been thrown out after a partially successful appeal and which meant that Swedish law did not allow for another arrest warrant for current allegations.

He said British police had probably not taken any action against Assange because the warrant was issued incorrectly rather than because they didn't know where he was.

"The sole ground for the warrant is the prosecutor's blatantly false allegation that he is on the run from justice: he left Sweden lawfully and has offered himself for questioning. An appeal against this decision was filed on Monday and is pending," Stephens said....

<http://w1central.org/node/424>

When it comes to Assange rape case, the Swedes are making it up as they go along

Melbourne barrister James D. Catlin acted for Julian Assange in London in October.

*James D. Catlin
Crikey (Australia)
2 December 2010*

Apparently having consensual sex in Sweden without a condom is punishable by a term of imprisonment of a minimum of two years for rape. That is the basis for a reinstitution of rape charges against WikiLeaks figurehead Julian Assange that is destined to make Sweden and its justice system the laughing stock of the world and dramatically damage its reputation as a model of modernity.

Sweden's Public Prosecutor's Office was embarrassed in August this year when it leaked to the media that it was seeking to arrest Assange for rape, then on the same day withdrew the arrest warrant because in its own words there was "no evidence". The damage to Assange's reputation is incalculable. More than three quarters of internet references to his name refer to rape. Now, three months on and three prosecutors later, the Swedes seem to be clear on their basis to proceed. Consensual sex that started out with a condom ended up without one, ergo, the sex was not consensual.

For three months Assange had been waiting in vain to hear whether media statements by and for the two female "victims" that there was no fear or violence were going to be embellished so the charges might be carried forward due to greater seriousness. Such

statements would stop a rape charge in any Western country dead in its tracks. Rape is a crime of violence, duress or deception. You can rape someone by deluding them into thinking you are someone else or by drugging them or by reason of their young age but essentially it's a crime of violence.

The women here are near to and over 30 and have international experience, some of it working in Swedish government embassies. There is no suggestion of drugs nor identity concealment. Far from it. Both women boasted of their celebrity connection to Assange after the events that they would now see him destroyed for.

That further evidence hasn't been concocted to make the charges less absurd does Sweden no credit because it has no choice in the matter. The phenomena of social networking through the internet and mobile phones constrains Swedish authorities from augmenting the evidence against Assange because it would look even less credible in the face of tweets by Anna Ardin and SMS texts by Sofia Wilén boasting of their respective conquests after the "crimes".

In the case of Ardin it is clear that she has thrown a party in Assange's honour at her flat after the "crime" and tweeted to her followers that she is with the "the world's coolest smartest people, it's amazing!". Go on the internet and see for yourself. That Ardin has sought unsuccessfully to delete these exculpatory tweets from the public record should be a matter of grave concern. That she has published on the internet a guide *[written by someone else--A.B.]* on how to get revenge on cheating boyfriends ever graver. The exact content of Wilén's mobile phone texts is not yet known but their bragging and exculpatory character has been confirmed by Swedish prosecutors. Neither Wilén's nor Ardin's texts complain of rape.

But then neither Arden nor Wilén complained to the police but rather "sought advice", a technique in Sweden enabling citizens to avoid just punishment for making false complaints. They sought advice together, having collaborated and irrevocably tainted each other's evidence beforehand. Their SMS texts to each other show a plan to contact the Swedish newspaper Expressen beforehand in order to maximise the damage to Assange. *[Corroborated?]* They belong to the same political group and attended a public lecture given by Assange and organised by them. You can see Wilén on the YouTube video of the event even now.

Of course, their celebrity lawyer Claes Borgström was questioned as to how the women themselves could be essentially contradicting the legal characterisation of Swedish prosecutors; a crime of non-consent by consent. Borgström's answer is emblematic of how divorced from reality this matter is. "They (the women) are not jurists". You need a law degree to know whether you have been raped or not in Sweden. In the context of such double think, the question of how the Swedish authorities propose to deal with victims who neither saw themselves as such nor acted as such is easily answered: You're not a Swedish lawyer so you wouldn't understand anyway. The consent of both women to sex with Assange has been confirmed by prosecutors.

Proposed reforms of Swedish rape laws would introduce a test of whether the unequal power relations between the parties might void the sincerely expressed consent of one party. **In this case, presumably, the politically active Ardin, with experience fielding gender equity complaints as a gender equity officer at Uppsala University, had her will suborned by Assange's celebrity.** The prosecutor coming as she does from a prosecution "Development Unit" could achieve this broadening of the law during Assange's trial so he can be convicted of a crime that didn't exist at the time he

allegedly committed it. She would need to. There is no precedent for it. The Swedes are making it up as they go along.

A great deal more damning evidence is yet to be revealed about what passes for legal process in Sweden, such as Assange's lawyers having not received a single official document until November 18, 2010 (and then in Swedish language contrary to European Law) and having to learn about the status of investigations through prosecution media announcements. But make no mistake: it is not Julian Assange that is on trial here but Sweden and its reputation as a modern and model country with rules of law.

**James D. Catlin is a Melbourne barrister who acted for Julian Assange in London during October.*

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2010/12/02>

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Arrest Warrant for "Sex Crimes" Against Wikileaks Founder Julian Assange Is for "Sex Without a Condom", NOT Non-Consensual Rape Using Force

*Washington's Blog
December 2, 2010*

Interpol has issued an arrest warrant for Wikileaks founder Julian Assange for "sex crimes". Everyone assumed it was for rape. But it turns out it was for violating an obscure Swedish law against having sex without a condom.

As Newsweek wrote in August: "A Swedish lawyer representing two women whose allegations triggered a sexual-misconduct investigation of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has given [Newsweek column] Declassified the first on-the-record confirmation of the allegations that led to the issuance— and then rapid cancellation— of a warrant on a rape charge and to a parallel investigation into alleged "molestation." Claes Borgstrom of the Stockholm law firm Borgstrom and Bostrom, who is representing two women who said they had sexual relationships with Assange, said his clients complained to the police of Assange's reluctance to use condoms and unwillingness to be tested for sexually transmitted disease....

"Borgstrom said that specific details about the the allegations had not yet appeared in Swedish media. But he acknowledged that the principal concern the women had about Assange's behavior— which they reported to police in person— related to his lack of interest in using condoms and his refusal to undergo testing, at the women's request, for sexually transmitted disease. A detailed, chronological account of the women's alleged encounters with Assange— which in both cases began with consensual sexual contact but later included what the women claimed was nonconsensual sex, in which Assange didn't use a condom— was published on Tuesday by The Guardian; a Declassified item included a more explicit reference than The Guardian to Assange's declining to submit to medical tests."

Similarly, the Daily Mail reported in August:

'When they got back they had sexual relations, but there was a problem with the condom-- it had split.

'She seemed to think that he had done this deliberately but he insisted that it was an accident.'

Whatever her views about the incident, she appeared relaxed and untroubled at the seminar the next day where Assange met Woman B, another pretty blonde, also in her 20s, but younger than Woman A....

The [second] woman admitted trying to engage her hero in conversation.

Assange seemed pleased to have such an ardent admirer fawning over him and, she said, would look at her 'now and then'. Eventually he took a closer interest....

What he did not tell her was that the party was being hosted by the woman he had slept with two nights before and whose bed he would probably be sleeping in that night....

'The passion and attraction seemed to have disappeared,' she said.

Most of what then followed has been blacked out in her statement, except for: 'It felt boring and like an everyday thing.'

One source close to the investigation said the woman had insisted he wear a condom, but the following morning he made love to her without one.

This was the basis for the rape charge. But after the event she seemed unruffled enough to go out to buy food for his breakfast.

Today, a former attorney for Assange-- James D. Catlin-- has confirmed that the charges are for having sex without using a condom. He notes that:

The consent of both women to sex with Assange has been confirmed by prosecutors.

He also accuses the prosecutors of "making it up as they go along", and said that Sweden's justice system is destined to become "the laughingstock of the world" for pursuing the case against Assange.

And Assange's current London attorney-- Mark Stephens-- told AOL news that he doesn't even know what the charges against Assange are, but that they are not rape:

Stephens, told AOL News today that Swedish prosecutors told him that Assange is wanted not for allegations of rape, as previously reported, but for something called "sex by surprise," which he said involves a fine of 5,000 kronor or about \$715....

"We don't even know what 'sex by surprise' means, and they haven't told us," Stephens said, just hours after Sweden's Supreme Court rejected Assange's bid to prevent an arrest order from being issued against him on allegations of sex crimes.

"Whatever 'sex by surprise' is, it's only a offense in Sweden-- not in the U.K. or the U.S. or even Ibiza," Stephens said. "I feel as if I'm in a surreal Swedish movie being threatened by bizarre trolls. The prosecutor has not asked to see Julian, never asked to interview him, and he hasn't been charged with anything. He's been told he's wanted for questioning, but he doesn't know the nature of the allegations against him."

The strange tale of Assange's brief flings with two Swedish women during a three-day period in mid-August-- and decisions by three different prosecutors to first dismiss rape allegations made by the women and then re-open the case-- has more twists, turns and conspiracy theories than any of [Swedish novelist] Stieg Larsson's best-sellers.

So Assange might be a cad for sleeping with 2 women within a couple of days, and he might be irresponsible for having sex without a condom and then failing to submit to HIV tests afterwards. But he has not been accused of rape under any traditional meaning of that term.

Of course, this wouldn't be so surreal if the Department of Justice hadn't launched a criminal probe of Wikileaks, Assange didn't face potential espionage charges, representative Peter King wasn't asking that Wikileaks be designated a foreign terrorist organization like Al Qaeda, and some people hadn't called for Assange's assassination....

Indeed, Reuters provides some bizarre details courtesy of Assange's current lawyer:

Tuesday, international police agency Interpol said it had issued a "red notice" which allows arrest warrants issued by national police authorities to be circulated to other countries to facilitate arrests and help possible extradition.

"There is no arrest warrant against him. There was an Interpol red notice, which is not a warrant, alerting authorities to monitor his movements," Stephens told Reuters....

"We are in this position where we have never been told what the allegations are against him, we do know that he hasn't been charged, we do know that he has only been asked for as a witness," he said.

"We know that ... the offence is one of 'sex by surprise', which is not an offence known in England. He has not been given the evidence against him."

Stephens said Assange was willing to meet Swedish prosecutors but they did not want to meet him.

"We are in a very, very surreal situation at the moment it's like a Swedish fairytale."

<http://georgewashington2.blogspot.com/2010/12/sex-charges-and-arrest-warrant-against.html>

'Sex by Surprise' at Heart of Assange Criminal Probe

*Dana Kennedy
AOL News
Dec. 2, 2010*

The international manhunt for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in a sex-crime investigation in Sweden apparently stems from a condom malfunction. Assange's London attorney, Mark Stephens, told AOL News today that Swedish prosecutors told him that Assange is wanted not for allegations of rape, as previously reported, but for something called "sex by surprise," which he said involves a fine of 5,000 kronor or about \$715.

'Sex by Surprise' at heart of Swedish criminal case against Julian Assange
Julian Assange, founder of the WikiLeaks website, is wanted in a sex-crime investigation in Sweden.

"We don't even know what 'sex by surprise' even means, and they haven't told us," Stephens said, just hours after Sweden's Supreme Court rejected Assange's bid to prevent an arrest order from being issued against him on allegations of sex crimes.

"Whatever 'sex by surprise' is, it's only a offense in Sweden-- not in the U.K. or the U.S. or even Ibiza," Stephens said. "I feel as if I'm in a surreal Swedish movie being threatened by bizarre trolls. The prosecutor has not asked to see Julian, never asked to interview him, and he hasn't been charged with anything. He's been told he's wanted for questioning, but he doesn't know the nature of the allegations against him."

The strange tale of Assange's brief flings with two Swedish women during a three-day period in mid-August-- and decisions by three different prosecutors to first dismiss rape allegations made by the women and then reopen the case-- has more twists, turns and conspiracy theories than any of Stieg Larsson's best-sellers.

True, one of Assange's accusers sounds tailor-made for those who think Assange is being set up in Sweden by dark CIA-backed operatives who want him smeared or silenced for his document dumping with WikiLeaks. She's a 31-year-old blond academic and member of the Social Democratic Party who's known for her radical feminist views, once wrote *[no; reproduced on her website--A.B.]* a treatise on how to take revenge against men and was once thrown out of Cuba for subversive activities.

But others say Assange, who denies any wrongdoing and says the sex was consensual, may have just run afoul of Sweden's unusual rape laws, which are considered pro-feminist because of the consideration given issues of consent when it comes to sexual activity-- including even the issue of whether a condom was used.

In fact, the current prosecutor, Marianne Ny, who re-opened the case against Assange, has been active in the proposed reforms of Swedish rape laws that would, if passed, involve an investigation of whether an imbalance in power between two people could void one person's insistence that the sex was consensual.

Swedish tabloids and the country's blogosphere have been rife since August with stories and speculation about Assange's accusers, the flip-flopping prosecutors and just what, if any, crime was committed by Assange during sex with the two women.

"He's innocent, that I can tell you," Bjorn Hurtig, Assange's Stockholm-based lawyer, told AOL News today. Hurtig later issued a statement saying the international arrest warrant for Assange is based on "exaggerated grounds."

Assange arrived in Sweden on Aug. 11 to speak at a weekend seminar sponsored by the Social Democratic Party and arranged to stay at a Stockholm apartment belonging to the event organizer, a member of the branch of the party who would become one of Assange's two accusers.

According to a police report obtained by the Daily Mail in August, she and Assange had sex, and at some point the condom broke. While she was apparently not happy about the condom breaking, the two were seen the next day at the seminar, and nothing appeared amiss.

Another woman at the seminar, a 27-year-old art photographer, said in her police statement that she'd come to hear Assange's lecture because of her fascination with him and his work. She can be seen in video footage on the Internet sitting in the front row during Assange's lecture, wearing a pink sweater and snapping pictures of him.

According to the police report, the woman managed to get an invitation to go out for lunch with Assange and his entourage after the seminar. They spent time together before he went back to stay at the event organizer's apartment.

Two days later, on Aug. 16, they reconnected by phone and the woman invited him to her apartment, more than 40 miles outside Stockholm. She paid for the ticket since Assange apparently had no cash and doesn't like to use credit cards because they could be traced.

She complained in her police statement that during the train ride to her hometown, "he paid more attention to his computer rather than me." She also said that by the time they arrived at her apartment, "the passion and excitement seemed to have disappeared."

The woman and Assange also reportedly had sex. According to the Daily Mail account, Assange did not use a condom at least one time during their sexual activity. The New York Times today quoted accounts given by the women to police and friends as saying Assange "did not comply with her appeals to stop when (the condom) was no longer in use."

According to the Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet, the photographer contacted the other woman two days after her assignation with Assange, and the two apparently had a conversation in which it became clear they had both had sex with Assange. The photographer was worried about having had unprotected sex and decided she wanted to go to the police.

The other woman accompanied her to the police station on Aug. 20 just to support her but then told the investigating officer on duty that she, too, had had sex with Assange, Aftonbladet reported.

Based on what was said to police, the on-call prosecutor, Marie Kjellstrand, decided to issue an arrest warrant on charges of rape and molestation, and the next day the story hit the Swedish paper Expressen and newspapers all over the world.

Kjellstrand's decision was overruled the following day by a higher-level prosecutor, Eva Finne, who withdrew the arrest warrant and said she did not see any evidence for rape allegations.

Then, on Sept. 1, a third prosecutor, Ny, re-opened the rape investigation, implying that she had new information in the case.

On Nov. 18, Swedish judicial officials approved a prosecutorial request that Assange be detained for questioning for alleged sex crimes, and on Nov. 30 Interpol issued a "red notice" against Assange for alleged sex crimes in Sweden. Despite what has happened, the woman who organized the event and had Assange stay at her apartment told Aftonbladet that she never intended that Assange be charged with rape.

"It is quite wrong that we were afraid of him. He is not violent, and I do not feel threatened by him," she told the newspaper in an interview that did not identify her by name. "The responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man who had attitude problems with women." [*Of course, it is unthinkable that these women have "attitude problems" toward men.--A.B.*]

When the second accuser was reached on her mobile phone today by AOL News, she said simply, "I have nothing to say on the matter."

Stephens, Assange's lawyer, said that even though British police know Assange's whereabouts-- reportedly in southeastern England-- they have not yet arrested him because of the inadequacy of the arrest warrants issued by Sweden.

"The Swedes couldn't even produce another warrant today that was valid," Stephens told AOL News. "The police here sent it back."

Julian Assange's arrest warrant disputed by lawyer

Reports suggest that police have not arrested Assange because Swedish authorities issued an incorrect European arrest warrant

Jo Adetunji
The Guardian
2 December 2010

There was confusion surrounding the legal status of Julian Assange last night after a dispute between his lawyer and Swedish authorities over the validity of an arrest warrant.

The WikiLeaks founder was accused of rape during a trip to Sweden but he has vehemently denied allegations made by two women. Mark Stephens, his London-based lawyer, has called the allegations "false and without basis", and has said they amounted to a smear campaign following recent high-profile political leaks by Assange's organisation. Assange is currently believed to be in the UK.

While the Serious Organised Crime Agency, which is handling the case, said on Tuesday that it had flagged up an Interpol 'red notice' to all UK police forces about the whereabouts of Assange and would arrest him if they discovered his precise location, other reports have suggested that police and security services know where Assange is based as he supplied contact details on arrival in Britain in October and have not arrested him or initiated extradition proceedings because Swedish authorities issued an incorrect European arrest warrant.

"The arrest warrant has been issued in circumstances where Assange has an outstanding appeal in Sweden," Stephens said in the Times, while a police source was quoted as saying Assange's warrant was "not a properly certified warrant so we can't act on it."

Stephens argued that although Assange was originally wanted on a charge of rape, this had been thrown out after a partially successful appeal and which meant that Swedish law did not allow for another arrest warrant for current allegations.

He said British police had probably not taken any action against Assange because the warrant was issued incorrectly rather than because they didn't know where he was.

"The sole ground for the warrant is the prosecutor's blatantly false allegation that he is on the run from justice. He left Sweden lawfully and has offered himself for questioning. An appeal against this decision was filed on Monday and is pending," Stephens said.

There was earlier confusion in August when Swedish authorities withdrew an arrest warrant for Assange stating that the accusation of rape against him was unfounded, before reopening the case.

Why Sweden Wants Julian Assange Arrested

Eben Harrell

Time

Dec. 3, 2010

In what has become a complicated subplot to the fallout from the recent publication of some 250,000 diplomatic cables on whistle-blower website WikiLeaks, Swedish prosecutors confirmed on Friday, Dec. 3, that they had reissued international and European arrest warrants against the site's founder, Julian Assange, for alleged sex crimes.

Assange was originally sought for questioning in September in relation to accusations by two women in Sweden whose various claims include having sex with him that was not fully consensual. A prosecutor dropped the investigation, and then a more senior prosecutor reopened it after reviewing the evidence, but Assange has not been formally charged with any crime and denies any wrongdoing. He left Sweden earlier this summer without being interviewed but was summoned back by an arrest warrant in November, a move Assange tried to appeal. On Thursday, the country's highest court refused Assange permission to appeal the arrest order, which lead prosecutors to once again seek his arrest.

The Australian-born Assange, 39, is reportedly in hiding in the U.K. —he told the Guardian newspaper on Friday that he fears assassination plots by authorities and governments angered by his website's publication of the largest unauthorized release of contemporary classified information in history. He has also said he believes that the sex-crime accusations — which, media reports in Sweden suggest, are not violent in nature — are politically motivated.

Assange's attorneys in the U.K. and Sweden have complained to the Swedish Prosecution Authority that an arrest warrant is unnecessary, as Assange is willing to face questioning in a Swedish embassy abroad or via telephone or video link. They feel prosecutors have failed to follow international guidelines for the prosecution of foreign nationals, like providing Assange with an English translation of the witness testimony against him. (See world leaders' reactions to WikiLeaks.)

According to many legal experts, the case against Assange has been marked by false starts and mistakes on the part of Swedish prosecutors. As recently as this week, an arrest warrant sent to Scotland Yard was returned by the British police authority because the warrant listed the maximum prison sentence for only rape, the alleged crime with the harshest punishment. British officials require prison terms to be outlined for all the alleged crimes.

"This is sloppy work, intentionally or unintentionally, and it differs greatly from normal procedures in such case," Assange's Swedish attorney Bjorn Hurtig tells TIME before echoing Assange's assertion that politics is at play in the accusations. "If you look at the crimes he is wanted for, it seems to me that an international arrest warrant is a stern choice of action. Why such a rush? It might be due to external pressure." Hurtig told the Reuters news agency on Friday that he suspects "somebody has an interest in getting [Assange] to Sweden and maybe asking for him to be extradited to another country [from there]." He added that his client would fight any extradition efforts. (See TIME's profile of Assange.)

Lead Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny says the latest arrest warrant was issued because Swedish law prohibits formal legal interviews over a telephone or video link. "We had a case in the southern Swedish city of Helsingborg where a suspect was heard via telephone, and it was heavily criticized by the Ombudsmen for Justice as not being in accordance with existing law," she tells TIME. "The Swedish embassy in London is not Swedish territory in the sense that we can hold interrogations there without formal approval of British authorities."

Asked why she did not request that Assange voluntarily submit to questioning rather than face arrest, Ny replies, "I am not at liberty to disclose all the details regarding different actions we took in order to hold a hearing with him. But since we are unaware of his whereabouts, and we are by law prohibited from conducting hearings via telephone or video link, this was the only legal action left."

As Assange's legal team prepares a response to the arrest warrant aimed at getting him to talk, WikiLeaks is coming under increasing pressure from forces that want to shut it up. This week two U.S. Internet providers pulled the plug on the website in the space of two days, and the French government tried to ban French servers from hosting its database. As a result, WikiLeaks announced Friday it moved its website to a Swiss domain: wikileaks.ch. This followed news earlier this week that Amazon stopped hosting WikiLeaks content in the U.S. In an interview with TIME earlier this week,

Assange was defiant about the latest challenges facing WikiLeaks. "We have now in our four-year history had over 100 legal attacks of various kinds and have been victorious in all of those matters," he said. "It's very important to remember the law is ... not simply what powerful people would want others to believe it is."

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The Shameful Attacks on Julian Assange

David Samuels
The Atlantic
 Dec. 3, 2010

Julian Assange and Pfc Bradley Manning have done a huge public service by making hundreds of thousands of classified U.S. government documents available on Wikileaks— and, predictably, no one is grateful. Manning, a former army intelligence analyst in Iraq, faces up to 52 years in prison. He is currently being held in solitary confinement at a military base in Quantico, Virginia, where he is not allowed to see his parents or other outside visitors.

Assange, the organizing brain of Wikileaks, enjoys a higher degree of freedom living as a hunted man in England under the close surveillance of domestic and foreign intelligence agencies— but probably not for long. Not since President Richard Nixon directed his minions to go after Pentagon Papers leaker Daniel Ellsberg and New York Times reporter Neil Sheehan— "a vicious antiwar type," an enraged Nixon called him on the Watergate tapes— has a working journalist and his source been subjected to the kind of official intimidation and threats that have been directed at Assange and Manning by high-ranking members of the Obama Administration.

Published reports suggest that a joint Justice Department-Pentagon team of investigators is exploring the possibility of charging Assange under the Espionage Act, which could lead to decades in jail. "This is not saber-rattling," said Attorney General Eric Holder, commenting on the possibility that Assange will be prosecuted by the government. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the Wikileaks disclosures "an attack on the international community" that endangered innocent people. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs suggested in somewhat Orwellian fashion that "such disclosures put at risk our diplomats, intelligence professionals, and people around the world who come to the United States for assistance in promoting democracy and open government."

It is dispiriting and upsetting for anyone who cares about the American tradition of a free press to see Eric Holder, Hillary Clinton and Robert Gibbs turn into H.R. Haldeman, John Erlichman and John Dean. We can only pray that we won't soon be hit with secret White House tapes of Obama drinking scotch and slurring his words while calling Assange bad names.

Unwilling to let the Democrats adopt Nixon's anti-democratic, press-hating legacy as their own, Republican Congressman Peter King asserted that the publication of classified diplomatic cables is "worse even than a physical attack on Americans" and that Wikileaks should be officially designed as a terrorist organization. Mike Huckabee followed such blather to its logical conclusion by suggesting that Bradley Manning should be executed.

But the truly scandalous and shocking response to the Wikileaks documents has been that of other journalists, who make the Obama Administration sound like the ACLU. In a recent article in *The New Yorker*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Steve Coll sniffed that "the archives that WikiLeaks has published are much less significant than the Pentagon Papers were in their day" while depicting Assange as a "self-aggrandizing control-freak" whose website "lacks an ethical culture that is consonant with the ideals of free media." Channeling Richard Nixon, Coll labeled Wikileaks' activities—formerly known as journalism—by his newly preferred terms of "vandalism" and "First Amendment-inspired subversion."

Coll's invective is hardly unique. In fact, it was only a pale echo of the language used earlier this year by a columnist at his former employer, *The Washington Post*. In a column titled "WikiLeaks Must Be Stopped," Mark Thiessen wrote that "WikiLeaks is not a news organization; it is a criminal enterprise," and urged that the site should be shut down "and its leadership brought to justice." The dean of American foreign correspondents, John Burns of *The New York Times*, with two Pulitzer Prizes to his credit, contributed a profile of Assange which used terms like "nearly delusional grandeur" to describe Wikileaks' founder. The *Times*' normally mild-mannered David Brooks asserted in his column this week that "Assange seems to be an old-fashioned anarchist" and worried that Wikileaks will "damage the global conversation."

For his part, Assange has not been shy about expressing his contempt for the failure of traditional reporting to inform the public, and his belief in the utility of his own methods. "How is it that a team of five people has managed to release to the public more suppressed information, at that level, than the rest of the world press combined?" he told *The Sydney Morning Herald*. "It's disgraceful."

Assange may or may not be grandiose, paranoid and delusional—terms that might be fairly applied at one time or another to most prominent investigative reporters of my acquaintance. But the fact that so many prominent old school journalists are attacking him with such unbridled force is a symptom of the failure of traditional reporting methods to penetrate a culture of official secrecy that has grown by leaps and bounds since 9/11, and threatens the functioning of a free press as a cornerstone of democracy.

The true importance of Wikileaks—and the key to understanding the motivations and behavior of its founder—lies not in the contents of the latest document dump but in the technology that made it possible, which has already shown itself to be a potent weapon to undermine official lies and defend human rights. Since 1997, Assange has devoted a great deal of his time to inventing encryption systems that make it possible for human rights workers and others to protect and upload sensitive data. The importance of Assange's efforts to human rights workers in the field were recognized last year by Amnesty International, which gave him its Media Award for the Wikileaks investigation *The Cry of Blood—Extra Judicial Killings and Disappearances*, which documented the killing and disappearance of 500 young men in Kenya by the police, with the apparent connivance of the country's political leadership.

Yet the difficulties of documenting official murder in Kenya pale next to the task of penetrating the secret world that threatens to swallow up informed public discourse in this country about America's wars. The 250,000 cables that Wikileaks published this month represent only a drop in the bucket that holds the estimated 16 million documents that are classified top secret by the federal government every year. According to a three-part investigative series by Dana Priest and William Arkin

published earlier this year in *The Washington Post*, an estimated 854,000 people now hold top secret clearance— more than 1.5 times the population of Washington, D.C. "The top-secret world the government created in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has become so large, so unwieldy and so secretive," the *Post* concluded, "that no one knows how much money it costs, how many people it employs, how many programs exist within it or exactly how many agencies do the same work."

The result of this classification mania is the division of the public into two distinct groups: those who are privy to the actual conduct of American policy, but are forbidden to write or talk about it, and the uninformed public, which becomes easy prey for the official lies exposed in the Wikileaks documents: The failure of American counterinsurgency programs in Afghanistan, the involvement of China and North Korea in the Iranian nuclear program, the likely failure of attempts to separate Syria from Iran, the involvement of Iran in destabilizing Iraq, the anti-Western orientation of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and other tenets of American foreign policy under both Bush and Obama.

It is a fact of the current media landscape that the chilling effect of threatened legal action routinely stops reporters and editors from pursuing stories that might serve the public interest— and anyone who says otherwise is either ignorant or lying. Every honest reporter and editor in America knows that the fact that most news organizations are broke, combined with the increasing threat of aggressive legal action by deep-pocketed entities, private and public, has made it much harder for good reporters to do their jobs, and ripped a hole in the delicate fabric that holds our democracy together.

The idea that Wikileaks is a threat to the traditional practice of reporting misses the point of what Assange and his co-workers have put together— a powerful tool that can help reporters circumvent the legal barriers that are making it hard for them to do their job. Even as he criticizes the evident failures of the mainstream press, Assange insists that Wikileaks should facilitate traditional reporting and analysis. "We're the step before the first person (investigates)," he explained, when accepting Amnesty International's award for exposing police killings in Kenya. "Then someone who is familiar with that material needs to step forward to investigate it and put it in political context. Once that is done, then it becomes of public interest."

Wikileaks is a powerful new way for reporters and human rights advocates to leverage global information technology systems to break the heavy veil of government and corporate secrecy that is slowly suffocating the American press. The likely arrest of Assange in Britain on dubious Swedish sex crimes charges has nothing to do with the importance of the system he has built, and which the US government seems intent on destroying with tactics more appropriate to the Communist Party of China— pressuring Amazon to throw the site off their servers, and, one imagines by launching the powerful DDOS attacks that threatened to stop visitors from reading the pilfered cables.

In a memorandum entitled "Transparency and Open Government" addressed to the heads of Federal departments and agencies and posted on WhiteHouse.gov, President Obama instructed that "Transparency promotes accountability and provides information for citizens about what their Government is doing." The Administration would be wise to heed his words— and to remember how badly the vindictive prosecution of Daniel Ellsberg ended for the Nixon Administration. And American

reporters, Pulitzer Prizes and all, should be ashamed for joining in the outraged chorus that defends a burgeoning secret world whose existence is a threat to democracy.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/12/the-shameful-attacks-on-julian-assange/67440/>

Wikileaks' Julian Assange to fight Swedish allegations

BBC

5 December 2010

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange will fight attempts to take him to Sweden to face rape allegations, his lawyer said. Mark Stephens told the BBC that legal moves against his client seem(ed) to be a "political stunt" by a state that allowed US rendition flights. He warned Wikileaks could release more secrets in a bid to protect itself.

A Swedish arrest warrant for Mr Assange was issued on Thursday. It comes amid the phased Wikileaks release of some 250,000 US diplomatic secret messages. The warrant to interview the journalist-- thought currently to be in the UK-- concerns alleged sexual crimes during a visit to Sweden in August.

But Mr Stephens told the BBC's Andrew Marr that the entire case against Mr Assange had been dropped by Sweden's chief prosecutor in September. He said it was only "after the intervention of a Swedish politician" that a new prosecutor in Gothenburg-- not Stockholm, where his client and two women had been-- began a new case.

It resulted in the current warrants, and an Interpol notice being issued. His client denies the allegations. "A warrant was issued on Thursday by reports. We've asked for it. We've been ignored at this point."

He said he and his Swedish legal adviser had been trying to contact prosecutors since August and his client had tried to meet prosecutors to restore his good name. "He's only wanted for interview, why not have that interview by consent, rather than this show trial?" he added.

Mr Stephens warned that the organisation held further secret material which it regarded as a "thermo-nuclear device" to be released if it needs to protect itself. Wikileaks is currently working through the publication of more than 250,000 US diplomatic cables, whose release has embarrassed the United States. It has condemned the disclosures-- including indiscreet descriptions of world leaders and instructions to spy at the UN-- as an attack on the world community.

Asked by Andrew Marr if Mr Assange, who is in hiding, was in fear of his life, Mr Stephens said: "It's interesting to note people as high up the American tree as Sarah Palin have called for him to be hunted down by American special forces and assassinated.

"We've seen a number of suggestions that he should be assassinated, again from credible sources around the world. This is all about a man who is a journalist. He received, unbidden, an electronic brown envelope that journalists receive. This

particular journalist has put it out. What they are doing is criminalising him, criminalising journalistic activity.

He said any attempt to take Mr Assange to Sweden could be a precursor to taking him on to the US, adding: "I'm really rather worried by the political motivations that appear to be behind this. It doesn't escape my attention that Sweden was one of those lickspittle states which used its resources and its facilities for rendition flights (US transport of terror suspects around the world for interrogation)."

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Julian Assange's lawyers say they are being watched

WikiLeaks founder's lawyers also accuse US state department of inappropriate behaviour in not respecting attorney-client protocol

*Sam Jones and agencies
The Guardian
5 December 2010*

Lawyers representing the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, say that they have been surveilled by members of the security services and have accused the US state department of behaving "inappropriately" by failing to respect attorney-client protocol.

Jennifer Robinson and Mark Stephens of the law firm Finers Stephens Innocent told the Guardian they had been watched by people **parked outside their houses** for the past week.

"I've noticed people consistently sitting outside my house in the same cars with newspapers," said Robinson. "I probably noticed certain things a week ago, but mostly it's been the last three or four days."

Stephens said he, too, had had his home watched. Asked who he thought was monitoring him, he said: "The security services."

Robinson said the legal team was also experiencing "other forms of pressure" from Washington. She pointed to a letter from a state department legal adviser-- addressed to both Assange and her-- which appeared to bracket together client and lawyer as if to suggest that WikiLeaks and its lawyers were one and the same.

The letter, which was released to the press, begins: "Dear Ms Robinson and Mr Assange. I am writing in response to your 26 November 2010 letter to US Ambassador Louis B Susman regarding your intention to again publish on your WikiLeaks site what you claim to be classified US government documents."

Robinson said: "By eliding client and lawyer, that was a very inappropriate attempt to implicate me. That is really inappropriate to come from the state department of all places; they understand very well the rules on attorney-client protocol." She said that although they had requested a public retraction from the state department, no answer had been received.

"It's quite a serious situation," she said, adding that, according to the UN's Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, governments should ensure that lawyers "are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference" and that "lawyers shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes as a result of discharging their functions".

A spokeswoman for the Home Office declined to comment on the lawyers' surveillance claims....

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Julian Assange arrested on Swedish warrant

Submitted by admin

W.L. Central

2010-12-07

The London Metropolitan Police has confirmed that Julian Assange was arrested this morning on behalf of the Swedish authorities, reports The Guardian: "Julian Assange, 39, was arrested on a European Arrest Warrant by appointment at a London police station at 9.30am." The statement notes that he is due to appear at City of Westminster Magistrates' Court today.

"As of last night Assange had still not been told of the full allegations against him, his lawyer Jennifer Robinson explained in a Guardian video to be released soon," notes The Guardian.

WL Central would like to ask all of our readers to support Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. You can donate to WikiLeaks to help with legal costs, speak up in support, contact your elected representatives and ask them to uphold Julian Assange's rights, join a protest.

If Julian Assange can be silenced, so can every one of us. Stand up, speak up: for him, for yourself, for all of us. Before it's too late.

Update 1: Jennifer Robinson's video statement is now available on the Guardian site.

Update 2: Kristinn Hrafnsson told the Associated Press that Julian Assange's arrest is an attack on media freedom and that it won't prevent the organization from spilling secrets on the web.

The ITV's Keir Simmons said on Twitter that Julian Assange will appear in court at 2pm London time according to a court source.

Update 3: Supporters are planning a protest in front of the Westminster Magistrates' Court at 13:30: <http://www.justiceforassange.com/> .Flashmob calls are going out on Twitter. Court address: Horseferry Road, SW1

Update 4: Mike Hitchen reported on Twitter that "Sydney Morning Herald human rights lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson QC, has cut short his annual summer holiday in Sydney to represent Mr Assange."

Update 5: The Guardian reports that US Defense Secretary Gates, on a visit to Afghanistan, "smirked on hearing the news. 'I hadn't heard that, but that sounds like good news to me,' he said."

Update 6: Julian Assange will not consent to extradition to Sweden. From the court proceedings, Sky News' Neal Mann and The Guardian report that John Pilger, Ken Loach and Jemima Khan were all present to offer surety if Julian Assange is granted bail.

Update 7: The court has denied bail. Julian Assange will be remanded in custody till 14 December, according to reports from the court proceedings. "Surprising ruling coming after judge waxed long on lack of evidence," noted Heather Brooke on Twitter. The Times' Sean O'Neill tweeted that "Assange refused bail because of nomadic life, refusal to give address and no record of his entry to the UK"

Update 8: Crikey reports on Twitter that the three "sexual integrity" charges are "one unsafe sex, one sex while sleeping, one uninvited tackle rub." (Emphasis ours. Please do read that again.) "The court heard Assange is accused of using his body weight to hold her down in a sexual manner," reported the Press Association (via The Guardian), referring to statements by Gemma Lindfield on behalf of the Swedish authorities.

John Pilger made a few statements to the media present at the court. AFP reports: "Mr Pilger says the rape allegations against Assange are 'absurd' and if Assange goes to Sweden he will enter a 'chaotic legal system'. 'Anyone who looks thorough the details of the case in Sweden will see that this is an innocent man ... and he has done some extraordinary journalism on behalf of all of us,' Mr Pilger said."

Update 9: The Guardian reports: "We are in the rather exotic position of not seeing any of the evidence against him [Assange]," the WikiLeaks founder's lawyer, Mark Stephens, has said. "This is going to go viral," he added. Many people believe these charges are politically motivated, he said.

Assange could have been safely released today, Stephens told reporters. These allegations are very thin indeed, he said. He confirmed that further bail applications will be made. Stephens claimed that Assange will be vindicated."

Mark Stephens added that a renewed bail application will be made: "We have heard the judge today say that he wishes to see the evidence himself. He was impressed by the fact that a number of people were prepared to stand up on behalf of Mr Assange. In those circumstances I think we will see another bail application."

<http://wlcentral.org/node/543>

Julian Assange to be questioned by British police

- *New arrest warrant issued over alleged sexual assaults*
- *Assange appeals for supporters to put up surety and bail*

Owen Bowcott
The Guardian
7 December 2010

Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, is expected to appear in a UK court today after his lawyers said he would meet police to discuss a European arrest warrant from Sweden relating to alleged sexual assaults.

As the legal net continued to close around the whistleblowers' website and the US attorney general, Eric Holder, said he had authorised "a number of things to be done" to combat the organisation, Assange appeared to be reconciling himself to a lengthy personal court battle to avoid extradition to Sweden.

Jennifer Robinson, a solicitor with Finers Stephens Innocent, which represents the Australian freedom of information campaigner, told the Guardian: "We have a received an arrest warrant [related to claims in Sweden]. We are negotiating a meeting with police."

Another lawyer representing Assange, Mark Stephens, added: "He has not been charged with anything. We are in the process of making arrangements to meet the police by consent, in order to facilitate the taking of that question and answer that is needed. It's about time we got to the end of the day and we got some truth, justice and rule of law."

Stephens explained that the interview would happen in the "foreseeable future" but he could not give a precise time. According to other sources, it is thought that Assange would appear before a court to negotiate bail.

Assange is seeking supporters to put up surety and bail for him. He said he expected to have to post bail of between £100,000 and £200,000 and would require up to six people offering surety, or risked being held on remand.

In recent days, Assange, 39, has told friends he is increasingly convinced the US is behind Swedish prosecutors' attempts to extradite him for questioning on the assault allegations. He has said the original allegations against him were motivated by "personal issues" but that Sweden had subsequently behaved as "a cipher" for the US.

Assange has also said that he declined to return to Sweden to face prosecutors because he feared he would not receive a fair trial, and prosecutors had requested that he be held in solitary confinement and incommunicado.

This weekend Assange said he was exhausted by the effort of running his defence against the allegations in Sweden and the release of the US embassy cables at the same time, as well as running WikiLeaks itself, which has split since some supporters became disaffected over Assange's handling of the Afghanistan war logs. Once he turns himself in to the police, he will have to appear before a magistrates' court within 24

hours, where he will seek release on bail. A full hearing of his extradition case would have to be heard within 28 days.

In the past, Assange has dismissed the allegations, stating on Twitter: "The charges are without basis and their issue at this moment is deeply disturbing."

Last week Stephens added: "This appears to be a persecution and a prosecution. It is highly irregular and unusual for the Swedish authorities to issue [an Interpol] red notice in the teeth of the undisputed fact that Mr Assange has agreed to meet voluntarily to answer the prosecutor's questions."

Stephens has said that the claims stem from a "dispute over consensual but unprotected sex". While the latest US diplomatic cables released on WikiLeaks have been stirring international political alarm and recriminations, Assange is understood to have been staying out of public sight in south-east England.

Prosecutors in Sweden issued a warrant for his arrest last month but it could not be enforced because of a technical blunder. The Australian's details were also added to Interpol's most wanted website after a red notice was issued, alerting police worldwide to his status.

Detectives in Sweden want to question Assange after two women claimed they were sexually assaulted by him when he visited the country in August. The country's supreme court upheld an order to detain him for questioning after he appealed against two lower court rulings.

The sex assault claims may be Assange's most pressing legal issue, but it may not be the only legal complication he faces as several countries consider the impact of his diplomatic cable disclosures.

He has come under growing pressure after WikiLeaks started publishing excerpts from a cache of 250,000 secret messages.

In the US, the level of political vituperation has become more vengeful. The former vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin has described Assange as "an anti-American operative with blood on his hands". The senior Republican Mike Huckabee said that "anything less than execution is too kind a penalty".

Meanwhile WikiLeaks has been forced to move to a Swiss host after being dumped by US internet companies as it comes under siege from cyber attacks.

PostFinance, the financial arm of the Swiss post office, said it had closed Assange's account after he provided "false information".

"PostFinance has ended its business relationship with WikiLeaks founder Julian Paul Assange," the bank said in a statement. "The Australian citizen provided false information regarding his place of residence during the account opening process." Last night hackers claimed they had targeted the firm's websites in support of WikiLeaks.

MasterCard also said it would block payments to WikiLeaks, according to the CNET News website, a move that will dry up another source of funds for the website.

"MasterCard is taking action to ensure that WikiLeaks can no longer accept MasterCard-branded products," a spokesman for MasterCard Worldwide said yesterday.

The credit card firm said it was cutting off payments because WikiLeaks was engaging in "illegal activity". "MasterCard rules prohibit customers from directly or indirectly engaging in or facilitating any action that is illegal," its spokesman, Chris Monteiro said. The online credit firm PayPal has already refused to allow payments through for WikiLeaks.

In Sweden, a WikiLeaks spokesman called for action against those who have attacked Assange. "There have been death threats to his life and incitement to murder," he added.

Canadian newspapers reported that police are investigating whether there is evidence to proceed against a former adviser to the prime minister after he called for Assange to be killed.

Tom Flanagan, now a professor at the University of Calgary, suggested on television last week that Assange "should be assassinated, actually", adding: "I think Obama should put out a contract and maybe use a drone or something." Flanagan later retracted his statement saying it was not meant seriously.

In Assange's homeland, however, Australian police are investigating whether he has broken any laws.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/dec/06/wikileaks-julian-assange-police>

Fd lagman: Gripandet av Assange väcker allvarliga frågor om den svenska rättsstaten

Brita Sundberg-Weitman om Wikileaks

Newsmill

2010-12-07

Min förra artikel (Vi behöver en ny rättsrötedebatt) handlade om det betänkliga i att en tjänstemans föredragning vid ett telefonsamtal kan resultera i de mest ingripande myndighetsbeslut: att låsa in någon i en cell eller att med våld skilja ett barn från dess familj.

Den lättvindiga hanteringen av så allvarliga ingripanden hade aktualiserats av att en jouråklagare efter ett telefonsamtal med en polis beslutat anhålla och i Stockholm eftersöka Julian Assange, Wikileaks grundare, såsom på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt. Expressen hade fått nys om beslutet redan samma kväll. Dagen därpå hade en chefsåklagare hävt beslutet och avskrev kort därefter hela ärendet sånär som på en kvarstående misstanke om ofredande. Det var situationen när jag skrev den artikeln.

Därefter har ärendet utvecklats till en följetong med säkerligen flera avsnitt kvar. På tillskyndan av tidigare jämställdhetsombudsmannen Claes Borgström har överåklagaren Marianne Ny beslutat att ta upp ärendet igen, och hon har i domstol lyckats få Assange häktad i sin utevaro, återigen på sannolika skäl misstänkt för

våldtäkt, jämte olaga tvång och sexuellt ofredande. Hon har utfärdat en europeisk arresteringsorder och ombesörjt att han är internationellt efterlyst. Han har i dag hörts av en engelsk domstol [*och häktats--A.B.*], varvid han motsatt sig överlämnande till Sverige.

Enligt Svea hovrätt avser våldtäktsmisstanken "mindre grovt brott". Vad som läckt från polisutredningen tyder på att misstankarna gäller att Assange inte respekterat villkor som två kvinnor ställt för att ha samlag med honom; sexuellt umgänge med honom var de i och för sig fullt införstådda med. På Aktuellt den 5 december uttalade Marianne Ny att det ännu är "för tidigt" att uttala sig om huruvida ärendet kommer att leda till åtal.

Händelseutvecklingen väcker många frågor. Hur kunde Expressen få nys om jouråklagarens anhållningsbeslut redan innan chefsåklagaren hunnit häva det dagen därpå? Marianne Ny säger nu att syftet med häktning och efterlysning är att höra Assange om misstankarna, men varför skedde det inte medan Assange ännu var kvar i Sverige? Varför avböja hans erbjudanden om att höras på ambassad i England eller per videokonferens, om hon inte ens anser sig ha nog bevisning för åtal? Varför utfärda europeisk arresteringsorder, med de kostnader en sådan innebär, redan innan Svea hovrätt hunnit pröva tingsrättens överklagade häktningsbeslut?

Överåklagarens åtgärder i ärendet ger verkligen inte intryck av att hon försökt begränsa de skador som åsamkas Assange, snarare tvärtom. Frågan om åtal lämnar hon öppen efter flera månaders "utredning". Hanteringen påminner inte så litet om justitieministerns idé att skicka gredelina polisbrev hem till misstänkta sexköpare "så att frun eller grannen får reda på det". Och varför sätter sig hovrättspresidenten Fredrik Wersäll, tidigare riksåklagare, som ordförande i ett häktningsärende där en överåklagares prestige och framtida karriär är så starkt involverade?

Vilka överväganden kan ligga bakom detta uttalande av hovrätten: "Skälen för häktning uppväger det intrång eller men i övrigt som åtgärden innebär för Julian Assange eller för något annat motstående intresse"? Den av EU-domstolen utvecklade proportionalitetsprincipen innebär bl.a. att tvång i myndighetsutövning är otillåten om syftet med åtgärden kan uppnås på ett för den enskilde mindre ingripande sätt, men den har ännu inte uttryckligen formulerats som villkor för europeisk arresteringsorder.

Viviane Reding är vice ordförande i EU-kommissionen med ansvarsområdet rättvisa, mänskliga rättigheter och medborgarskap. I ett brev till Fair Trials International den 19 november 2010 skriver hon i fråga om europeiska arresteringsorder att rättssäkerheten har brister och att det är angeläget att det införs garantier för att en stat inte utfärdar europeisk arresteringsorder utan att först pröva om det finns mindre ingripande alternativ. ("A particular priority is reaching agreement among Member States on incorporating a consistent proportionality check before an EAW is issued and ensuring all alternative options have been considered." Se www.fairtrials.net)

Om syftet med Marianne Nys arresteringsorder, som hon säger, är att höra Assange om misstankarna, är det uppenbart att det hade kunnat uppnås genom någon av de möjligheter som Assange erbjudit.

Hela världen väntar med spänning på nya avsnitt i denna bisarra dokusåpa. Närmast stundar att engelsk domstol den 14 december tar ställning till om Assange ska överlämnas till Sverige.

• Brita Sundberg-Weitman, pensionerad lagman, docent i folkrätt....

Kommentarer

Det hela luktar CIA-provokation lång väg. Men USA och västvärlden kommer inte att kunna demonisera Wikileaks och Assange lika lätt som de svartmuskiga muslimerna.

Permalänk | Anmäl

— *Bosse Johansson*

När den här soppan är över och Assange har frikänts, så är det viktigt för den Svenska demokratin och det Svenska rättsväsendet att två ärenden drivs hårt:

1) Anmälan av Claes Borgström till Svenska Advokatsamfundet. Han utgör en fara för den manliga befolkningen i detta land. Utöver att vara en demoraliserande kraft i samhället som i årtal har ägnat sig åt att svärta ned männen i landet, så är han dessutom en demagog och en utstuderad boulevard-artist.

2) Gör ett JK-ärende av hur Åklagarmyndigheten har förslösat skattebetalarnas pengar i detta ärende.

— *Pasha, 2010-12-07*

Jag delar i princip docentens åsikt i saken och konstaterar att det gynnar alltid folks respekt för rättssystemet när dess aktörer iakttar gällande lagar och normala tillämpningar därav. Tyvärr kan jag med utgångspunkt i min egen erfarenhet konstatera att det inte är ovanligt att nämnda aktörer även begår direkta lagbrott för att därigenom kunna lagföra en misstänkt person.

Så förefaller ske nu med Assange När en lagbrytare åtgärdas med lagvidriga metoder tenderar han att ytterligare förlora respekten för rättssystemet. Vilket sin tur ofta leder till ytterligare brott. Så det är INTE en effektiv metod för att bekämpa brottsligheten....

Om nu inte avsikten [*i detta fall*] kanske i själva verket är att provocera fram oroligheter på Internet som ska föranleda en ny lagstiftning om yttrandefriheten? Jag syftar på det i dagarna aktuella förslaget ACTA som om det genomförs kommer att seriöst reducera vår yttrandefrihet.

— *Börje Lundberg*

Det är viktigt att komma ihåg att Julian Assange stannade kvar i Sverige i 40 dagar efter första anhållan, för att fria sitt namn. Han deltog under tiden i förhör. Till slut lämnade hans Sverige men först efter att hans advokat fått bekräftat att detta var ok från Marianne Ny, och att inga nya förhör var planerade. Mindre känt är att Marianne Ny nästan omgående, när Assange då lämnade landet, åter anhöll honom i sin frånvaro.

— *Mats Forssblad*

I Sverige betyder "ensuring all alternative options have been considered" att man fullständigt struntar i alla andra alternativ och hoppar direkt på slutmålet. Det kanske kallar de för att effektivisera processen. Jag menar i Sverige tas beslut om tvångsomhändertagande på barn innan Socialtjänsten ens hunnit med att kolla upp var familjen faktiskt är skriven.

— *Laban Andersson*

US State Dept har just gått ut med följande pressmeddelande: "7 Dec 2010.... The United States is pleased to announce that it will host UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day event in 2011, from May 1-May 3 in Washington."

— *Erik L Andersson*

Men, vi ska förstås ta Marianne Ny och Claes Borgström på orden när de bedyrar att det slags hemliga informella samarbete WikiLeaks avslöjar på punkt efter punkt inte förekommer ifråga om hans gripande. Eller för att citera Beatrice Ask, "Det är inte så att vi genomför förändringar efter påtryckningar från något annat land."

— Erik L Andersson

Konsekvensen av att Anna A och Sofia W blivit upprörda över att Assange inte ville använda kondom har blivit enorma för flickorna. Nu pågår en psykiskt våldtäkt på dem av Assange anhängare över nätet, som vida överträffar det som hände hemma i deras sängkammare [som vi fortfarande inte säkert vet vad det handlade om--A.B.]. Det bästa de kan göra är att inte lyssna på karriäradvokaten Claes B. och dra tillbaka sin anmälan.

— Kristina Ohlson

Marianne anser följande i domstolsverkets skrivelse från 1999 att lagföring av män, som åtalas och frias dvs oskyldiga, ger god effekt som skydd för kvinnan! "Om polis och åklagare under förundersökningen får fram tillräckliga bevis leder ärendet till åtal. Genom en lagföring lyfter rättsväsendet över ansvaret på den som tillgriper våld. Marianne Ny menar att lagföringen har en god effekt som skydd för kvinnan, även i de fall gärningsmannen åtalas men inte döms." Ha detta i åtanke varje gång ni läser om hennes ageranden i Assangefallet.

— Petter Flink

Man har all anledning att vara rädd för svenskt rättsväsende om en kvinna anmäler för våldtäkt, även om kvinnan blåjuger.

— Gunnar

Återigen kloka ord från artikelförfattaren, i ett ämne med många märkliga händelser. [Två iakttagelser:]

- Anmälarna kan inte formellt dra tillbaka anmälan. Våldtäkt faller under allmänt åtal, och det är åklagaren som har att besluta om ärendet ska drivas vidare, eller ej. Men, det är klart, om anmälarna slutar helt att medverka blir processföringen svår. Vilket de kan göra om de vill. Ord mot ord, där den ena parten inte vill uttala sig. Fungerar illa, även för en överåklagare från Utvecklingscentrum.
- Det ser ut som en tanke, att Borgströms advokatbyråkollega (Bodström) just nu har sin arbetsplats i USA. Och Bodström som fd justitieminister har väl haft mer än ett finger med i spelet när CIA flög fångar i transit via Sverige, och när vi med hjälp av CIA flög ut terroristmisstänkta från Sverige?

Det är inte svårt att tänka sig hur de informella kontakterna kan ha gått till i fallet Assange, och hur de två kvinnorna har blivit utnyttjade i ett långt större spel än vad de själva hade tänkt sig från början.

— Mayo Mellberg

Jaktens förlopp ger allvarliga svar om inte bara det svenska rättsväsendet utan även hur allvarlig kopplingen till främmande makters rättsväsende anas vara. Att en av **massmördare Quicks uppfinnare** [Borgström] figurerar gör inte saken mindre olustig. Att den svenska rättstaten har att revideras och rättsrötan ventileras bort råder inga tvivel kring. Frågan är vem som törs stå upp för detta gedigna arbete utan risk för egen säkerhet. Kanske LGWP? Dags att på allvar säga ACTA och försvara alla Whistleblowers innan tystnadens täcke kväver alla former av yttringar i sin linda....

— Conny Tallquist

Claes Borgström är en totalt hänsynslös maktmänniska med en egen karriärsagenda. Om det finns någon i Sverige som skulle applådera ett diktatoriskt styre så är det Borgström. En människa som vill styra andra människors liv. Kan han inte utlämnas till USA?

— *Nets Eruts*

Svensk rättvisa har hamnat i världens politiska strålkastarljus efter gripandet av Julian Assange, Wikileaks grundare. Två välkända radikalfeminister och rättvisans tjänare håller i taktpinnen; de goda vännerna advokaten Claes Borgström (S) och kammaråklagare Marianne Ny. Bara detta i sig gör att frågetecknen hopar sig. Vi i Sverige behöver inte sämre rättssäkerhet; vi behöver en bättre rättssäkerhet som svarar upp emot de mänskliga rättigheterna och könsens jämställdhet....

— *Arvid Andersson*

Tack Brita Sundberg-Weitman för att du öppnar ögonen på mig när det gäller den dokusåpa som svenskt rättsväsende verkar vara. Aldrig mer skall jag lite på att någon blir behandlad med varsamhet. Nu är jakten igång och det luktar "politiskt rättsväsende" lång väg, inga oberoende rättegångar för Assange. När svenskt rättsväsende lämnar honom till USA, så har Expressen/Polisen/Åklagarmyndigheten i Sverige sett till att Assange får ruttna bort som livstidsfånge med brutalitet och misshandel i fångenskapen. Svenskt åklagarväsende är MAKTFULLKOMLIGT och luktar 50-tal som Jan Myrdal skrev på Newsmill.

— *Ylva Matrisse*

Angående Borgströms motiv, driver han advokatfirma med fd Justitieminister Thomas Bodström (som kan antas ha goda kontakter vid US State Dept och fn är i USA). Huruvida det tidigare förekommit "informella samtal" med USA ang Assange kan vi i nuläget bara spekulera om. Däremot rapporterar media om att ett utlämnande från Sverige redan diskuterats i sådana samtal, och som WikiLeaks rapporterat om förs sådana samtal regelmässigt inom en rad områden-- allt medan allmänheten nekas insyn. Detta, te minst vad gäller det som rapporterats angående ett utlämnande av Assange, förnekas kategoriskt av Sveriges regering.

Mer specifikt gällande Borgströms motiv, är han känd som en opportunist-- inte minst är hans track-record som försvarare av Thomas Quick intressant i sammanhanget. Än mer aktuellt i detta avseende är dock hans ledande position i den radikalfeministiska rörelsen. Han har bland annat hävdad att alla män bär en kollektiv skuld för allt våld som utövas mot kvinnor. Borgström har anförut sedvanliga radikalfeministiska argument, som gör gällande att män är att betrakta som förövare och kvinnor som offer även där det gäller sexuella handlingar som sker i samförstånd.

Min personliga uppfattning är att Borgström, möjligtvis efter amerikanska uppmaningar att återuppta fallet, sett ett gyllene tillfälle att främja sin radikal-feministiska agenda. Denna avser, inte minst, att förändra svensk sexuallagstiftning i riktning mot uttalad feministisk extremism och paternalism. Hans uttalanden om att man måste vara advokat för att förstå ifall man blivit våldtagen eller ej, säger förmodligen det mesta i detta avseende. Det är en sedvanlig småpåve-attityd vanligt folk är vana att höra från politiker som girigt och omättligt eftersträvar maktutövning.

— *Erik L Andersson*

Med mycket stor sannolikhet kommer följande att hända:

1. JA utlämnas till Sverige, efter överklagande, någon gång efter helgerna;
2. JA hörs i Sverige under fortsatt förundersökning;
3. Åklagare beslutar i jan/feb, att förundersökningen inte räcker för åtal och JA försätts på fri fot; och

4. Svenska åklagare (och poliser) framstår som nånting som vi mera förknippar med rättsväsendet i svagt utvecklade länder i tropiskt klimat.

— *Xhristina Wegel*

Det är få som tar upp den verkligt allvarliga anklagelsen mot Assange. Att han har tillbringat tid och haft sex med kvinnorna och därefter inte ringt till dem eller besvarat deras samtal!! Något som tydligen gjort de båda damerna mycket upprörda. Jag trodde att det sista den vill som blivit våldtagen är att bli kontaktade av förövaren?

... Det intressanta med denna Nya tolkning av sexualbrotts lagen är att våldtäkten fullbordas efter att paret skilts åt, inte längre befinner sig på samma plats och består i förövarens avsaknaden av kontakt. Sexbrotts lagstiftningen har fått en ny dimension, våldtäkt på distans.

— *Jakobsson*

Det är med anledning av omständigheterna runt JA:s samvaro med hans anmälare mycket tydligt att han inte har begått något verkligt brott, Advokatfeministen Borgström driver åtalet "för kvinnornas räkning" och är ju kompanjon med Bodström. Som f.d justitieminister bör denne ha kvar gamla kontakter både med svenska regeringsledamöter och med amerikanska statstjänstemän där han nu befinner sig i USA. Jag tycker därför att man ser en "snitslad bana" hur Borgström-- i kontakt med Bodström och andra-- bestämmer sig för att nyttja fallet dels för att främja anmälarna (minst en av tjejerna är en feministisk aktivist) och dels för att göra intryck på sina vänner/kontakter i USA/Sverige.

Eftersom det i stort sett inte finns nån substans i fallet som anknyter till begreppet "våldtäkt-- t.ex. betalade en av tjejerna helt frivilligt en tågbiljett för Assange dagen efter den handling som hon senare omdefinierade till att vara brottslig-- så har fallet givit Sverige mycket dålig reklam i utlandet....

— *Börje Lundberg*

<http://www.newsmill.se/artikel/2010/12/07/fd-lagman-gripandet-av-assange-vider-allvarliga-fr-gor-om-den-svenska-r-ttsstate>

The Wikileaks sex files: How two one-night stands sparked a worldwide hunt for Julian Assange

Richard Pendlebury

Daily Mail

December 7, 2010

A winter morning in backwoods Scandinavia and the chime of a church bell drifts across the snowbound town of Enköping. Does it also toll for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange?

Today, this small industrial centre, 40 miles west of Stockholm, remains best-known — if known at all— as the birthplace of the adjustable spanner. But if extradition proceedings involving Britain are successful, it could soon be rather more celebrated — by the U.S. government at least — as the place where Mr Assange made a catastrophic error.

Here, in a first-floor flat in a dreary apartment block, the mastermind behind the leak of more than 250,000 classified U.S. diplomatic cables this month slept with a female admirer whom he had just met at a seminar. She subsequently made a complaint to police.

As a result, Assange, believed to be in hiding in England, faces a criminal prosecution and possibly jail. Last night, a European Arrest Warrant was given by Interpol to Scotland Yard.

The Stockholm police want to question him regarding the possible rape of a woman and separate allegations from another Swedish admirer, with whom he was having a concurrent fling. But there remains a huge question mark over the evidence. Many people believe that the 39-year-old Australian-born whistleblower is the victim of a U.S. government dirty tricks campaign. They argue that the whole squalid affair is a *sexfalla*, which translates loosely from the Swedish as a 'honeypot'.

One thing is clear, though: Sweden's complex rape laws are central to the story. Using a number of sources including leaked police interviews, we can begin to piece together the sequence of events which led to Assange's liberty being threatened by Stockholm police rather than Washington, where already one U.S. politician has called on him to be executed for 'spying'.

The story began on August 11 this year, when Assange arrived in Stockholm. He had been invited to be the key speaker at a seminar on 'war and the role of the media', organised by the centre-left [*Social Democrat, actually--A.B.*] Brotherhood Movement.

His point of contact was a female party official, whom we shall refer to as Sarah (her identity must be protected because of the ongoing legal proceedings). [*Anna Ardin's name is, in fact, now widely known.--A.B.*]

An attractive blonde, Sarah was already a well-known 'radical feminist'. In her 30s, she had travelled the world following various fashionable causes. While a research assistant at a local university she had not only been the protegee of a militant feminist academic, but held the post of 'campus sexual equity officer'. Fighting male discrimination in all forms, including sexual harassment, was her forte.

Sarah and Assange had never met. But in a series of internet and telephone conversations, they agreed that during his visit he could stay at her small apartment in central Stockholm. She said she would be away from the city until the day of the seminar itself.

What happened over the next few days — while casting an extraordinary light on the values of the two women involved — suggests that even if the WikiLeaks founder is innocent of any charges, he is certainly a man of strong sexual appetites who is not averse to exploiting his fame. [*If so, it was mutual exploitation. It is clear that Ardin and, even more so, the other woman involved actively pursued Assange.--A.B.*]

Certainly his stay was always going to be a very social affair, mingling with like-minded and undoubtedly admiring people. That Thursday, he held court [*i.e. shared a meal*] at the Beirut Cafe in Stockholm, dining with fellow 'open government' campaigners and an American journalist.

The following afternoon, Sarah returned to Stockholm, 24 hours earlier than planned. In an interview she later gave to police, she is reported to have said: 'He (Assange) was there when I came home. We talked a little and decided that he could stay.'

The pair went out for dinner together at a nearby restaurant. Afterwards they returned to her flat and had sex. What is not disputed by either of them [*wrong; Assange claims no knowledge of any broken condom --A.B.*] is that a condom broke — an event which, as we shall see, would later take on great significance.

At the time, however, the pair continued to be friendly enough the next day, a Saturday, with Sarah even throwing a party for him at her home in the evening.

That same day, Assange attended his seminar at the Swedish trade union HQ. In the front row of the audience, dressed in an eye-catching pink jumper — you can see her on a YouTube internet clip recorded at the time — was a pretty twentysomething whom we shall call Jessica. She was the woman — who two sources this week told me is a council employee — from Enköping.

Jessica would later tell police that she had first seen Assange on television a few weeks before. She had found him ‘interesting, brave and admirable’. As a result, she began to follow the WikiLeaks saga, and when she discovered that he was due to visit Stockholm she -contacted the Brotherhood Movement to volunteer to help out at the seminar. Although her offer was not taken up, she decided to attend the seminar anyway and took a large number of photos of Assange during his 90-minute talk.

It is believed that by happenstance Jessica also met Sarah — the woman with whom Assange had spent the night — during the meeting. Afterwards, she hung around and was still there when Assange — who has a child from a failed relationship around 20 years ago [*which is relevant because...?--A.B.*] — left with a group of male friends for lunch.

Sources conflict here. One says that she asked to tag along; another that Assange invited her to join them. Subsequently, one of Assange’s friends recalled that Jessica had been ‘very keen’ to get Assange’s attention. She was later to tell police that, at the restaurant, Assange put his arm around her shoulder. ‘I was flattered. It was obvious that he was flirting,’ she reportedly said.

The attraction was mutual. After lunch, the pair went to the cinema to see a film called *Deep Sea*. Jessica’s account suggests that were ‘intimate’ and then went to a park where Assange told her she was ‘attractive’. But he had to leave to go to a ‘crayfish party’, a traditional, and usually boozy, Swedish summer event.

Jessica asked if they would meet again. ‘Of course,’ said the WikiLeaks supremo. They parted and she took a train back to Enköping while he took a cab back to his temporary base at Sarah’s flat, where the crayfish party was to be held. You might think it strange that Sarah would want to throw a party in honour of the man about whom she would later make a complaint to police concerning their liaison the night before. This is only one of several puzzling flaws in the prosecution case.

A few hours after that party, Sarah apparently Tweeted: ‘Sitting outside... nearly freezing, with the world’s coolest people. It’s pretty amazing!’ She was later to try to erase this message.

During the party, Assange apparently phoned Jessica and a few hours later she was boasting to friends about her flirtation with him. At that point, according to police reports, her friends advised her ‘the ball is in your court’.

So it was that on the Monday, Jessica called Assange and they arranged to get together in Stockholm. When they did meet they agreed to go to her home in Enköping, but he had no money for a train ticket and said he didn't want to use a credit card because he would be 'tracked' (presumably, as he saw it, by the CIA or other agencies). So Jessica bought both their tickets.

She had snagged perhaps the world's most famous activist, and after they arrived at her apartment they had sex. According to her testimony to police, Assange wore a condom. The following morning they made love again. This time he used no protection. Jessica reportedly said later that she was upset that he had refused when she asked him to wear a condom.

Again there is scant evidence — in the public domain at least — of rape, sexual molestation or unlawful coercion. What's more, the following morning, on the Tuesday, the pair amicably went out to have breakfast together and, at her prompting, Assange promised to stay in touch. He then returned to Stockholm, with Jessica again paying for his ticket.

What happened next is difficult to explain. The most likely interpretation of events is that as a result of a one-night stand, one participant came to regret what had happened.

Jessica was worried she could have caught a sexual disease, or even be pregnant: and this is where the story takes an intriguing turn. She then decided to phone Sarah — whom she had met at the seminar, and with whom Assange had been staying — and apparently confided to her that she'd had unprotected sex with him. At that point, Sarah said that she, too, had slept with him.

As a result of this conversation, Sarah reportedly phoned an acquaintance of Assange and said that she wanted him to leave her apartment. (He refused to do so, and maintains that she only asked him to leave three days later, on the Friday of that week.)

How must Sarah have felt to discover that the man she'd taken to her bed three days before had already taken up with another woman? Furious? Jealous? Out for revenge? Perhaps she merely felt aggrieved for a fellow woman in distress.

Having taken stock of their options **for a day or so**, on Friday, August 20, Sarah and Jessica took drastic action. They went together to a Stockholm police station where they said they were seeking advice on how to proceed with a complaint by Jessica against Assange.

According to one source, Jessica wanted to know if it was possible to force Assange to undergo an HIV test. Sarah, the seasoned feminist warrior, said she was there merely to support Jessica. But she also gave police an account of what had happened between herself and Assange a week before.

The female interviewing officer, presumably because of allegations of a sabotaged condom in one case and a refusal to wear one in the second, concluded that both women were victims: that Jessica had been raped, and Sarah subject to sexual molestation.

It was Friday evening. A duty prosecuting attorney, Maria Kjellstrand, was called. She agreed that Assange should be sought on suspicion of rape.

The following day, Sarah was questioned again, cementing the allegation of sexual misconduct against Assange. That evening, detectives tried to find him and searched Stockholm's entertainment district — but to no avail.

By Sunday morning, the news had leaked to the Press. Indeed, it has been suggested that the two women had discussed approaching a tabloid newspaper to maximise Assange's discomfort. By now, the authorities realised they had a high-profile case on their hands and legal papers were rushed to the weekend home of the chief prosecutor, who dismissed the rape charge. She felt that what had occurred were no more than minor offences.

But the case was now starting to spin out of control. Sarah next spoke to a newspaper, saying: 'In both cases, the sex had been consensual from the start but had eventually turned into abuse.'

Rejecting accusations of an international plot to trap Assange, she added: 'The accusations were not set up by the Pentagon or anybody else. The responsibility for what happened to me and the other girl lies with a man with a twisted view of women, who has a problem accepting the word "no".'

The two women then instructed Claes Borgstrom, a so-called 'gender lawyer' who is a leading supporter of a campaign to extend the legal definition of rape to help bring more rapists to justice. As a result, in September the case was reopened by the authorities, and last month Interpol said Assange was wanted for 'sex crimes'.

Yesterday, his lawyer Mark Stephens said the Swedish warrant was a 'political stunt' and that he would fight it on the grounds that it could lead to the WikiLeaks founder being handed over to the American authorities (Sweden has an extradition treaty with the U.S.).

Assange continues to insist that he has done nothing wrong, and that his sexual encounters with both women were consensual. But last week, the Swedish High Court refused to hear his final appeal against arrest, and extradition papers were presented to police in England, where Assange is currently in hiding. He is able to stay in this country thanks to a six-month visa which expires in the spring. *[Note: Assange has offered on several occasions to make himself available for interrogation, but the acting prosecutor rejected them all. He also remained in Sweden for 40 days after the initial complaint in order to give evidence; but he was never called upon, and the prosecutor is said to have given him permission to leave the country.--A.B.]*

So what to make of a story in which it's hard to argue that any of the parties emerges with much credit? How reliable are the two female witnesses?

Earlier this year, Sarah is reported to have posted a telling entry on her website, which she has since removed. But a copy has been retrieved and widely circulated on the internet. Entitled '7 Steps to Legal Revenge', it explains how women can use courts to get their own back on unfaithful lovers. Step 7 says: 'Go to it and keep your goal in sight. Make sure your victim suffers just as you did.' *[This text was copied from another source by Sarah/Anna, without comment.--A.B.]*

As for Assange... his website continues to release classified American documents that are -daily embarrassing the U.S. government. Clearly, he is responsible for an

avalanche of political leaks. Whether he is also guilty of sexual offences remains to be seen.

But the more one learns about the case, the more one feels that, unlike the bell in Enköping, the allegations simply don't ring true.

Note: This account conforms fairly well with other available sources; but there are many unknowns.--A.B.

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Julian Assange arrest: How the extradition process works

WikiLeaks founder could face detention upon his return to Sweden after activation of European Arrest Warrant

*Afua Hirsch Legal affairs correspondent
The Guardian
7 December 2010*

Julian Assange's arrest by police this morning will kickstart the fast-tracked extradition process, using the European Arrest Warrant system, to attempt to return him to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning regarding a rape charge.

Swedish criminal law experts said this morning that little was known about the allegations Assange is facing in the country, in line with legal requirements to protect anonymity and preserve confidentiality for sex crimes.

The activation of a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) by UK police suggests Assange has been formally charged by Swedish prosecutors and could face a period of detention upon his return.

Assange's legal team is determined to fight his extradition on grounds including the failure of authorities to provide details of the warrant issued by Sweden. They will also claim human rights reasons, including the arguments that the WikiLeaks founder may be unfairly deprived of his liberty in Sweden and that he risks not facing a fair trial.

The media attention surrounding Assange's case is likely to complicate any future criminal proceedings, although the lack of a jury system in Sweden is likely to fuel arguments that he will be protected from public and media interest in the case.

Assange's first appearance at Westminster magistrates' court today will be primarily concerned with formalities, including establishing his identity and determining whether he consents to the extradition.

The court will then adjourn for a full extradition hearing, which has to be within 21 days. A key issue will be whether Assange is released on bail during that period. His lawyers are reported to be putting together a generous bail package, including a security of at least £100,000 and a surety, where third parties guarantee to pay the court if he absconds.

Experts say a large sum is likely to secure bail, although the crime for which Assange is wanted by Sweden is rape, an offence for which bail is harder to secure.

If extradited to Sweden under the EAW-- a process that could be concluded quickly under the fast-track procedure-- Assange will be vulnerable to other extradition requests from countries including the US.

The US has an extradition treaty with Sweden since the 1960s, when the nations agreed to "make more effective the co-operation of the two countries in the repression of crime".

Extradition under the treaty is likely to face a number of obstacles, not least the fact that the likely charges facing Assange in the US-- under the Espionage Act or other legislation protecting national security-- are not included in the exhaustive list of offences set out in the law.

There may also be issues of jurisdiction, since the offences Assange is alleged by the US to have conducted did not take place within the country. However, with other cases involving alleged cybercrimes, such as the case pending against computer hacker Gary McKinnon, the US has claimed that entering its computer systems remotely constitutes an offence it has jurisdiction to prosecute.

Even if Assange's case falls outside the remit of Sweden's treaty with the US, there is scope for the country to agree to his extradition to the US.

Swedish law permits extradition more generally to countries outside Europe, although the process is subject to safeguards, including a ban on extradition for "political offences" or where the suspect has reason to fear persecution on account of their membership of a social group or political beliefs.

Under similar arrangements, Assange could also be vulnerable to extradition requests from other countries, including his native Australia, where the authorities are investigating a potential case against him.

Any extradition from Sweden to other countries could take place only after the current rape proceedings have been concluded. With Assange's lawyers confirming their intention to dispute those proceedings on all grounds, it seems the prospect of any extradition to the US remains some way away.

WikiLeaks' Assange Denied Bail in U.K. Extradition

*Erik Larson and James Lumley
Bloomberg
December 7, 2010*

Julian Assange, founder of the WikiLeaks website that leaked thousands of secret U.S. military and State Department documents, was denied bail by a U.K. judge at an extradition hearing over rape allegations in Sweden.

Assange, 39, will remain in custody at least until his next hearing on Dec. 14, Judge Howard Riddle ruled today at City of Westminster Magistrate's Court in London. Assange told the court he will fight the extradition.

"These are serious sexual offenses" and Assange has "weak community ties" and access to significant funds, Riddle said of his reasons for denying bail. He said the case isn't about WikiLeaks, where Assange is editor-in-chief.

WikiLeaks drew condemnation [*and vastly more praise--A.B.*] for posting classified documents on its website, including U.S. embassy communications and a military video of a July 2007 helicopter attack in Iraq that killed a Reuters television cameraman and his driver. Created in 2006, WikiLeaks receives confidential material and posts it on the Internet "so readers and historians alike can see evidence of the truth," according to its website.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said at a news conference on Nov. 29 that the Justice Department was conducting a criminal investigation into the release of government documents, saying such leaks put lives at risk. The U.S. embassy in London said it didn't send a representative to today's hearing.

Mark Stephens, Assange's lawyer with the firm Finers Stephens Innocent LLP in London, told reporters outside court that the bail ruling was "unfortunate" and that many people believe the allegations are politically motivated.

"We are in the rather exotic position of not seeing any of the evidence" against Assange, Stephens said. "It's very hard to prepare a bail application under those circumstances." Stephens regularly represents media organizations, including Bloomberg News.

Assange was arrested "by appointment" today at 9:30 a.m. after Swedish police issued a European arrest warrant. His surrender to police followed a warrant on one count of unlawful coercion, two counts of sexual molestation and one count of rape allegedly committed in August 2010, police said.

Prosecutors at the hearing said some claims relate to whether Assange failed to use condoms during sex and may have exploited a woman while she was sleeping. The alleged crimes took place in Stockholm and Enkoeping, while Assange was lecturing about the publication of classified U.S. military documents related to the war in Afghanistan.

MasterCard Inc., the world's second-biggest payments network, and London-based Visa Europe Ltd. are suspending payments to WikiLeaks via their systems, the companies said. MasterCard and Visa Europe are following the lead of eBay Inc. unit PayPal, which recently cut access to WikiLeaks for violating the online payment processor's acceptable use policy. Stephens, Assange's lawyer, said the website will continue operating and release more documents.

"Assange's likelihood of success in fighting extradition is very low," said Peter Watson, a lawyer with Allen & Overy LLP in London. "The European arrest warrant is a deliberately speedy process, free from political interference and with very narrow grounds on which to challenge."

Watson said Assange's prospects for winning bail next week are equally low because the U.K. would likely want Sweden to decide on bail, rather than risk losing a prisoner.

"In an extradition proceeding, flight risk concerns are even greater," Helen Malcolm, a lawyer with Three Raymond Buildings in London, said in an interview. "Nobody can be unaware that he may be wanted in America, if not now then soon, which gives him a strong impetus to escape."

Gemma Lindfield, a lawyer for the U.K. government, argued in court against bail for Assange citing his "nomadic lifestyle. This is somebody who is unable to provide an address that he will stay at for the proceedings," Lindfield said.

John Pilger, a journalist and documentary filmmaker, joined Jemima Khan and other celebrities at court offering to guarantee Assange's surety. "I have a very high regard for him," Pilger told Riddle. "I'm here today because the charges against him in Sweden are absurd, and were judged as absurd by the chief prosecutor" until a "senior political figure intervened."

The arrest warrant was sought by prosecutor Marianne Ny, who started her investigation on Sept. 1 after a Stockholm-based prosecutor dropped the rape charge and reduced the molestation charges. A lawyer for the two alleged victims appealed that decision.

Ny, who heads an office in Gothenburg that handles appeals involving prosecutor decisions in sex-crime cases, said today's arrest was a prerequisite for her case to move forward. "I want to make it clear that I haven't been subjected to any kind of pressure, political or otherwise," Ny said in a statement on the office's website. "I am prosecuting based on suspicions of sex crimes that were committed in Sweden."

Julian Assange Captured by World's Dating Police

*Naomi Wolf
Huffington Post
December 7, 2010*

Dear Interpol:

As a longtime feminist activist, I have been overjoyed to discover your new commitment to engaging in global manhunts to arrest and prosecute men who behave like narcissistic jerks to women they are dating.

I see that Julian Assange is accused of having consensual sex with two women, in one case using a condom that broke. I understand, from the alleged victims' complaints to the media, that Assange is also accused of texting and tweeting in the taxi on the way to one of the women's apartments while on a date, and, disgustingly enough, 'reading stories about himself online' in the cab.

Both alleged victims are also upset that he began dating a second woman while still being in a relationship with the first. (Of course, as a feminist, I am also pleased that the

alleged victims are using feminist-inspired rhetoric and law to assuage what appears to be personal injured feelings. That's what our brave suffragette foremothers intended!).

Thank you again, Interpol. I know you will now prioritize the global manhunt for 1.3 million guys I have heard similar complaints about personally in the US alone-- there is an entire fraternity at the University of Texas you need to arrest immediately.

I also have firsthand information that John Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, went to a stag party-- with strippers!-- that his girlfriend wanted him to skip, and that Mark Levinson in Corvallis, Oregon, did not notice that his girlfriend got a really cute new haircut-- even though it was THREE INCHES SHORTER.

Terrorists. Go get 'em, Interpol!

Yours gratefully,
Naomi Wolf

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/naomi-wolf/interpol-the-worlds-datin_b_793033.html

Åklagarmyndighetens pressreleaser angående utredning mot Julian Assange i kronologisk ordning

Publicerade på: <http://www.aklagare.se>

2010-08-21

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné har hävt anhållningsbeslutet av Julian Assange. Hon anser inte att det finns skäl för att han ska vara fortsatt anhållen.

- Jag anser inte att det finns anledning att misstänka att han har begått våldtäkt, säger Eva Finné.

Eva Finné lämnar inga ytterligare kommentarer under lördagen.

2010-08-22

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné kommer att arbeta med ärendet under veckan som kommer. Det går för närvarande inte att bedöma när eventuell ny information kan lämnas.

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné beslutade på lördageftermiddagen att häva beslutet om att anhålla Julian Assange. Hon hade då tagit del av information i ärendet och gjorde bedömningen att han inte kunde misstänkas för våldtäkt.

Är det vanligt att åklagare kommer till olika beslut?

Det beslutsunderlag som Eva Finné hade på lördagen var mer omfattande än det som jouråklagaren hade tillgång till under fredagskvällen. Beslut om tvångsmedel, som anhållan, ska alltid fortlöpande omprövas allt eftersom en förundersökning fortlöper.

Vad händer härnäst?

Eva Finné kommer att arbeta vidare med ärendet under veckan som kommer. Det går för närvarande inte att bedöma när ny information kan lämnas eller vilka beslut som kommer att fattas. Det går heller inte att bedöma om Julian Assange behöver förhöras, eller vilka brottsrubriceringar som kan vara aktuella.

Varför utsågs en ny åklagare?

Beslutet att utse Eva Finné till förundersökningsledare i ärendet togs under lördagen. Skälet var att avlasta jouråklagaren från ärendet. Efter varje helg fördelas alla jourärenden på olika åklagare, men även under pågående jourpass kan ordinarie åklagare utses. Det är då oftast fråga om allvarliga och/eller uppmärksammade brott, eftersom jourfunktionen inte kan blockeras av ett enda ärende utan måste kunna fungera normalt.

Varför offentliggjordes Julian Assanges namn?

Normalt offentliggör Åklagarmyndigheten inte namn på anhållna personer och myndigheten tog heller inte initiativ till att offentliggöra namnet. Uppgifterna om anhållan nådde-- på ett sätt som myndigheten inte känner till-- en nyhetsredaktion. Åklagaren bekräftade uppgifterna.

Vilka delar av ärendet är avgjorda och vilka kvarstår?

Det beslut som hittills är fattat är att Assange inte är misstänkt för våldtäkt och att han därför inte ska vara fortsatt anhållen. Åklagaren har ännu inte tagit ställning till eventuell brottsrubricering i det som tidigare bedömdes som våldtäkt. Hon har heller inte tagit ställning till det som är anmält som ofredande.

2010-08-23

Händelser fredag-- lördag

Vid 17-tiden på fredagen den 20 augusti beslutade jouråklagaren i Stockholm att Julian Assange skulle anhållas i sin frånvaro, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande. Åklagaren grundade sitt beslut på den information om ärendet som polisen lämnade per telefon, vilket är det normala förfarandet på åklagarjouren. Åklagaren fick också klart för sig att det rörde sig om en utländsk medborgare och att han, enligt uppgift, stod i färd med att lämna landet. Ett skäl att han han anhölls i sin frånvaro var alltså att det fanns risk för att han skulle hinna avvika innan man hade möjlighet att förhöra honom. Det fanns även risk för att han skulle kunna påverka utredningen.

Informationen om anhållandet nådde, på ett sätt som Åklagarmyndigheten inte känner till och heller inte får efterforska, en svensk nyhetsredaktion. Redaktionen kontaktade jouråklagaren under fredagskvällen. När åklagaren fick klart för sig att redaktionen kände till alla detaljer i ärendet bekräftade åklagaren att det fanns ett sådant ärende som gällde den aktuella personen, dvs. Julian Assange. Åklagaren lämnade dock inga som helst uppgifter om detaljer i ärendet. Detta är mycket viktigt i synnerhet vid sexualbrott, eftersom uppgifter om de inblandade personerna måste skyddas. Detta finns reglerat i sekretesslagen.

När nyheten kom ut i medierna på lördagen blev jouråklagarfunktionen i Stockholm mycket hårt ansatt. Det stod klart att ärendet måste lyftas från jouren, så att jouråklagaren kunde utföra sitt ordinarie arbete. Chefsåklagare Eva Finné utsågs därför till förundersökningsledare.

När hon utsetts till förundersökningsledare började Eva Finné omedelbart sätta sig in i ärendet. Cirka 16.30 på lördagen fattade hon beslut om att häva anhållan av Julian Assange, eftersom hon gjorde bedömningen att han inte kunde misstänkas för våldtäkt. Det beslutsunderlag som Eva Finné hade på lördagen var mer omfattande än det som jouråklagaren hade tillgång till under fredagen. Exakt vilka uppgifter kan för

närvarande inte lämnas ut, eftersom förundersökningen fortfarande pågår och sekretess därför råder.

I normalfallet fördelas alla jourärenden efter en helg på olika åklagare, men även under pågående jourpass kan ordinarie åklagare utses. Det är då oftast fråga om allvarliga och/eller uppmärksammade brott, eftersom jourfunktionen inte kan blockeras av ett enda ärende utan måste kunna fungera normalt.

Nuläge

Eva Finné fattade på lördagen beslut om att Assange inte längre kunde misstänkas för våldtäkt. Hon har dock inte slutligen tagit ställning till eventuell brottsrubricering i det som tidigare rubricerades som våldtäkt. Hon har heller inte tagit ställning till anmälan om ofredande. Utredningen pågår alltså fortfarande och misstankarna mot Assange är inte avförda.

2010-08-23

Riksåklagare Anders Perklev ger med anledning av Assange-ärendet en kommentar om överväganden som gäller öppenhet och sekretess i brottmål. Det mediala trycket mot myndigheten har varit mycket stort de senaste dagarna med anledningen av beslutet att anhålla JA. Åklagarmyndighetens informationsdirektör har varit i tjänst under hela helgen och svarat på frågor från nyhetsredaktioner både i Sverige och utomlands.

Beslut om anhållande och andra åklagarbeslut fattas av en enskild åklagare på eget ansvar, och inte av Åklagarmyndigheten som sådan. Detta begränsar möjligheterna för andra än åklagaren själv att träda in och ge information eller kommentera ett beslut. Dessutom måste hänsyn tas till den sekretess som gäller i förundersökningar så att inte den fortsatta utredningen försvåras.

Det är emellertid mycket viktigt att den information som kan lämnas ut också lämnas snabbt och på ett korrekt sätt. Vi kommer att se över vår beredskap inom myndigheten för att bättre kunna möta det stora intresse som finns av att få information i uppmärksammade fall.

*Anders Perklev
Riksåklagare*

2010-08-23

Eva Finné räknar med att kunna fatta beslut inom en relativt snar framtid, men vill framhålla att alla fakta i ärendet måste beaktas noggrant.

-- Jag ska nu gå igenom ärendet grundligt och bedöma de juridiska aspekterna, för att kunna fatta beslut om fortsättningen av förundersökningen. Jag räknar med att kunna ge ett besked i den här veckan, möjligen redan i morgon tisdag.

-- Jag har inte haft någon kontakt med Julian Assange och jag vet heller inte om uppgifterna stämmer att han skulle ha en svensk advokat.

--Julian Assange är inte misstänkt för våldtäkt. Jag ska gå igenom ärendet ytterligare i den delen för att bedöma om någon annan brottsrubricering kan vara aktuell eller inte. När det gäller den ursprungliga misstanken om ofredande har jag ännu inte gjort några bedömningar.

-- Mitt beslut om att häva anhållan på grund av att jag inte anser att han kan misstänkas för våldtäkt innebär ingen kritik av jouråklagarens beslut. Jag hade tillgång till mer information vid mitt beslut på lördagen än vad jouråklagaren hade på fredagen.

2010-08-24

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné meddelar att hon inte kommer att fatta beslut i ärendet under tisdagen den 24 augusti. Mer information i ärendet publiceras så snart den finns tillgänglig.

2010-08-25

Inget beslut är ännu fattat i ärendet. Mer information kommer i eftermiddag. Chefsåklagare Eva Finné har ännu inte fattat beslut i ärendet. Mer information kommer under eftermiddagen onsdag den 25 augusti. Det går inte att bedöma exakt när informationen kan lämnas, inte heller om den innebär ett beslut från chefsåklagaren eller besked om att utredningen fortsätter.

2010-08-25

Beslut av chefsåklagare Eva Finné.

I ärendet föreligger två anmälningar från två olika kvinnor. Anmälan nr 1 rubricerades från början som våldtäkt och anmälan nr 2 som ofredande.

Anmälan nr 1 K246314-10

De uppgifter som framkommit vid förhör med målsägaren är, som tidigare meddelats, sådana att misstanke om våldtäkt inte längre föreligger. Detta innebär inte att jag inte fäster tilltro till hennes uppgifter. Jag har studerat innehållet i förhöret för att se om misstanke om annat brott kan anses föreligga, i första hand ofredande eller sexuellt ofredande, men finner vid min analys att så inte är fallet. Förundersökningen läggs därför ned vad avser denna anmälan eftersom det inte föreligger misstanke om brott.

Anmälan nr 2 K246336-10

Misstanken om ofredande kvarstår. Jag kommer att ge direktiv till utredaren att höra den misstänkte.

2010-08-31

Ett fel hade olyckligtvis smugit sig in i förra texten.

Förundersökningen pågår i det ärende som ursprungligen rubricerades som ofredande . **Eva Finné kan för närvarande inte lämna några upplysningar om utredningsläget.**

Målsägarbiträdet, advokat Claes Borgström, begärde fredag den 27 augusti överprövning av åklagarbeslutet att Assange inte kan misstänkas för våldtäkt. Överprövningen handläggs av Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg. Beslut är att vänta inom de närmaste dagarna.

2010-08-31

Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg kommer inte att fatta beslut i överprövningsfrågan i Assangeärendet tisdag den 31 augusti. Skälet är att ytterligare material i ärendet kommit in sent under tisdagen.

Överåklagare Marianne Ny på Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg kommenterar:
 -- Under tisdagen har det framkommit att nytt material i utredningen har tillkommit. Vi fick materialet först sent på tisdag eftermiddag och kommer därför inte att fatta något beslut under tisdagen.

Beslutet väntas fattas cirka kl. 11.00 onsdag den 1 september.

2010-09-01

Överåklagare Marianne Ny har beslutat att förundersökningen om våldtäkt ska återupptas. Hon har också beslutat att förundersökningen om ofredande ska utvidgas till att omfatta samtliga händelser i anmälan. Ur beslutet:

Med ändring av åklagarens beslut den 25 augusti 2010 förordnar jag att förundersökningen avseende anmälan K 246314–10 återupptas.

Förundersökningen i anmälan K246336-10 avseende ett fall rubricerat som ofredande utvidgas till att avse samtliga i anmälan omnämnda händelser vilka är att rubricera som sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

– Vi har gått igenom ärendet och jag anser att det i den första delen finns anledning att anta att brott som hör under allmänt åtal har begåtts. Det finns också skäl att genomföra fler utredningsåtgärder. I den andra delen gör jag en annan bedömning av rubriceringen, säger överåklagare Marianne Ny vid Utvecklingscentrum Göteborg.

Marianne Ny kommer att vara förundersökningsledare i ärendet. Hon får bistånd i handläggningen av vice chefsåklagare Erika Lejnefors på Västerorts åklagarkammare i Stockholm. Erika Lejnefors kommer att ha de löpande kontakterna med Polisens utredare och utföra förundersökningen på Marianne Nys uppdrag. Alla frågor av större vikt, som beslut om eventuella tvångsmedel och att slutföra förundersökningen, ska dock beslutas av Marianne Ny.

– Av hänsyn till den fortsatta utredningen och till alla berörda är det inte möjligt att lämna några närmare uppgifter ur förundersökningen, säger Marianne Ny.

2010-09-03

Inga nya upplysningar kan lämnas i ärendet.

- Jag kan för närvarande inte lämna några nya upplysningar i ärendet. Inga upplysningar kommer heller att kunna lämnas under helgen, säger överåklagare Marianne Ny, förundersökningsledare.

2010-09-09

Arbetet med utredningen fortskrider men just nu och inom den närmaste veckan kan jag inte lämna några nya upplysningar i ärendet, säger förundersökningsledare överåklagare Marianne Ny.

2010-09-24

Arbetet med utredningen fortsätter och är relativt långt framskridet. Ytterligare ett antal utredningsåtgärder återstår innan beslut kan fattas i åtalsfrågan.

- Med hänsyn till förundersökningssekretessen kan jag just nu inte lämna mer information i ärendet, säger förundersökningsledaren överåklagare Marianne Ny.

2010-09-29

Utredningen är långt framskriden och endast ett mindre antal utredningsåtgärder återstår att vidta före ett beslut.

- Vid vilken tidpunkt ett beslut om utredningen kan komma är dock inte möjligt att bedöma än. Med hänsyn till utredningssekretessen och berörda personer kan någon närmare information om utredningen inte lämnas för närvarande säger förundersökningsledaren överåklagare Marianne Ny.

2010-10-22

Överåklagare Marianne Ny ger en kort beskrivning av läget i utredningen:

Utredningsarbetet har gått vidare men fortfarande återstår några åtgärder att vidta före beslut. Det är inte möjligt att bedöma när beslut kan komma. Ett beslut kan ligga inom en nära framtid men det kan också dröja.

Med hänsyn till utredningen inte möjligt att gå in på varför prognos om tidpunkt för beslut inte kan lämnas. Det är för närvarande inte heller möjligt att lämna några närmare uppgifter om innehållet i utredningen.

2010-11-04

Utredningen är långt framskriden, men fortfarande återstår några åtgärder att vidta före beslut. Det är inte möjligt att bedöma när beslut kan komma. Det är för närvarande inte heller möjligt att lämna några närmare uppgifter om innehållet i utredningen.

- Med hänsyn till sekretessen och berörda personer kan någon närmare information om utredningen ännu inte lämnas, säger överåklagare Marianne Ny.

2010-11-18

Överåklagare Marianne Ny har i dag den 18 november lämnat in en framställan till Stockholms tingsrätt om att häkta Julian Assange i hans frånvaro.

– Jag begär att tingsrätten ska häkta Assange i hans frånvaro, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång. Bakgrunden är att han måste förhöras i utredningen och att han inte kunnat anträffas för att genomföra dessa förhör, säger förundersökningsledaren överåklagare Marianne Ny.

Av hänsyn till utredningen och de parter som berörs har åklagaren inte möjlighet att just nu lämna närmare information om de misstänkta brotten eller vilka utredningsåtgärder som hittills har vidtagits.

Efter häktningförhandlingen kommer information att publiceras på www.aklagare.se om utgången av förhandlingen samt konsekvenserna av den. Marianne Ny är då också tillgänglig på telefon.

Häktningförhandlingen äger rum kl. 14 i dag i Stockholms tingsrätt.

2010-11-18

Med anledning av att tingsrätten beslutat häkta Julian Assange i hans frånvaro kommer han nu att efterlysas internationellt. Överåklagare Marianne Ny har i dag den 18 november lämnat in en framställan till Stockholms tingsrätt om att häkta Julian Assange i hans frånvaro.

Tingsrätten har vid häktningsförhandling under eftermiddagen beslutat att häkta Assange i hans frånvaro, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång.

Som ett led i verkställandet av häktningsbeslutet kommer Assange nu att efterlysas internationellt.

Av hänsyn till utredningen och de parter som berörs har åklagaren inte möjlighet att lämna närmare information om de misstänkta brotten eller vilka utredningsåtgärder som hittills har vidtagits.

2010-11-24

Svea hovrätts beslut att fastställa häktningen av Julian Assange innebär att han är fortsatt internationellt efterlyst. Assange har den 22 november överklagat Stockholms tingsrätts beslut att häkta honom i hans frånvaro. Överklagandet har handlagts av Svea hovrätt. Under måndagseftermiddagen begärde hovrätten in yttrande från åklagaren.

Hovrätten har idag den 24 november prövat överklagandet och beslutat att Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad, misstänkt för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande i två fall och olaga tvång. Den internationella efterlysningen och den europeiska arresteringsordern kommer att ändras i enlighet med häktningsbeslutet.

Av hänsyn till utredningen och de parter som berörs har åklagaren inte möjlighet att lämna närmare information om de misstänkta brotten eller vilka utredningsåtgärder som hittills har vidtagits.

2010-12-01

Överåklagare Marianne Ny bekräftar i dag att en europeisk arresteringsorder har utfärdats för Julian Assange. Hon kan för tillfället inte ge ytterligare upplysningar i ärendet, detta med hänsyn till sekretessen.

2010-12-02

Högsta domstolen har beslutat att inte bevilja Julian Assange prövningstillstånd. Kompletterande uppgifter kommer att sändas till brittisk polis. Julian Assange är häktad i sin frånvaro för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång. Assange har överklagat Svea hovrätts häktningsbeslut.

Högsta domstolen har i dag beslutat att inte bevilja Julian Assange prövningstillstånd. För att HD ska pröva ett överklagande krävs prövningstillstånd. Det kan beviljas om ärendet bedöms ha stor betydelse för rättstillämpningen eller om det finns andra synnerliga skäl.

Arresteringsordern grundas på det häktningsbeslut som nu är prövat i samtliga tre instanser. Den komplettering som brittisk polis har begärt avser uppgifter om straffen

för de övriga brott, utöver våldtäkt, som Julian Assange är häktad för. De begärda uppgifterna kommer snarast att sändas över. Den tidigare arresteringsordern gäller.

2010-12-06

Lägesrapport om den europeiska arresteringsordern, måndag den 6 december
Överåklagare Marianne Ny har lämnat de kompletteringar som brittisk polis begärt. Ärendet hanteras nu av behöriga rättsvårdande myndigheter enligt det europeiska regelverket. Åklagaren lämnar för närvarande ingen ytterligare information om handläggningen av arresteringsordern.

2010-12-07

Överåklagare Marianne Ny kan för närvarande inte lämna några kommentarer. Ärendet hanteras av behöriga rättsvårdande myndigheter enligt det europeiska regelverket. Åklagaren kan därför för närvarande inte lämna några kommentarer om ärendet.

2010-12-07

Brittisk polis har i dag gripit Julian Assange. *[Han överlämnade sig själv. — A.B.]*
Överåklagaren ger med anledning av detta en kommentar. Överåklagare Marianne Ny har utfärdat den europeiska arresteringsorder som möjliggjort gripandet av Julian Assange. Den europeiska arresteringsordern grundas i sin tur på ett häktningsbeslut från Svea hovrätt den 24 november.

Marianne Ny lämnar följande kommentar med anledning av dagens händelser:
- Förutom gripandet har det inte hänt något nytt i utredningen, men gripandet var en förutsättning för att vi skulle kunna gå vidare. Vad som händer i utredningen härnäst har jag inte möjlighet att lämna information om. För närvarande handläggs ärendet av brittiska myndigheter, säger Marianne Ny.

Åklagaren vill också poängtera att ärendet uteslutande rör Julian Assanges agerande som privatperson.

- Jag vill göra klart att jag inte har utsatts för några som helst påtryckningar av politisk eller annan karaktär. Jag agerar som åklagare med anledning av misstankar om sexualbrott som begåtts i Sverige i augusti. Svenska åklagare är helt självständiga i sitt beslutsfattande, säger Marianne Ny.

Källa: <http://assangerape.tumblr.com/page/2>

* * *

The prosecutors' office press releases translated to English

2010-08-21

Chief prosecutor Eva Finné has cancelled the arrestorder on Julian Assange. She does not believe that there are reasons for him to remain under arrest.
"I do not think there is reason to suspect that he committed rape," says Eva Finné.
Eva Finné makes no further comment on Saturday.

2010-08-22

Chief prosecutor Eva Finné will work on the matter during the coming week. It is not currently possible to predict when any new information can be provided. Chief prosecutor Eva Finné decided on Saturday afternoon to rescind the decision to arrest Julian Assange. She had received information on the matter and felt that he could not be accused of rape.

Is it common for prosecutors come to different decisions?

The decision support that Eva Finné had on Saturday was more extensive than the on-call prosecutor had access to during Friday evening. Decisions on enforcement, as the request, should always be continually reviewed as a preliminary investigation is progressing.

What happens next?

Eva Finné will pursue the matter during the coming week. It is not currently possible to determine when new information can be or what decisions will be taken. Nor is it possible to assess whether Julian Assange need of inquiry, or the offenses that may be present.

Why was there a new prosecutor appointed?

The decision to appoint Eva Finné to the investigator in the case was taken on Saturday. The reason was to relieve on-call prosecutor from the case. After each weekend distributed all emergency cases on different prosecutors, but also during a call shift, ordinary prosecutor be appointed. It is mostly the case of serious and / or high-profile crimes, because on-call function can not be blocked by a single case, but must function normally.

Why was Julian Assanges name published?

Normally publishes Prosecution did not name the arrested persons and the prosecutors did not publish the name. Data on request reached-- in a way that authority does not know-- a newsroom. The prosecutor confirmed the information.

What aspects of the matter are settled and what remains?

The decision has been made so far is that Assange are not suspected of rape and that he therefore should not be continued under arrest. The prosecutor has not yet taken a position on any offense charged in the previously defined as rape. She has not taken a position on what is reported as harassment.

2010-08-23

Events Friday-- Saturday

At 17 o'clock on Friday 20 August, on-call prosecutor in Stockholm to Julian Assange would be arrested in absentia, on suspicion of rape and molestation. The prosecutor based her decision on the information on the case by the police over the telephone, which is the normal procedure for prosecution on call. The prosecutor had also realized that it was a foreign national and that he, allegedly, was about to leave the country. One reason that he he was arrested in his absence was, therefore, that there was a danger that he could catch depart before they had the opportunity to question him. There was also a risk that he could influence the investigation.

The information of the arrest reached, in a way that prosecution does not know and do not seek, a Swedish news service. The editorial staff contacted the prosecutor on call

during Friday evening. When the prosecutor was well aware that the editors knew all the details of the case confirmed the prosecutor that there was a case involving the person in question, ie. Julian Assange.

The prosecutor did, however, absolutely no information on details of the case. This is very important especially for sexual offenses, because data on the persons involved must be protected. This is regulated by the Official Secrets Act.

When the news came out in the media on Saturday, on-call prosecutor feature in Stockholm very attacked. It was clear that the matter must be lifted from the hotline, so call the prosecutor was able to perform their regular work. Chief prosecutor Eva Finné was thus appointed investigator.

When she was appointed investigator began Eva is immediately put into the issue. Around 16:30 on Saturday, she took the decision to cancel the request by Julian Assange, because she felt that he could not be accused of rape. The decision support that Eva Finné had on Saturday was more extensive than the on-call prosecutor had access to on Friday. Exactly what information can not currently be disclosed, as investigation is still ongoing and therefore the confidentiality is.

Normally distributed all emergency cases after a weekend at various prosecutors, but even during a call shift, ordinary prosecutor be appointed. It is mostly the case of serious and / or high-profile crimes, because on-call function can not be blocked by a single case, but must function normally.

Situation today:

Eva Finné made the descision on Saturday decided to Assange could no longer be accused of rape. She has not finally ruled on any offense charged in the former was described as rape. She has not taken a position on notification of molestation. The investigation is in progress and therefore still suspicions against Assange is not de-registered.

2010-08-23

Prosecutor Anders Perklev gives a result of Assange-file a comment on the considerations of transparency and confidentiality in criminal cases.

The media pressure against the authority has been great the last few days with the reason of the decision to arrest Julian Assange. Prosecution communications director has been in service for the whole weekend and responded to questions from news organizations both in Sweden and abroad.

Arrest warrants and other prosecution decisions are made by a private prosecutor on his own responsibility, and not by the prosecution as such. This limits the possibilities for other than the prosecutor himself to step in and provide information or comment on a decision. Moreover, taking into account the confidentiality of investigations so that no further investigation is hampered.

However, it is very important that the information may be disclosed also be quickly and correctly. We will review our preparedness within the agency to better meet the wide interest is in getting the information in high profile cases.

Anders Perklev, Prosecutor-General

2010-08-23

Eva Finné expects to take a decision in the fairly near future, but points out that all the facts of the case must be considered carefully.

I will now go through the matter in detail and assess the legal aspects, in order to decide the future direction of the investigation. I expect to give an informed opinion in this week, possibly as early as tomorrow Tuesday.

I have not had any contact with Julian Assange and I do not know if the reports are true that he would have a Swedish lawyer.

Julian Assange is not suspected of rape. I'll go through the matter further in the section to assess whether any other offenses may be present or not. With regard to the initial suspicion of molestation, I have not yet made any judgments.

My decision to cancel the request on the grounds that I do not think he can be accused of rape does not imply any criticism of on-call prosecutor's decision. I had access to more information at my decision on Saturday than on-call prosecutor had on Friday.

2010-08-24

Chief prosecutor Eva Is the message that she will not decide the matter on Tuesday, August 24. For more information on this subject are published as soon as it is available.

2010-08-25

No decision has yet taken on the matter. More information will follow in the afternoon. Chief prosecutor Eva Finné has not yet ruled on the case. More information will follow in the afternoon Wednesday, August 25. You can not judge exactly where the information can be provided, nor whether it involves a decision by the Chief Prosecutor or announce that the investigation continues.

2010-08-25

Order of the Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné.

In case there are two notifications from two different women. Notification No one was described initially as rape and notification No. 2 as molestation.

Notification No. 1 K246314-10

The information obtained during questioning of the plaintiff is, as previously announced, such that the suspicion of rape no longer exists. This does not mean that I do not give credence to her duties. I have studied the content of the interview to see if the suspicion of another crime may be presumed primarily molestation or sexual assault, but found by my analysis that is not the case.

The criminal proceedings are put down with regard to this notification, as there is suspicion of crime.

Notification No. 2 K246336-10

The suspicion of assault continues. I will issue instructions to the investigator to question the suspect.

2010-08-31

An error was unfortunately crept into the previous text.

The preliminary investigation is in progress in the matter which originally was described as the harassment. Eva Finné can not currently provide any information on the investigation mode.

Claimant attorney, lawyer Claes Borgstrom, asked Friday, August 27 review of prosecutor's decision to Assange not be suspected of rape. The appeal dealt with by the Development Centre Gothenburg. The decision is expected within the next few days.

2010-08-31

Development Center Gothenburg will not take a decision of the appeals in question Assangeärendet Tuesday, August 31. The reason is that the additional material on the subject arrived late on Tuesday.

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny Development Center in Gothenburg said:

-- On Tuesday, it emerged that the new material to the investigation has emerged. We received the material before late Tuesday afternoon and will therefore not take any decision on Tuesday.

The decision is expected to be taken at approx. 11:00 Wednesday, September 1st.

2010-09-01

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny has decided that the preliminary investigation of rape should be resumed. She has also decided that the preliminary investigation of molestation should be extended to all events in the notification From the decision:

Amending the prosecutor's decision August 25, 2010 I ordain that the preliminary investigation concerning the statements K 246314-10 resume.

The preliminary investigation in the notification K246336-10 on a case headlined as the harassment extended to all of the notification mentioned events which are to classify as sexual coercion and sexual assault.

- We have reviewed the matter and I believe that in the first part is reason to believe that an offense subject to public prosecution has been committed. There is also reason to undertake more investigative procedures. In the second part, I make a different assessment of receiving stolen, "said chief prosecutor Marianne Ny Development Center in Gothenburg.

Mrs New will be the investigator on the case. She assisted in the handling of deputy chief prosecutor Erika Lejnors on West Local public prosecution office in Stockholm. Erika Lejnors will have ongoing contacts with police investigators and conduct preliminary investigation on Marianne Nys mission. All matters of major importance, as decisions about possible coercion and to complete the preliminary investigation, shall be decided by Marianne Ny.

- For the sake of the continuing investigation and to all concerned, it is not possible to give any details of the inquiry, "said Marianne Ny.

2010-09-03

No new information can be provided on the case.

- I can not currently provide any new information on this matter. No information will not be able to be provided over the weekend, "said chief prosecutor Marianne Ny, investigator.

2010-09-09

Work on the investigation progresses, but right now, and within the next few weeks, I can not provide any new information on this matter, "said investigator of the prosecutor Marianne Ny.

2010-09-24

Work on the investigation continues and is relatively well advanced. A number of additional investigative steps remain before a decision can be taken in prosecuting the matter.

- With regard to the confidentiality of judicial investigations, I can not currently provide more details of the case, said inquiry leader chief prosecutor Marianne Ny.

2010-09-29

The investigation is well advanced and only a small number of investigative procedures have to be taken before a decision.

- At what point a decision of the investigation may, however, is not possible to assess yet. In view of the investigation confidential and the persons concerned may no details of the investigation is not provided at present "said inquiry leader chief prosecutor Marianne Ny.

2010-10-22

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny gives a brief description of the situation in the study: Investigations have moved on but still have some steps to take before making a decision. It is not possible to predict when a decision might be. A decision may lie in the near future but it can also take some time.

In view of the analysis is not possible to go into why the forecast of the date of decision can be made. It is currently not possible to give any details on the substance of the investigation.

2010-11-04

The investigation is well advanced, but still some steps to take before making a decision. It is not possible to predict when a decision might be. It is currently not possible to give any details on the substance of the investigation.

- Given the secrecy and interested people can have any detailed information about the investigation has not yet left, "said chief prosecutor Marianne Ny.

2010-11-18

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny today November 18 submitted a request to the Stockholm District Court to detain Julian Assange in his absence.

- I request that the district court to detain Assange in his absence, on suspicion of rape, sexual assault and coercion. The background is that he must be interrogated in the investigation and that he could not be found for the implementation of these hearings, "said inquiry leader chief prosecutor Marianne Ny.

For the sake of the investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor is not able to moment with the details of the suspected crimes or the investigative measures taken so far.

After the detention hearing, information will be published on www.aklagare.se the end of the hearing and the consequences of it. Marianne Ny, then, also available on the phone.

Detention hearing will take place at. 14 days in the Stockholm District Court.

2010-11-18

Given that the district court decided to detain Julian Assange in his absence, he will now be candled after internationally.

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny today November 18 submitted a request to the Stockholm District Court to detain Julian Assange in his absence.

The district court has the remand hearing in the afternoon decided to detain Assange in his absence, on suspicion of rape, sexual assault and coercion.

As part of the execution of the warrant will Assange now after candled internationally.

For the sake of the investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor is unable to provide details of the suspected crimes or the investigative measures taken so far.

2010-11-24

Svea Court of Appeal's decision to establish the arrest of Julian Assange means that he remains an international wanted list.

Assange is November 22 appealed the Stockholm district court's decision to detain him in his absence. The appeal has been dealt with by the Svea Court of Appeal. On Monday afternoon, asked the Court of Appeal in the opinion of the prosecutor.

The Court of Appeal has today November 24 reviewed the appeal and decided to Assange should remain in custody on suspicion of rape, sexual molestation in two cases and duress. The international search and the European Arrest Warrant will be amended in accordance with the arrest warrant.

For the sake of the investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor is unable to provide details of the suspected crimes or the investigative measures taken so far.

2010-12-01

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny confirms today that the European arrest warrant was issued for Julian Assange. She can not currently provide additional information on this matter, that with regard to confidentiality.

2010-12-02

The Supreme Court has decided not to grant leave to appeal Julian Assange. Additional data will be sent to British police. Julian Assange is in custody in absentia of rape, sexual assault and coercion. Assange has appealed the Svea Court of Appeal custody.

The Supreme Court decided today not to grant leave to appeal Julian Assange. To HD will hear an appeal requires leave to appeal. It may be granted if the case is expected to have significant impact on law enforcement, or if there are other important reasons.

The warrant is based on the warrant of arrest which is now tested in all three instances. The additions that British police have requested information concerning the punishment of the other crimes other than rape, as Julian Assange is remanded for. The required data will soon be sent over. The earlier arrest warrant.

2010-12-06

Progress report on the European Arrest Warrant, Monday, December 6
Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny submitted the additional information requested by British police. The case is now handled by the competent judicial authorities under the European regulatory framework. The prosecutor currently provide no further information on the handling of the arrest warrant.

2010-12-07

Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny can not currently provide any comments.
The case was handled by relevant law enforcement authorities under the European regulatory framework. The prosecutor can not currently provide any comments on the matter.

2010-12-07

British police have today arrested Julian Assange. Over prosecutor gives a result of this comment. Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny has issued European arrest warrant which allowed the arrest of Julian Assange. The European arrest warrant is based in turn on a warrant from the Svea Court of Appeal on November 24.

Marianne Ny leaves the following comment in response to today's events:

- In addition to the arrest, it has not happened something new in the investigation, but the arrest was a prerequisite that we could move on. What happens next in the investigation, I have not able to provide information on. Currently the case is handled by the British authorities, "said Marianne Ny.

The prosecutor also want to point out that the matter relates exclusively to the Julian Assanges conduct as a private individual.

- I want to make clear that I have not been subjected to any pressure from political or other nature. I act as a prosecutor because of suspicions of sexual crimes committed in Sweden in August. Swedish prosecutors are fully autonomous in their decision, "said Marianne Ny.

Source: <http://assangerape.tumblr.com/page/2>

AB: 2010-12-07

Åklagarmyndighetens hemsida kraschad

Kan vara hackad

Åklagarmyndighetens hemsida ligger nere. Enligt uppgift till Aftonbladet kan den vara utsatt av en attack-- till stöd för Julian Assange.

Attacken mot www.aklagare.se ska ha inletts klockan 17 svensk tid. Enligt uppgift till Aftonbladet är det samma grupp som i dag lyckades krascha Assanges schweiziska bank som ligger bakom attacken mot Åklagarmyndighetens hemsida.

– Gruppen väntar nu på att fler ska ansluta sig till attacken så att man kan gå på större mål, säger en källa med insyn.

På åklagarmyndigheten jobbar man på en lösning .

– Jag kan bekräfta att vår leverantör stängt ner sajten för att den är överbelastad, säger Fredrik Berg, informatör på Åklagarmyndigheten.

– Vi kommer att göra allt för redigera bort trafiken.

Det var vid 21.30 fortfarande oklart när sajten förväntades vara uppe igen.

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange greps i dag och sitter häktad i London-- misstänkt för våldtäkt och sexuella ofredanden i Sverige. Arresteringsordern utfärdades av svenska överåklagaren Marianne Ny.

• *Josefine Hökerberg*

AB: 2010-12-08

"Kvinnorna tänkte inte anmäla Assange"

De ville bara att han skulle testa sig för könssjukdom

Svenskorna som har anklagat Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange, 39, för våldtäkt, tänkte först inte anmäla honom. De två kvinnorna ville bara spåra upp honom i syfte att övertala honom att testa sig för könssjukdomar. Det rapporterar nyhetsbyrån Reuters i dag.

Men Claes Borgström hävdar bestämt att uppgifterna inte stämmer.

– Kvinnorna gick till polisen för att få rådgivning, de frågade "hur ska vi göra?". De berättade vad som hade hänt och då är det så att våldtäkt och sexuella övergrepp faller under allmänt åtal. När poliskvinnan som tog deras uppgifter insåg vad det handlade om, anmälde hon det vidare till åklagaren. Då påbörjades en utredning. Påfrestande

Enligt Claes Borgström är dessa två kvinnor inte ensamma om att vara tveksamma till att anmäla en våldtäkt till polisen.

– Det innebär alltid stora påfrestningar för målsäganden. Det är inte så att dessa kvinnor inte ansåg sig vara utsatta för ett övergrepp, men de ville veta hur de skulle göra och de ville också få klart för sig om eventuell risk för hivsmitta.

Claes Borgström säger att det ibland kan vara svårt för en person att avgöra vad som är ett sexuellt övergrepp.

– Kvinnor som utsätts för övergrepp definierar det inte alltid på det viset. Det är ett stort problem i vårt samhälle och det kan vara svårt att bedöma vad som hänt om man inte är jurist. Nu är ju dock Julian Assange häktad, misstänkt för våldtäkt, konstaterar Borgström.

Nyhetsbyrån Reuters hävdar dock att flera personer som ska ha varit i kontakt med Julian Assanges sällskap vid den aktuella tidpunkten för de misstänkta våldtäkterna, uppger att kvinnorna först inte hade för avsikt att anmäla Assange för sexualbrott.

Enligt dessa källor ska kvinnorna tillsammans ha sökt upp polisen då de misslyckats med att övertala Assange att besöka en läkare, efter deras separata sexuella umgänge med Wikileaks-grundaren i augusti.

Kvinnorna ska ha haft svårt att få tag i Assange, eftersom han hade stängt av sin mobiltelefon av rädsla för att hans fiender skulle kunna spåra upp honom, hävdar dessa källor för Reuters.

Om Assange hade varit lite mer lättillgänglig för kvinnorna och den svenska polisen, hade han med andra ord kanske sluppit undan anklagelserna om våldtäkt, konstaterar nyhetsbyrån.

Julian Assange blev efter det anklagad för våldtäkt, sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

Han häktades i sin frånvaro och är sedan i tisdags gripen av brittisk polis och sitter i förvar i Wandsworth-fängelset i sydvästra London.
Inget med Wikileaks

Assange har både beundrare och motståndare. Organisationen Wikileaks har publicerat hemliga regeringsdokument och bland annat vill många högt uppsatta amerikanska politiker ställa honom till svars, alternativt tysta honom. Assange säger sig vara rädd för att bli utlämnad till USA.

– Det hade varit rakryggat om Julian Assange själv hade kunnat säga till världspressen att det som hände i Sverige inte hade något med Wikileaks att göra. Han vet mycket väl att det inte finns några sådana kopplingar, säger Claes Borgström till Aftonbladet.

Det har varit några turer i Assange-fallet. Chefsåklagare Eva Finné fattade beslut om att lägga ner förundersökningen rörande våldtäktsanmälan mot Julian Assange.

– Jag anser inte att det finns anledning att misstänka att han har begått våldtäkt, sa Finné då i ett pressmeddelande.

Men åklagare Marianne Ny vid Åklagarmyndighetens utvecklingscentrum i Göteborg tog på nytt upp fallet. Enligt Marianne Ny fanns det anledning att anta att brott som hör under allmänt åtal hade begåtts och att man behövde utreda ärendet ytterligare.

– Vi gör på en del av det material som Eva Finné haft tillgång till, en annan bedömning.

Efter att Assange gripits i Storbritannien sa Marianne Ny:

– Gripandet var en förutsättning för att vi skulle kunna gå vidare. Vad som händer i utredningen härnäst har jag inte möjlighet att lämna information om. För närvarande handläggs ärendet av brittiska myndigheter.

Fakta

Assange anmäls den 20 augusti 2010 för våldtäkt och ofredande.

Han anhålls samma kväll i sin frånvaro av en jouråklagare i Stockholm, på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande.

Anhållan mot Assange hävs vid 17-tiden nästa dag av chefsåklagare Eva Finné vid City åklagarkammare i Stockholm, eftersom hon bedömde att det inte längre fanns anledning att fullfölja den då "misstanke om våldtäkt inte längre föreligger". Misstanken om ofredande kvarstår dock.

Åklagare Marianne Ny vid Åklagarmyndighetens utvecklingscentrum i Göteborg tar på nytt upp förundersökningen en vecka senare, den 1 september. Fallet som rubricerats som ofredande, rubriceras nu som sexuellt tvång och sexuellt ofredande. I beslutet om överprövningsärendet skriver Ny: "Vid min genomgång av ärendet konstaterar jag att det finns anledning att anta att brott som hör under allmänt åtal har förövats".

Den 18:e november häktas Julian Assange i sin frånvaro för ett fall av olaga tvång den 13-14 augusti i Stockholm, sexuellt ofredande den 13-14 augusti i Stockholm, sexuellt ofredande den 18 augusti eller dagarna däromkring i Stockholm, sexuellt ofredande den 16-17 augusti i Enköping och våldtäkt den 17 augusti i Enköping. I samband med beslut om häktning, beslutar man att också efterlysa Assange internationellt.

Häktningen överklagas till Svea hovrätt som avslår överklagan. Hovrätten justerar dock brottsrubriceringarna. Ett fall av sexuellt ofredande underkänns och tas bort samtidigt som hovrätten graderar ned misstankegraden för våldtäkt till ett mindre grovt brott.

Den 30 november kommer en överklagan in till Högsta Domstolen, men HD tar inte upp häktningen av Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange. Därmed är han fortsatt internationellt efterlyst.

En europeisk arresteringsorder utfärdas, men den visar sig sakna en specificering av maxstraffen för samtliga de fyra brott som Assange är misstänkt för. Den svenska arresteringsordern innehåller bara en specificering för det grävsta brottet. Därför kan brittisk polis inte gripa Assange.

Den europeiska arresteringsordern kompletteras av svenska myndigheter i början av december med uppgifterna som efterfrågas och skickas på nytt till Storbritannien där Assange befinner sig.

Julian Assange tar självmant kontakt med polisen och grips tisdagen den 7 december. Samma dag hörs Wikileaksgrundaren i en domstol i centrala London. Han samtycker inte till att bli utlämnad till Sverige. Beslut fattas om att sätta Julian Assange i förvar i Wandsworth-fängelset. Han blir kvar i häkte fram till den 14:e december då förhandlingar inleds om hans utlämnande.

Tommy Kangasvieri, biträdande chef för IPO (Rikskrims enhet för internationellt polissamarbete), säger till TT att det kan ta "upp till 90 dagar" innan Assange utlämnas om han motsätter sig utlämning, eftersom Assange har rätt till överprövning av beslutet.

• *Susanna Vidlund*

AB: 2010-12-08

Sverigebild smutsas av Assange-affären

Snurrig rättshantering väcker omvärldens misstankar

Bilden av Sverige som rättstat riskerar att få sig en rejäl törn av Assange-affären. Misstanken är redan vitt spridd att Sverige går USA:s ärenden. Grunden till detta är den rättsliga hanteringen av våldtäktsanklagelserna.

Under gårdagen blev jag uppringd av en rad brittiska journalister som ville veta hur det svenska rättssystemet egentligen fungerar, om Assange kunde vara säker på att få en juste rättegång och hur stor risken var att han skulle utvisas till USA.

– Hur kan en åklagare först åtala, sedan avskriva och åtala igen, undrade en BBC-reporter.

Wikileaksgrundarens brittiske advokat har ifrågasatt det svenska rättsväsendets oberoende. I Australien finns en utbredd uppfattning hos allmänheten att Sverige låtit sig påverkas av mäktiga intressen.

Uppfattningen baserar sig på den för utomstående något snurriga hanteringen av våldtäktsanklagelserna mot Assange.

Den 20 augusti beslutar en jouråklagare att Assange ska anhållas för våldtäkt. Av okänd anledning offentliggörs hans namn vilket är ett brott mot sekretessen. Nyheten blir förstasidesstoff runtom i världen.

Dagen efter beslutar chefsåklagare Eva Finné att bevisen inte räcker för ett anhållande och avskriver våldtäktsanklagelserna.

Under tiden fortsätter hon pröva om Assange begått något annat brott typ sexuellt ofredande. 25 augusti avskriver hon alla misstankar om brott.

Advokat Claes Borgström-- som representerar de två kvinnor som anser sig ha blivit våldtagna-- blir upprörd och kräver en överprövning av fallet. Den 1 september beslutar Marianne Ny, åklagare i Göteborg, att återuppta förundersökningen. Förtroende

Den 18 november begär hon Assange häktad i sin frånvaro och att han ska efterlysas internationellt. Utan denna efterlysning hade han inte kunnat gripas annat än i Sverige.

Dessa turer fram och tillbaka ökar inte precis förtroendet för den rättsliga processen, vare sig i Sverige eller utomlands. Det framstår som det svenska rättväsendet inte riktigt kan bestämma sig för om bevisen räcker för åtal eller inte. Misstanken finns att personer i rättssystemen blivit nervösa och låtit sig påverkas av att det faktum att Julian Assange är en internationell kändis. En ifrågasatt sådan av många regeringar. Inte minst USA.

Underförstått att om han varit vilken svensk man som helst så hade det aldrig blivit något åtal.

Assange advokat Björn Hurtig hävdar att det är mycket ovanligt med en internationell efterlysning vid den här typen brott. Sverige tar initiativ till cirka 100 internationella efterlysningar per år men någon närmare statistik än så finns inte.

Jag ringer Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på åklagarmyndigheten för att höra hur vanligt det är att åklagarbeslut ändras.

– Inte helt ovanligt, säger hon. Under 2009 skedde det i 12 procent av de fall där överprövning begärdes, eller 214 ärenden.

Hon kan dock inte svara på hur vanlig hela "Assange-kedjan" är där tre olika åklagare fattat olika beslut.

Även om det visar sig att den svenska hanteringen varit klanderfri så finns misstanken om påverkan där i omvärldens ögon. Den blir mycket svår att sudda bort.

Brittiska dagstidningen The Independent har i dag en artikel där man i detalj redogör för Assange umgänge med de två kvinnor som anklagar honom och där man påpekar att en av dem ordnade ett kräftkalas till hans ära och väntade flera dagar med att gå till polisen och göra en anmälan.

I en annan artikel hävdar Independent att USA redan inlett informella samtal med Sverige om ett utlämnande. Sådär kommer det att fortsätta.

• *Wolfgang Hansson*

Rape claims, WikiLeaks and internet freedom

Letter to the Editor
The Guardian
 8 December 2010

Many women in both Sweden and Britain will wonder at the unusual zeal with which Julian Assange is being pursued for rape allegations (Report, 8 December). Women in Sweden don't fare better than we do in Britain when it comes to rape. Though Sweden has the highest per capita number of reported rapes in Europe and these have quadrupled in the last 20 years, conviction rates have decreased.

On 23 April 2010 Carina Hägg and Nalin Pekgul (respectively MP and chairwoman of Social Democratic Women in Sweden) wrote in the Göteborgs-Posten that "up to 90% of all reported rapes never get to court. In 2006 six people were convicted of rape though almost 4,000 people were reported". They endorsed Amnesty International's call for an independent inquiry to examine the rape cases that had been closed and the quality of the original investigations.

Assange, who it seems has no criminal convictions, was refused bail in England despite sureties of more than £120,000. Yet bail following rape allegations is routine. For two years we have been supporting a woman who suffered rape and domestic violence from a man previously convicted after attempting to murder an ex-partner and her children— he was granted bail while police investigated.

There is a long tradition of the use of rape and sexual assault for political agendas that have nothing to do with women's safety. In the south of the US, the lynching of black men was often justified on grounds that they had raped or even looked at a white woman. **Women don't take kindly to our demand for safety being misused, while rape continues to be neglected at best or protected at worst.**

Katrin Axelsson
Women Against Rape



Steve Bell on the sexual assault allegations against Julian Assange
The Guardian, 2010-12-08

Pilger attacks Gillard over Assange

SBS TV (Australia)
8 December 2010

Campaigning journalist John Pilger has slammed Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard for not supporting WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Mr Assange, whose website has published thousands of leaked diplomatic cables, was denied bail at a London court on Tuesday after British police arrested him on a Swedish warrant for suspected sex crimes.

"It's particularly outrageous that the prime minister of Australia should join what has become a kind of international lynch mob and make such a defamatory statement in which she said that ... the release of documents was illegal," the ABC reported Mr Pilger saying outside the court.

"There is political motivation here. As far as we are concerned today, there is an injustice awaiting Mr Assange in Sweden."

Mr Assange, who has announced he will appeal Sweden's extradition requests, was refused bail by a British judge. He will be remanded in custody until his next court appearance, scheduled for December 14.

- - - - -

Risk of Assange's extradition

Response to inquiry from USA

Swedish prosecutors and politicians have emphatically stated that Assange will not be packed off to the U.S. in the absence of any formal charge against him from that country. That is probably true, especially since the Swedish establishment's connivance with the U.S. has been exposed by some of the recent WikiLeaks disclosures, which have been widely publicized to great embarrassment all around.

But if the U.S. concocts a formal charge of some sort, the government will presumably come under great pressure to honor Sweden's extradition treaty with the U.S. and would no doubt be eager to comply. The matter would then most likely be decided in the court of public opinion, which has been tainted by the "rape" accusations and would probably not get much incitement from the largely docile mainstream press.

Thus, the first and most important line of defense against extradition is to prevent the U.S. government from getting approval for whatever charges it cooks up.

One faint glimmer of hope appeared yesterday, with an op-ed piece by Conservative member of parliament Karl Sigfrid and a party colleague, Mary X Jensen, who is identified as a "Conservative blogger" (previously unknown to me). The Conservative ("Moderat" in Swedish) Party now has the largest public opinion rating and dominates the government under its Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt.

The piece appeared in the leading daily, *Svenska Dagbladet*, and was headlined "Sweden should condemn the USA's infringement". I don't have time to translate it... but the gist of it is that the West has constantly been railing against China and Iran for its infringements on freedom of speech and the press, but that now countries like the U.S. and France are doing the same thing. There is no reason for Sweden to condemn those infringements/abuses (the concept "övertramp" does not fit neatly into English) any less emphatically. Most of the piece is a summary of the various forms of personal and financial attack against Assange and WikiLeaks which have occurred in the past week or so.

The closing line is: "We presuppose that Sweden will act on the basis of what is right-- not according to which governments we regard as our friends-- and defend WikiLeaks when the world around is doing what ever it can to stifle free speech."

The focus is primarily on WikiLeaks, not Assange personally. But that sort of message is very unusual from the direction of the Conservative Party, which has always been slavishly loyal to the U.S. It is highly unlikely that the authors had the consent of party leaders for their article, and they are likely to catch hell for it.

Al Burke
Sweden

* * *

Brevväxling med Aftonbladets Oisín Cantwell

Subject: Anklagelsen mot svenskorna
Date: 8 Dec 2010
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>
To: oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se

Bäste Oisín Cantwell,

Tack för din ytterst angelägna krönika om huruvida Sverige orkar stå emot USA.

På en punkt ställer jag mig dock ifrågassättande, nämligen att "Assange och hans brittiske advokat hävdar att de två svenska kvinnorna ingår i en amerikansk komplott mot honom och Wikileaks." Det har Claes Borgström också påstått.

Mark Stephens kan ha sagt eller snuddat på denna direkta koppling, men mig veterligen har Assange själv inte påstått att kvinnorna [avsiktligt] "ingår i en komplott"-- däremot att berörda USA-myndigheter har utnyttjat situationen, som är tämligen uppenbart (det vore ju tjänstefel om de inte gjorde det).

Min fråga är således: Finns det faktiskt belägg för att Assange själv har anklagat kvinnorna för att medvetet ingår i någon komplott med USA?

Hälsningar,
Al Burke

* * *

AB: 2010-12-09

Ni förstår ingenting

Kändisarna som kräver att Julian Assange ska släppas tycks inte kunna hålla två tankar i huvudet samtidigt. Att en människa åstadkommit något av betydelse innebär givetvis inte att han eller hon står över lagen. *[Vem har påstått detta?--A.B.]*

Stämningen var upphetsad under häktningsförhandlingen i domstolen i London i tisdags. Journalister och fotografer knuffades och bråkade och diverse celebriteter med obefintliga juridiska kunskaper stöttade högljutt Assange.

Den berömde filmregissören Ken Loach var beredd att hosta upp 200 000 kronor till borgen, med en förvirrad hänvisning till mänskliga rättigheter. Mediepersonligheten Jemina Khan erbjöd samma summa och sa att hon tror på "den universiella rätten till frihet och vår rätt att få veta sanningen", vad nu det skulle ha att göra med anklagelserna om sexbrott.

Och den världsberömde journalisten John Pilger höll hov *[d.v.s. uttryckte sin mening--A.B.]* utanför domstolsbyggnaden

– Sverige borde skämmas. Det är oanständigt att ta i fråga en man hans frihet **på detta vis**. Det här är inte rättvisa.

Dessa kändisar visar i och för sig prov på ett imponerande patos, men har inte begripit mycket. Länder med ett anständigt rättssystem har dessbättre inte lagar som friar människor bara för att de skrivit bra poplåtar, avgjort en VM-final i fotboll eller skapat Wikileaks. *[Vem har krävt detta? Det är just frågan om "anständighet" som det handlar om.--A.B.]*

Och hur Pilger så tvärsäkert kan uttala sig om bristen på svensk rättvisa utan att ha insyn i den pågående utredningen är en smula gåtfullt.

Det finns inga konstigheter kring denna procedur. Bara i år har över 1000 brottsmisstänkta utlämnats av brittiska domstolar **på samma sätt** *[verkliga på samma sätt?--A.B.]* som Assange med all sannolikhet kommer att bli, även om det skett utan att berömdheter **stått och hoppat upp och ner av ilska**.

Kritikerna tycks också helt bortse från att det i Sverige finns två unga kvinnor som hävdar att de utsatts för våldtäkt och sexuellt tvång. *[Jag är ganska säker på att Pilger är medveten om alla viktiga, tillgängliga fakta i fallet.--A.B.]*

Det finns dock ingen anledning att förvånas över att de högljudda ropen på rättvisa inte gäller dem. *[Vem har sagt att den inte gör det?--A.B.]* Det var samma sak då regissören Roman Polanski härom året sattes i husarrest för att många år tidigare förgripit sig på en 13-årig flicka. Över 130 kändisar skrev på ett upprop om att Polanski borde lämnas i fred. Han hade skapat fantastiska filmer, hans mamma hade dött i koncentrationsläger, hans fru Sharon Tate hade mördats av Charles Mansons hemska följeslagare. *[Huvudargumentet byggde faktiskt på åklagarens och domarens tvivelaktiga beteende i fallet. Bland de som ville att Polanski skulle lämnas i fred var själva "offret" samt, om jag minns rätt, den nuvarande åklagaren.--A.B.]* För dem fanns kort sagt många skäl till att

lägga ner utredningen, men inga som hade med övergreppet att göra. [*Jo, då. Men till skillnad från Assange, erkände Polanski övergreppet.--A.B.*]

Då som nu handlade det om ett engagemang med många enfaldiga argument och som avslöjade en allt annat än vacker människosyn. [*Det är denna krönika som är enfaldig och som knappast bidrar till en vacker människosyn.--A.B.*]

Det finns, med allt detta sagt, dock anledning att fråga sig hur det svenska rättväsendet hanterat alla turer kring Assange. [*Det är just det som Pilger m.fl. hävdar. Varför då denna bredsida mot dem?--A.B.*] Han har som bekant varit anhållen och sedan friad och sedan plötsligt blivit misstänkt igen, utan att någon avgörande ny bevisning dykt upp.

Journalister från hela världen har ringt mig och frågat hur juridiken i Sverige egentligen fungerar. Det har, för att uttrycka det milt, inte varit helt enkelt att bringa klarhet i förvirringen.

Men att det svenska rättsväsendet gjort sig till åtlöje internationellt är inte en anledning att lägga ner utredningen mot Julian Assange. Lika lite som att faktumet att han grundat Wikileaks är ett skäl att fria honom. [*Vem har sagt detta?--A.B.*]

Att dessa självklarheter över huvud taget ska behöva påpekas är märkligt. [*"Behovet" är en påhitt som grundas på en rad missvisande och till synes falska påståenden.--A.B.*]

• Oisín Cantwell

* * * *

Subject: Då så

Date: 9 Dec 2010

From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

To: oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se

Hej, igen!

Tills vidare tolkar jag det uteblivna svaret på min fråga (se ovan) som ett tecken på (a) att du inte hinner/behagar svara, eller (b) att det inte finns något belägg för den anklagelse mot svenskorna som har tillskrivits Assange, men enligt vanlig journalistisk praxis väljer man i det längsta att inte medge detta.

För resten: I din bredsida mot Pilger m.fl. i dagens upplaga ("Ni förstår ingenting") finns det en hel del som inte heller du tycks förstå eller som du väljer att inte nämna, bland annat:

- Det var inte bara kändisar som ville att Polanski skulle lämnas i fred. Det ville även "offret" samt många jurister i Kalifornien (inkl. den berörda åklagaren om jag minns rätt). Märkligt att dessa fakta utelämnas när du riktar så hård kritik mot Pilger m.fl. för att vara osakliga.
- Frågan om svensk rättvisa handlar om mer än vad Assange kan ha gjort eller inte gjort mot svenskorna. Det finns STORA frågetecken kring vad han egentligen är anklagad för samt Marianne Nys sätt att sköta fallet, Borgströms mystiska inblandning m.m. Se t.ex. inlägget här nedan av advokaten James D. Catlin; det finns ju mycket

annat som stärker den bedrövlige bild av det svenska rättvisesystemet som han målar upp.

Men jag har ju förstått att journalister äger makten över ordet och därmed behöver inte medge fel eller uppfylla samma krav som de ålägger på andra.

Hälsningar,
Al Burke

* * *

Subject: Re: Då så
Date: 9 Dec 2010
From: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se>
To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

Hej.

Assange har visst sagt att det är en konplott, bland annat i intervjuer jag gjort med honom och som publicerats i Aftonbladet. Claes Borgström har givetvis dock inte gjort det.

Jag vet att det fanns sakliga argument beträffande Polanski. Men det hör inte hit. Osakligheten beträffande Assange påminner en hel del om de många konstiga argument som framfördes i fallet Polanski. Därav jämförelsen. Och vad de sakliga argumenten som faktiskt finns beträffande regissören har med Pilger att göra begriper jag inte.

Och visst finns det tveksamheter beträffande den svenska hanteringen av Assange. Detta har jag också skrivit gång på gång på gång. De senaste dagarnas texter har handlat om andra dimensioner i detta egendomliga fall.

mvh
/o

* * *

Subject: Missuppfattning?
Date: 9 Dec 2010
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>
To: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se>

Hej!

Tack för svaret. Jag antar att du får så mycken post att det blir svårt att ordentligt eller över huvud taget läsa allt som står däri. Detta är nog förklaringen till att du tycks ha missuppfattat min ursprungliga fråga.

Jag har nämligen inte ifrågasatt att Assange har talat om en konplott, utan att han skulle ha anklagat de två svenskorna för att medvetet deltagit i den. Så här lød min fråga: "Finns det faktiskt belegg för att Assange själv har anklagat kvinnorna för att *medvetet* ingår i någon konplott med USA?" Både Claes Borgström och dig har påstått att han gjort detta.

Jag har dock vid ett par tillfällen läst, t.o.m. i Aftonbladet tror jag, att Assange uttryckligen har avfärdat denna misstanke-- " däremot att berörda USA-myndigheter har utnyttjat situationen" som jag skrev.

Hoppas att min egentliga fråga nu är begriplig.

Dessutom:

- Klart att frågan om saklighet gäller även för Polanski-fallet. Det var faktiskt du som i din krönika drog in detta fall: "Det finns dock ingen anledning att förvånas över att de högljudda ropen på rättvisa inte gäller dem. Det var samma sak då regissören Roman Polanski...." Bland annat kan man fråga om Polanskis försvarare (inkl. den berörda flickan/kvinnan) hävdade att " rättvisa inte gäller dem". Jag är ganska säker på att de inte gjort det, och alldeles säker på att Pilger inte gjort det i fallet Assange. Att påstå detta är således grovt missvisande och tyder på att sakliga argument saknas.
- Utmärkt att du "gång på gång på gång" skrivit om "tveksamheter beträffande den svenska hanteringen av Assange". Men jag begriper inte varför dessa inte gäller i detta sammanhang. Att de faktiskt gör det framgår tydligt av bland mycket annat James D. Catlins inlägg. Som jag påpekade: "Frågan om svensk rättvisa handlar om mer än vad Assange kan ha gjort eller inte gjort mot svenskorna." Tror du att Pilger och likasinnade är så dumma att de inte förstår detta?

Därför är det minst sagt tvivelaktigt att skälla ut dem med en rubrik som hävdar att "Ni förstår ingenting".

Hälsningar,
Al Burke

* * *

Sibject: Re: Missuppfattning?

Date: 9 Dec 2010

From: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se>

To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

Assange har i en av de intervjuerna jag gjort sagt att kvinnorna ingår i en komplott. *[Frivilligt och medvetet? På vilket sätt "ingår"? Har detta påstådda påstående av Assange publicerats? Hur hänger det ihop med de flera motstridande citat som tillskrivits honom?--A.B.]*

Finns för övrigt inget som är missvisande i min jämförelse med Polanski. Då som nu fanns en hel del argument som inte hade med sakfrågan att göra. Därför är det relevant att jämföra. Att jag sedan inte redogör för att i Polanski-fallet beror på utrymmesbrist och att kolumnen faktiskt inte handlar om honom. *[Varför då dra in honom med vad som ser ut att vara falska anklagelser mot hans försvarare?--A.B.]*

Att jag inte tar upp tveksamheterna i den juridiska hanteringen i dag beror på att jag gjort det så många gånger, så sent som i går. Blir ju lätt lite tjatigt om jag skriver samma sak dag ut och dag in. Det är och förblir märkligt att Pilger dömer ut svensk rättvisa utan att ha insyn i den pågående, sekretessbelagda utredningen.

mvh/o

Subject: Tack än en gång
Date: 9 Dec 2010
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>
To: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@aftonbladet.se>

Hej!

Tack än en gång för svaret, även om jag fortfarande inte riktigt förstår hur du resonerar.

Bifogar här nedan ett inlägg av den svenska rättsjuristen Brita Sundberg-Weitman vars analys stämmer väl med den kritik som framförts av Pilger m.fl., och som antagligen inte heller har "insyn i den pågående, sekretessbelagda utredningen".

Skall man då säga till henne att "Ni förstår ingenting"?

Hälsningar,
Al Burke

* * *

Subject: Re: Tack än en gång
Date: 9 Dec 2010
From: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@schibsted.se>
To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

Jag har skrivit flera artiklar på just detta tema. Den här krönikan handlade om andra saker.

* * *

Subject: Vilka andra saker?
Date: Fri, 10 Dec 2010 08:11:15 +0100
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>
To: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@schibsted.se>

Bäste Oisin Cantwell,

Vilka "andra saker"? Jag har läst om din krönika ett par gånger, men kan inte få den att handla om något annat än det vi diskuterat och det som Brita Sundberg-Weitman tar upp i sin kritiska analys.

Med vänlig hälsning,
Al Burke

* * *

Subject: Re: Vilka andra saker?
Date: 10 Dec 2010
From: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@schibsted.se>
To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

Om du nu verkligen läst min krönika flera gånger så borde du rimligen ha förstått att den handlar om att jag kritiserar ett antal kändisar för att de försvarar assange på grunder som inte har ett dugg med sakfrågan att göra. Pilger kommer närmast, men hans sätt att döma ut svensk rättvisa utan att ha insyn i utredningen är oseriös. Och med dessa ord sätter jag punkt för vår diskussion. Den är helt meningslös.

Mvh
/o

* * *

Subject: Tack ändå
Date: 10 Dec 2010
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>
To: Oisin Cantwell <oisin.cantwell@schibsted.se>

Hej, Oisin!

Jag förstår att det är påfrestande när någon envist påpekar det orimliga i det som man har skrivit, och jag uppskattar att du ägnat tid och möda åt denna diskussion.

Det brukar vara lärorikt när journalister blottar vad för slags underlag och logik som sina skrivelser bygger på, så även i detta fall.

Tack skall du ha,

Al Burke

Sweden: we did not bow to political pressure over Julian Assange

Suggestions that pressure was applied to Sweden to demand an arrest has Swedes baffled, reports Amelia Gentleman

*Amelia Gentleman
The Guardian
9 December 2010*

Swedish media and politicians have rejected speculation that political pressure from abroad was exerted on the country's justice system to secure Julian Assange's arrest and extradition. Martin Valfridsson, a spokesman for the Swedish minister of justice, Beatrice Ask, said yesterday the suggestion was "completely wrong".

"As far as I know no such pressure has been put on Sweden," he said.

Jonas Björk, a correspondent with the TV4 channel, said the idea that the original rape allegations were a part of a conspiracy to attack the WikiLeaks founder stretched credibility.

"For it to have been a honey-trap operation would have been so complicated that I can't see how it could have been pulled off; if it was, then I tip my hat to the CIA," he said.

The second question of whether international pressure was applied to Sweden to demand an arrest was a less nonsensical hypothesis, he said, but, "I believe the politicians when they say they haven't had any pressure from abroad."

John Pilger's claim that Sweden "should be ashamed", in comments he made outside the extradition hearing in London on Tuesday, has triggered some annoyance. Oisín Cantwell, a columnist writing in *Aftonbladet*, a big circulation tabloid, was contemptuous of Assange's celebrity backers.

"How can John Pilger be so sure about the lack of fairness of the Swedish justice system without having any insights into the ongoing investigation?" The celebrity support for Assange was similar to the support offered by Hollywood stars to Roman Polanski when he was arrested last year, accused of raping a 13-year-old, he argued, and equally misplaced.

Britta Svensson writing in the liberal tabloid *Expressen*, dismissed the idea, circulating on the internet, that the Swedish law on rape was excessively strict. "There is no parliamentary Swedish party who thinks that the Swedish sex laws are too harsh," she wrote.

Groups supporting WikiLeaks in Stockholm also rejected speculation that the case was politically motivated.

Rick Falkvinge, leader of Sweden's Pirate party, a fringe pro-freedom of speech and anti-copyright party, said: "In theory, if you wanted to strike back at WikiLeaks to discredit the organisation, this would be blueprint 1A, but I have not seen anything to indicate that this was politically motivated."

His organisation has been co-operating with WikiLeaks since August and has lent two of its 20 servers, which are located in a former nuclear bunker in Stockholm, to WikiLeaks, he said.

These came under attack on Monday, also bringing down his organisation's computer network.

Meanwhile Swedish experts in rape legislation denied international suggestions that the country's law was weighted against men.

Monica Burgman, professor in criminal law, said it was a myth. "Statistics show that Sweden has one of the worst prosecution rates on rape in Europe. Only around 10% of cases reported to the police go to trial; 90% are closed," she said.

Despite this, Sweden had the highest number of rapes reported to the police, per capita, in Europe. One way of interpreting this disparity was to look at Sweden's advanced sense of gender equality, she said.

"Swedish women will not accept being sexually mistreated by men, and they will report these men to the police, even though they know very well that there is a risk that they will be badly treated by the criminal justice system, and that the possibility that the case will go to trial is very, very low," she said.

The poor quality of initial police investigation often meant prosecutors had insufficient information and evidence to go ahead with a prosecution, obliging them to abandon the case, she said.

Even though number of reports of rape made to the police have increased by 100% over the past 15 years, the number going to trial had stayed the same, she said. "The proportion of cases going to trial has decreased a lot in the past 15 years," she said.

Assange accuser may have ceased co-operating

Guy Rundle

Crikey

9 December 2010

Anna Ardin, one of the two complainants in the rape and sexual assault case against WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Julian Assange, has left Sweden, and may have ceased actively co-operating with the Swedish prosecution service and her own lawyer, sources in Sweden told Crikey today.

The move comes amid a growing campaign by leading Western feminists to question the investigation, and renewed confusion as to whether Sweden has actually issued charges against Assange. Naomi Klein, Naomi Wolf, and the European group Women Against Rape, have all made statements questioning the nature and purpose of the prosecution.

Ardin, who also goes by the name Bernardin, has moved to the West Bank in the Palestinian Territories, as part of a Christian outreach group, aimed at bringing reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. She has moved to the small town of Yanoun, which sits close to Israel's security / sequestration wall. Yanoun is constantly besieged by fundamentalist Jewish settlers, and international groups have frequently stationed themselves there.

Attempts by Crikey to contact Ardin by phone, fax, email and twitter were unsuccessful today.

Ardin's blog has restarted after a fortnight hiatus, and her twitter feed has restarted after a two-month break. The twitter feed appears to be commenting on her ongoing profile in the media with the latest entry reading: "CIA agent, rabid feminist / Muslim lover, a Christian fundamentalist, frigid & fatally in love with a man, can you be all that at the same time ..."

The previous tweet appears to extend support to WikiLeaks, after financial agencies withdrew their services, reading "Mastercard, Visa and Paypal — hit it, now!"*

One source from Ardin's old university of Uppsala reported rumours that she had stopped co-operating with the prosecution service several weeks ago, and that this was part of the reason for the long delay in proceeding with charges — and what still appears to be an absence of charges.

News of Ardin/Bernardin's departure comes as reports circulate of Ardin's connection to the right-wing Cuban exile community in Miami, something that Crikey readers learnt of months ago. The reports have helped fuel wilder conspiracy theories about the nature of Ardin's involvement with WikiLeaks and Assange.

A former politics student who had done internships at Sweden's DC embassy, Ardin completed her thesis on Cuban political opposition groups, many of whom have involvement — and funding — from the US interests section, the only US diplomatic representation in Cuba. Ardin initially began her research in Havana and left after being advised that her position was no longer safe. She completed the research in Miami.

However, it seems more likely that the Cuban episode is part of the same political nomadism that led her to WikiLeaks. An office holder with the Social Democratic party's Christian "brotherhood" faction, Ardin is active in a range of causes from Latin America to animal liberation.

Ardin's move and confusion over her involvement and the real status of the charges against Assange come as the campaign questioning the charges against him has come to include a number of leading feminist activists. Naomi Klein tweeted that:

"R-pe is being used in the #Assange prosecution in the same way that women's freedom was used to invade Afghanistan. Wake up! #wikilieaks"

While in The Huffington Post, Naomi Wolf posted a (quite funny) article asking Interpol to apprehend every date she's had who turned out to be a narcissistic jerk.

In The Guardian Karin Axelsson of Women Against R-pe questioned why Assange's case was being pursued more assiduously than cases of r-pe judged more serious (Sweden has three degrees of severity for r-pe charges).

These moves are evidence of the situation your correspondent suggested in Crikey yesterday — that the Assange case is proving to be the final process by which the second-wave feminist coalition formed in the late 1960s splits substantially, with feminists with differing attitude to Western state power finding themselves on different sides of the debate.

Indeed, it puts one in the unusual position of saying that commentators such as Wolf are being too anti-complainant in their construction of the charges as nothing other than a couple of bad dates. It's a strange world, and getting stranger.

The lawyer for Ardin and Wilen, the two complainants, has hit back at attacks and criticism of his clients, saying that they had been put on trial and effectively assaulted twice. He claimed to be in daily contact with the women, which suggests that he has a better reception to Yanoun than many of its inhabitants have to the outside world.

Even if the case comes to trial, the prospects of conviction look slim. Crikey asked Flinders University s-x crime law expert Dr Mary Heath to go over the charges (which may still be accusations at this stage) as they were relayed in Assange's extradition bail hearing, and she made the following comments:

“Practically speaking, I would not like the chances of the prosecutor on charge 3 — pressing his erect p-nis into the complainant’s back ... legally speaking I would have to suggest the chances of conviction would be slim for any Australian offence where both accused were adults. Proving non consent might be difficult but proving awareness of non consent would be even harder.

“Charges 1 and 2 (holding partner down, and unsafe s-x despite earlier expressed opposition to such) involve contexts where there would be room for defence argument about consent. On charge 1, when is one person ‘holding down’ another person lying beneath them, and when are they simply having consensual s-x in a position involving one person being on top of the other person? Is this force or just rough but consensual (compared to cases I’ve read, the allegation would hardly count as rough).

“On charge 2, prior unwillingness is not enough, the complainant must not be consenting and the accused must be aware of this ‘at the time of int-rcourse’. Did complainant one change her mind? Did Assange believe she changed her mind, and perhaps on reasonable grounds the charge does not disclose?

“On charge 4 (s-x while complainant was sleeping), recent experience in South Australia suggests this also could be difficult to prove if there was any kind of s-xual interaction prior to the complainant falling asleep, which might give the defence a plausible argument that belief in consent was present. I was deeply unimpressed by the level of protection the courts (let alone public attitudes) offered to people who are asleep or unconscious due to drugs/alcohol.

“... The one thing that is clearer, perhaps, is that the charges may turn on withdrawal of consent once a s-xual act had commenced. The law of almost every jurisdiction in Australia would recognise withdrawal of consent after a s-xual act commenced as rendering that s-xual act non consensual (and therefore r-pe). As for proving it ... I reiterate what I said about proof previously.”

The Guardian reports that former Crown Prosecution Service extradition expert Raj Joshi said that extradition was unlikely:

“On what we know so far, it is going to be very difficult to extradite. The judge has to be satisfied that the conduct equals an extraditable offence and that there are no legal bars to extradition.

“Assange’s team will argue, how can the conduct equal an extraditable offence if the [Swedish] prosecutor doesn’t think there is enough evidence to charge, and still has not charged.”

This has added to speculation that the Swedish moves, which have coincided with the release of the Cablegate stories, are politically motivated as stalling tactics, allowing Assange to be detained while the US “prepares an extradition/rendition request”, according to Assange’s UK lawyer Mark Stephens.

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2010/12/09/rundle-r-pe-case-complainant-has-left-sweden-may-have-ceased-co-operating/>

Assange Lawyer: Rape Allegations a "Stitch Up"

CBS News
December 9, 2010

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's lawyer tells CBS News that rape and sexual molestation allegations against his client in Sweden are a "stitch up," and the Swedish prosecutor's failure to provide him with documentation on the claims, or any evidence, makes it impossible to begin crafting a legal response.

Mark Stephens cited reports in British media suggesting Swedish authorities may already be discussing with their American counterparts how charges related to WikiLeaks' embarrassing revelations might be brought against Assange in the U.S., should he be extradited to Sweden. Stephens has vowed to fight Sweden's extradition request.

Assange's British lawyer says prosecutor Marianne Ny is flouting international law and staging a "show trial" by keeping him in the dark, calling it "impossible for us to prepare a case if you don't know what the allegations or evidence are."

Stephens bemoans Ny for not having traveled to London to meet with Assange or himself in person to present documentation on the case. Assange previously offered to travel to Sweden for questioning in the case, brought by two women who worked with him during a visit to the country.

Stephens has maintained the allegations stem from "consensual" but "unprotected" sexual encounters. On Wednesday, the Reuters news agency reported that the two women involved only decided to proceed with their case because Assange refused to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases after their encounter.

Stephens tells CBS News a senior Swedish prosecutor dismissed the initial allegations due to a lack of evidence. He says the same allegations were renewed after Ny began working on the case and "took the women off to another city and restarted (the investigation) on the same facts".

He says the renewed interest in the case was "uncannily timed" as pressure from the United States and its allies increased on WikiLeaks over its publication of secret, and often embarrassing, U.S. diplomatic cables.

Stephens says Sweden and the United States "have worked hand-in-glove for a number of years," and that he believes the reports that preliminary talks are underway between the two countries about how Assange might be handed over to the U.S.

Stephens is pushing strongly for Assange to remain in the U.K. "It is absolutely vital that if he is going to get justice that he gets it in this country, where I think that the judges have the moral fiber to be able to resist pressure from America," the attorney told CBS News.

Assange could face espionage trial in US

Washington sees chance as WikiLeaks founder is jailed as battle begins to prevent extradition over sex charges

*Kim Sengupta
The Independent
8 December 2010*

Informal discussions have already taken place between US and Swedish officials over the possibility of the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange being delivered into American custody, according to diplomatic sources.

Mr Assange is in a British jail awaiting extradition proceedings to Sweden after being refused bail at Westminster Magistrates' Court despite a number of prominent public figures offering to stand as surety.

His arrest in north London yesterday was described by the US Defence Secretary Robert Gates as "good news", and may pave the way for extradition to America and a possible lengthy jail sentence.

The US Justice Department is considering charging Mr Assange with espionage offences over his website's unprecedented release of classified US diplomatic files. Several right-wing American politicians are pressing for his prosecution and even execution, with Sarah Palin, the former vice-presidential candidate, saying he should be pursued the same as al-Qa'ida and Taliban leaders.

Mr Assange's appearance in the London court, the focus of massive international media attention, puts Britain in the centre of the controversy and recrimination over the publishing of thousands of diplomatic cables which have caused acute embarrassment to the administration in Washington. If the man responsible for putting them in the public domain is to be silenced, his supporters say, the process started here.

The Swedish government seeks Mr Assange's extradition for alleged sexual offences against two women.

Sources stressed that no extradition request would be submitted until and unless the US government laid charges against Mr Assange, and that attempts to take him to America would only take place after legal proceedings are concluded in Sweden. *[Not necessarily. --A.B.]*

Mr Assange, 39, had voluntarily gone to a police station accompanied by solicitors after the issuing of an international warrant.

The court heard that Jemima Khan, the sister of the Conservative MP Zac Goldsmith, the film director Ken Loach and journalist John Pilger were among those who had offered to stand bail to the sum of £180,000. But District Judge Howard Rule remanded him in custody on the grounds that there was a risk the WikiLeaks founder would fail to surrender.

Mr Loach, who offered £20,000, explained that he did not know Mr Assange other than by reputation, but he said: "I think the work he has done has been a public service. I think we are entitled to know the dealings of those that govern us." Mr Pilger, who also offered £20,000, said he knew Mr Assange as a journalist and personal friend and had a "very high regard for him".

"I am aware of the offences and I am also aware of quite a lot of the detail around the offences," said Mr Pilger. "I am here today because the charges against him in Sweden are absurd and were judged as absurd by the chief prosecutor there when she threw the whole thing out until a senior political figure intervened." Ms Khan offered a further £20,000 "or more if need be", although she said she did not know Assange.

Gemma Lindfield, appearing for the Swedish authorities, successfully opposed bail being granted because there was a risk he would fail to surrender — and also for his own protection, she said. She outlined five reasons why there was a risk: his "nomadic" lifestyle, reports that he intended to seek asylum in Switzerland, access to money from donors, his network of international contacts and his Australian nationality.

Mrs Lindfield added: "Any number of people could take it upon themselves to cause him harm. This is someone for whom, simply put, there is no condition, even the most stringent, that would ensure he would surrender to the jurisdiction of this court."

Ms Lindfield told the court that Mr Assange was wanted in connection with four allegations of sexual offences. She said the first complainant, Miss A, said she was victim of "unlawful coercion" on the night of 14 August in Stockholm. The court heard Mr Assange is accused of using his body weight to hold her down in a sexual manner.

The second charge alleged Mr Assange "sexually molested" Miss A by having sex with her without a condom when it was her "express wish" one should be used. The third charge claimed Mr Assange "deliberately molested" Miss A on August 18 "in a way designed to violate her sexual integrity".

The fourth charge accused Mr Assange of having sex with a second woman, Miss W, on 17 August without a condom while she was asleep at her Stockholm home.

District Judge Riddle said: "This case is not, on the face of it, about WikiLeaks. It is an allegation in another European country of serious sexual offences alleged to have occurred on three separate occasions and involving two separate victims. These are extremely serious allegations. From that, it seems to me that if these allegations are true, then no one could argue the defendant should be granted bail."

However he added: "If they are false, he suffers a great injustice if he is remanded in custody. At this stage in these proceedings, the nature and strength of the allegations is not known."

Mr Assange's solicitor, John Jones, said he agreed the case was not about WikiLeaks but was a "simple accusation" case with the right to bail. He said: "In relation to the state of play in Sweden, it is important for the court to be aware of the background to this. Mr Assange has made repeated requests that the allegations against him be communicated to him in a language he understands. That has been ignored by the Swedish prosecutor. Another Swedish prosecutor dropped this case early on for lack of evidence and it was resurrected in Gothenburg rather than Stockholm."

Another of Mr Assange's lawyers, Mark Stephens, said he believed British authorities would go to extreme lengths to ensure his client was "perfectly comfortable" during his time in jail. While he is confident Mr Assange's time behind bars will be brief, he said he did not want to appear to be "too cocky".

"I think a lot of people, including the police, thought that he would get bail today. They were very surprised he didn't," he said.

Praising District Judge Howard Riddle's assessment of the case, Mr Stephens said: "We are incredibly grateful to the judge for making it clear to the prosecutor that he thinks he wants to have a look at the evidence, to make assessments as to whether there is a real risk of conviction or not, because that will make a difference as to whether or not he wants to put him out on bail, or not, on the next occasion."

Criticising Swedish authorities involved with the case, Mr Stephens said: "It's a persecution, not a prosecution."

He maintained that while Mr Assange was not prepared to go to Sweden to face alleged sexual assault claims, his client was prepared to meet the Swedish prosecutor in England. "That, I think, is a reasonable approach," he said.

The pressure on WikiLeaks, which relies on online donations from a worldwide network of supporters to fund its work, continued after Visa and Mastercard suspended all payments to the website.

A spokesman for Visa E said: "Visa Europe has taken action to suspend Visa payment acceptance on WikiLeaks' website pending further investigation into the nature of its business and whether it contravenes Visa operating rules." A MasterCard spokesman said: "MasterCard is currently in the process of working to suspend the acceptance of MasterCard cards on WikiLeaks until the situation is resolved."

Kristinn Hrafnsson, a WikiLeaks spokesperson, said: "WikiLeaks is operational. We are continuing on the same track as laid out before. Any development with regards to Julian Assange will not change the plans we have with regards to the releases today and in the coming days."

The legal proceedings

Q Why is Mr Assange, an Australian citizen, facing legal proceedings in the UK when the allegations against him relate to events in Sweden?

A Under the European arrest warrant procedure any EU state can request the legal assistance of another EU country in the detention of a suspect wanted for an offence committed abroad.

Q Mr Assange's lawyers say he is not on the run and has voluntarily surrendered to police. So why is he being held in prison?

A District Judge Howard Riddle, sitting at the City of Westminster magistrates' court, refused Mr Assange's application for bail because he decided there was a danger he might abscond.

Q What happens next?

A First his lawyers will return to court next week to try to secure his release on conditional bail. Eventually there will be an extradition hearing at which the Swedish prosecution authorities will present prima facie evidence to show there is case for Mr Assange to answer.

Q How long will the proceedings last?

A Mr Assange's legal team are already preparing to challenge the extradition in the High Court in London. If they lose the case there, they can take it all the way to the Supreme Court, a process which could last many months.

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US indictment of WikiLeaks founder said to be imminent

Bill Van Auken

World Socialist Web Site

Dec. 11, 2010

A US indictment of Julian Assange on espionage charges is believed to be imminent, a lawyer for the WikiLeaks founder said Friday.

"We are taking legal advice on the possibility of prosecution in light of high-profile public officials calling for his prosecution and rumors circulating in the US that a sealed indictment is being prepared, or may have already been prepared," Jennifer Robinson told the AFP news agency.

She added that any prosecution of Assange and the WikiLeaks web site for espionage would be a violation of the US Constitution. "Our position is that any prosecution under the Espionage Act would be unconstitutional and call into question First Amendment protections for all media organizations," said Robinson.

Julian Assange remains behind bars at the Wandsworth prison in south London where he is being held on the basis of an extradition request from Sweden on trumped-up sexual misconduct charges. He was denied bail after voluntarily presenting himself to the police and has since been placed in solitary confinement with his access to his lawyers, the telephone and Internet strictly limited, more restrictive conditions than those applied to other prisoners.

The lawyer representing Assange in the extradition case reported that he has been denied access to his client until Monday, giving him less than 24 hours to prepare for a hearing scheduled Tuesday, when the WikiLeaks founder will return to court.

Both the Swedish case— which was first dropped because of its patently spurious character and then reinstated— and the denial of bail in Britain are inconsistent with normal legal practices. They strongly suggest that the actions taken against Assange are aimed at using the sex charges as a pretext for meting out political punishment and giving Washington time to concoct its own frame-up and present its own extradition request.

The Center for Constitutional Rights in the US issued a statement declaring itself "alarmed by multiple examples of legal overreach and irregularities in the arrest of

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, especially given concerns that they are meant to clear the way for Mr. Assange to be extradited to the US via Sweden."

The statement continued: "Standard procedure in these cases is to call in a suspect for interrogation, and he has offered on numerous occasions to cooperate with the authorities. Similarly, a suspect who has surrendered, having never gone into hiding or attempted to flee, would normally be allowed to post bail. Yet Mr. Assange has been arrested and denied bail."

The Obama administration, the State Department and the Pentagon are intent on exacting revenge on Assange and WikiLeaks for having exposed US war crimes and criminal conspiracies against people in countries all over the world, including the US itself. These exposures did not begin with the latest release of diplomatic cables last month, but have been ongoing since April, when WikiLeaks released a video of a massacre of civilians in Baghdad by a US attack helicopter. Since then the site has also released tens of thousands of other documents detailing US killings of civilians and complicity in torture in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Speaking on Thursday in Washington after a meeting with ministers from the European Union, US Attorney General Eric Holder said that they had discussed WikiLeaks. "The hope here in the United States is that the investigation that we are conducting will allow us to hold accountable the people responsible for that unwarranted disclosure of information that has put at risk the safety of the American people," he said. Earlier in the week, Holder had announced "a very serious, active ongoing investigation that is criminal in nature" in relation to the Internet organization's disclosure of classified State Department cables.

An attempt to prosecute Assange under the Espionage Act of 1917, a reactionary piece of law used in an earlier period to imprison American socialist and workers leader Eugene V. Debs and many other working class militants, would set the stage for a frontal assault on freedom of speech and other basic democratic rights in the US.

A report prepared this week by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the nonpartisan research arm of the US Congress, spells out the unprecedented character of seeking to prosecute Assange and WikiLeaks for making classified information public.

US criminal statutes covering such information, the report notes, "have been used almost exclusively to prosecute individuals with access to classified information (and a corresponding obligation to protect it) who make it available to foreign agents, or to foreign agents who obtain classified information unlawfully while present in the United States."

It goes on to point out, "Leaks of classified information to the press have only rarely been punished as crimes, and we are aware of no case in which a publisher of information obtained through unauthorized disclosure by a government employee has been prosecuted for publishing it."

The CRS report warns that an attempt stage a prosecution for the WikiLeaks disclosures would raise questions over "government censorship" and US attempts to exercise "extraterritorial jurisdiction."

It cites the precedent of the publication in the New York Times and Washington Post of the Pentagon Papers, a classified study of the US intervention in Vietnam, in 1971 and the refusal of the US Supreme Court to grant the government's request for an injunction barring the papers from printing the material.

Given the sharp shift to the right by the high court along with the rest of the political establishment, however, there is every reason to fear a very different ruling today in relation to a government attempt to railroad Assange on espionage charges. And, as the CRS points out, such charges are punishable by death.

Leading US politicians and commentators have called for Assange to be declared an enemy combatant and WikiLeaks a terrorist organization and, openly and shamelessly, for the WikiLeaks founder to be "assassinated" or "taken out." This chorus of public demands raises the obvious question of whether Assange would even make it to court if he were extradited to the US. The logic of this public campaign is that he would instead be "disappeared" into the CIA's gulag of "black sites" or murdered.

The vendetta against Assange has promoted condemnation from several heads of state and international officials, who, for their own political reasons, have highlighted the reactionary and hypocritical character of Washington's attempts to punish WikiLeaks for exposing the true character of American "diplomacy."

Thus, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, speaking in Brasilia on Thursday, declared that WikiLeaks has "my solidarity in disclosing these things and my protest on behalf of free speech." Lula added, "I don't know if they put up signs like those from the Westerns saying, 'wanted dead or alive' . Instead of blaming the person who disclosed it, blame the person who wrote this nonsense. Otherwise we wouldn't have the scandal we now have."

And speaking in Moscow, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin ridiculed US pretensions as the guardian of democracy in light of the attempt to suppress WikiLeaks. "If it is full democracy, then why have they hidden Mr. Assange in prison? That's what, democracy?" said Putin.

"So you know, as they say in the countryside, some people's cows can moo, but yours should keep quiet," Putin said, using a Russian adage similar to "the pot calling the kettle black." Meanwhile the Russian press reported a statement from an unnamed Kremlin official suggesting that Assange be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize as a means of protecting him.

And at the United Nations, Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, condemned the pressure being placed upon "private companies, banks and credit card companies," to cut off services to WikiLeaks. "They could be interpreted as an attempt to censor the publication of information, thus potentially violating Wikileaks' right to freedom of expression," Pillay said at a press conference in Geneva.

Meanwhile, an announcement this week by the State Department on the decision that Washington will host UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day next May has drawn international ridicule.

In what seemed like unintended self-parody, the State Department declared: "New media has empowered citizens around the world to report on their circumstances,

express opinions on world events, and exchange information in environments sometimes hostile to such exercises of individuals' right to freedom of expression. At the same time, we are concerned about the determination of some governments to censor and silence individuals, and to restrict the free flow of information."

While undoubtedly intended as a barb against the Chinese government and its attempts to control access to the Internet, the "concern" expressed by the State Department reads like an indictment of Washington's own attempt to "censor and silence" WikiLeaks and cut off the damning flow of information about US imperialism's criminal activities around the globe.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2010/dec2010/assa-d11.shtml>

Probably the planet's most vilified women

The WikiLeaks story was once about US cables. Now it's about sex.

David Randall
The Independent
12 December 2010

If the two Swedish women who went to bed with Julian Assange reproached themselves for their gullibility a few days later, it must be-- unless they are made of very stern stuff-- as nothing to their regret now. They have become, in the online world where their identities are discoverable almost instantly, the most vilified women on the planet.

With denial-of-service attacks on leading brands by the pro-Assangist "Operation Payback" continuing, Dutch and Swedish prosecutors' websites briefly downed, and online harassment of WikiLeaks itself still ongoing, the anarchy unleashed by the release of the US diplomatic cables (themselves rather the orphans of the saga at present) grows organically by the hour.

While the large corporations targeted by the Assangists have generally withstood the attacks without too much damage, no one outside their own circles knows how the two women involved in his case are faring. Invective is one thing, but the material being bandied around about Accuser 1 and Accuser 2 is surely unprecedented in ongoing investigations into alleged sex offences, where anonymity for alleged victims is the norm. Their names and faces are freely available (Google one of them, and you get 84,900 results), and yesterday it took The Independent on Sunday just a few moments to find the women's home addresses and mobile phone numbers on the net. A Google "Street View" user could pick out the buildings in seconds.

Few of these postings are friendly, and some are viciously hostile to two women whose claims are yet to be tested in court. Many also contain assertions about the women, and about one in particular, that claim a link with right-wing groups, Cuban exiles, and individuals with alleged ties to the CIA. None of these claims has yet been proven.

A mild example of the kind of detail found is an Australian website's claim in recent days that Accuser 1 was no longer in Sweden, having gone to work with a Christian

group in Israel. The group, whose name is widely used online but which we have withheld on legal advice, denied that she was there, though it conceded she had undergone 10 days' training for such a mission, but then withdrew. Their statement, corroborating the woman's involvement, was a reminder that not all of what has been written about the women online can be assumed to be concocted or unfounded rumour.

The same Australian site, called Crikey, also said she was no longer co-operating with the prosecutors, a claim upon which Swedish officials have not commented. Other sites have made much of the online guide posted by one of the women on how to take revenge on a former lover. There are also claims that they deleted tweets (or tried to), leaked news of a potential case against Mr Assange to a Swedish newspaper, and, in the case of Accuser 2, pursued him like a besotted fan, an allegation which, even if true, would have no bearing on what may or may not have happened. In this atmosphere, guaranteeing a fair trial for Mr Assange, or a fair hearing for his accusers, will take some doing.

The alleged offences spring from a visit Mr Assange paid to Sweden in August at the invitation of the Social Democratic Party's Christian "brotherhood" faction. One of its members, Accuser 1, offered him her vacant apartment. He accepted, she returned early, they dined, and had sex. The next day he spoke at the event, to which Accuser 2 had a ticket. She made contact with Mr Assange, and they later visited a cinema. That evening, Mr Assange attended a party given by Accuser 1. Two days later, Accuser 2 paid for a rail ticket for Mr Assange to visit her, and they had sex, and again the following morning. It was the day after that when Accuser 2, worried she might have been infected, or pregnant, phoned Accuser 1. They compared notes, and went to the police to ask if Mr Assange could be forced to undergo an HIV test. An officer thought offences might have been committed.

The four offences for which the Swedish authorities wish to question him pose problems for any possible prosecution. The first alleged offence involves Accuser 1, who says that on the night of 14 August at her apartment in Stockholm Mr Assange used "unlawful coercion" by using his body weight to hold her down in the course of a sexual encounter. Second, he is alleged to have "sexually molested" Accuser 1 by failing to use a condom when she had insisted that he wear one. Third, in the most vague claim, Mr Assange is said to have "deliberately molested" Accuser 1 on 18 August "in a way designed to violate her sexual integrity". Finally, he is said to have had sex with Accuser 2 without a condom while she was asleep.

But with no forensic evidence taken or available, all of these alleged offences seem to be a matter of one adult's word against that of another. Unless recording devices were in use in the two bedrooms concerned, or there are details (such as bruising on the body of Accuser 1) yet to be made public, it is very hard to see how the offences could be conclusively proved. This means, even if Mr Assange was extradited, it is entirely possible the charges he ultimately faces-- if any-- may be amended or dropped. After all, despite Sweden's having one of the highest rate of reported sex offences in Europe, only 10 per cent of these end in a conviction....

Why did I back Julian Assange? It's about justice and fairness

Even my mother asked why I would stand surety for an alleged rapist. I was there because I believe this is about censorship

Jemima Khan
The Guardian
12 December 2010

Why did I offer to provide surety for an alleged rapist, a man I have never met? That's the question even my mother asked me after I appeared in court for Julian Assange.

That morning I had sent a spur-of-the-moment message of support by email to Assange's lawyer, Mark Stephens, when I read of his arrest. He immediately responded and asked if I would be prepared to come to court in the next hour to act as a surety for Assange. I was nervous about the inevitable media circus, but felt that it was the right thing to do after being convinced by Stephens that it could help.

Assange has not even been charged, let alone convicted. Swedish prosecutors do not have to produce any evidence that he committed the alleged sexual offences to justify the warrant. On the basis of the allegations that I heard read out in court, the evidence seems feeble, but I concede that I don't know the full facts. Neither does Assange. Stockholm's chief prosecutor, Eva Finne, who heard the evidence against Assange in August, threw the case out of court, saying: "I don't think there is reason to suspect that he has committed rape."

That is not the reason I was there. I was there because I believe that this is about censorship and intimidation. The timing of these rehashed allegations is highly suspicious, coinciding with the recent WikiLeaks revelations and reinvigorated by a rightwing Swedish politician [*not rightwing, apparently, but a Social Democratic "radical feminist"--A.B.*]. There are credible rumours that this is a holding charge while an indictment is being sought in secret for his arrest and extradition to the US. An accusation of rape is the ultimate gag. Until proved otherwise, Assange has done nothing illegal, yet he is behind bars.

There is a fundamental injustice here. There are calls for the punishment (execution even) of the man who has reported war crimes, but not for those that perpetrated or sanctioned them.

On the one hand, the US is proud of its First Amendment and its long-standing commitment to the freedom of speech. It was announced last week that the US is to host next year's Unesco World Press Freedom Day event, which champions in particular "the free flow of information in this digital age".

On the other hand, it is examining ways to take legal action against Assange, who is in effect editor of the world's first stateless (non-profit) media organisation. It has blocked access to the WikiLeaks website and denied its citizens the ability to register protest through donations, all without a warrant. It has also successfully pressured Amazon, Visa, Mastercard and PayPal to withdraw their services from WikiLeaks, as well as the Swiss bank PostFinance, to close Assange's account.

WikiLeaks offers a new type of investigative journalism. I have my doubts about whether some cables should have been leaked-- for example, the list of infrastructure sites vital to national security-- and I share the concern that diplomacy could suffer as a result of others. But I feel passionately that democracy needs a strong and free media. It is the only way to ensure governments are honest and remain accountable.

WikiLeaks has revealed that we have been told a great many lies about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and that there has been little accountability. How are the recent revelations regarding America's secret war in Yemen not in the public interest? Don't American citizens have the right to know that, contrary to official denials, they have paid for cruise missile attacks on Yemen, which have accidentally killed 200 civilians?

I have a personal interest in the revelations about Pakistan, which highlight what many of us have long feared: that contrary to assurances from Pakistan's leaders, the US is fully ensconced, with bases and special forces, that there have been unreported civilian deaths and that the unwinnable war in Afghanistan is spilling over the border into its weak, corrupt and nuclear neighbour. The best justification governments can find to shut down information is that lives are at risk. In fact, lives have been at risk as a result of the silences and lies revealed in these leaks.

Exposés have always been initiated by leaks. As Assange himself has said: "If journalism is good, it's controversial." Without illicit information President Nixon would not have been forced to resign, we would never have known about the abuse of detainees by US personnel at Abu Ghraib, nor that US intelligence was phone-tapping and looking at emails without warrants. Daniel Ellsberg has said that when he released the Pentagon papers during the Vietnam war he suffered similar attacks. He was put on trial for theft and conspiracy and stolen medical files were used to discredit him. Now he's viewed as a journalistic hero.

If WikiLeaks is a terrorist organisation, as New York congressman Pete King stated, and if its founder, Julian Assange, is prosecuted for espionage, the future of investigative journalism everywhere is in jeopardy, as is our right as citizens to be told the truth.

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Assange Lawyer: U.S. Wants to Get Their "Mitts" on WikiLeaks Founder

CBS News
December 12, 2010

Julian Assange's lawyer, Mark Stephens, discussed the fate of the jailed WikiLeaks founder with Sir David Frost on Al Jazeera TV, maintaining that U.S. authorities are trying to get custody of his client.

"We have heard from the Swedish authorities there has been a secretly empaneled grand jury in Alexandria... just over the river from Washington DC, next to the Pentagon," Stephens said. "They are currently investigating this, and indeed the Swedes we understand have said that if he comes to Sweden, they will defer their interest in him to the Americans. [???] Now that shows some level of collusion and

embarrassment, so it does seem to me what we have here is nothing more than holding charges... so ultimately they can get their mitts on him."

Last week, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said, "We have a very serious criminal investigation that's underway, and we're looking at all of the things that we can do to try to stem the flow of this information."

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a Dec. 16 hearing on the potential application of U.S. espionage laws in relation to WikiLeaks, the committee announced on Friday, marking the first such hearing to address the website's recent release of classified U.S. diplomatic cables.

Assange will appear in court Dec. 14 to will fight extradition charges and ask for bail, Stephens said. "Julian remains prepared to meet consensually with the Swedish prosecutor should she care to come to London. There is not a necessity for a show trial if she doesn't want it." Stephens said. "There are a number of issues in this particular case that raise European Convention and human rights points. It maybe we'll have to wait for the case to go there... that would be seven years," he added.

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WikiLeaks 'rape' victims had hidden agendas... and I've seen the proof says Julian Assange's lawyer

*Angella Johnson
Mail on Sunday (U.K.)
12th December 2010*

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's lawyer says he has seen secret police documents that prove the whistleblower is innocent of rape claims made against him by two women in Stockholm.

Björn Hurtig, who is representing Mr Assange in Sweden, said the papers, which form part of the official Swedish investigation, reveal both women had 'hidden agendas' and lied about being coerced into having sex with Mr Assange, 39.

The freedom of information crusader is being held in Wandsworth jail in London while fighting extradition to face the accusations, which his defenders say are part of a plot to stop him releasing more embarrassing information on his website about governments worldwide.

Mr Hurtig said in an exclusive interview from his Stockholm office: 'From what I have read, it is clear that the women are lying and that they had an agenda when they went to the police, which had nothing to do with a crime having taken place. It was, I believe, more about jealousy and disappointment on their part. I can prove that at least one of them had very big expectations for something to happen with Julian.'

He has asked for Swedish prosecutors' permission to disclose more 'sensational' information.

'If I am able to reveal what I know, everyone will realise this is all a charade,' he said. 'If I could tell the British courts, I suspect it would make extradition a moot point. But

at the moment I'm bound by the rules of the Swedish legal system, which say that the information can only be used as evidence in this country. For me to do otherwise would lead to me being disbarred.'

Mr Hurtig, a top sex-crime defence lawyer, is ready to fly to London and present the evidence when Mr Assange appears in court this week—if he is given the all-clear.

Mr Assange has not been charged yet. Mr Hurtig said that when they met, 'I was struck by how good-looking he was. He gave off an aura of someone who was very self-assured and comfortable with himself—the way famous people do.'

'He denied vehemently that he had raped or in any way indulged in non-consensual sex. He was very upset. He kept saying, "How can they do this to me? I've done nothing wrong. They are trying to destroy my credibility." He kept saying it was a witch-hunt and we must fight it.'

One of the women, a political activist in her 30s described as Miss A, claims she was unlawfully coerced and subjected to sexual molestation and deliberate molestation. The other woman, Miss B, who is in her 20s, has alleged he had sex with her without a condom while she was sleeping.

Mr Assange told Mr Hurtig he had a brief affair with Miss A—who had organised a seminar for the Centre-Left group Brotherhood Movement—while staying in her flat.

Miss B admitted in her police statement that she sought out Mr Assange after seeing him on TV and, clearly infatuated, attended the seminar he was giving. They had a 'sexual encounter' in a cinema on their first meeting and two days later had protected sex at her flat, 40 miles from Stockholm. But the woman told police that she woke up next morning to find him having sex with her without a condom.

'This is what they are saying is rape,' said Mr Hurtig. He said Mr Assange and Miss B parted on good terms, with Miss B buying his train ticket back to Stockholm. But Mr Hurtig said that after Mr Assange reneged on his promise to call her and failed to return her phone calls over the next few days, the drama took a 'bizarre' turn.

Miss B called the office of Miss A, whom she had briefly met at the seminar, asking the whereabouts of Mr Assange. During the conversation they realised that they had both been 'victims of his charms'.

Mr Assange told Mr Hurtig he refused their request to take a test for sexually-transmitted diseases. He said Miss B was especially anxious about the possibility of HIV and pregnancy. It was then that she and Miss A walked into a police station and told their stories.

Mr Hurtig said: 'I don't believe Miss B felt she had been raped until she went to the police station. She was encouraged by a policewoman and a junior female prosecutor to think that way. While I don't think there was any conspiracy, Julian says he is being victimised because of his role with WikiLeaks. The fact that he has a high profile has made him a target for opponents.'

Mr Hurtig said that before leaving Sweden to lecture in Britain at the end of September, Mr Assange tried in vain several times to arrange an interview with Stockholm police.

The strong sense of women's rights in Sweden means 53 rape allegations are reported per 100,000 people, the highest rate in Europe.

Also, under Swedish law there are gradations of rape. There is the most serious kind, involving major violence, 'regular rape', which could include a degree of violence, and 'unlawful coercion', which might involve putting emotional pressure on someone.

The case may turn on whether consensual sex turned into non-consensual sex-- and whether a man's decision not to use a condom can amount to a crime.

But Mr Hurtig remains confident that Mr Assange will get a fair hearing in Sweden. 'This is not a banana republic,' he said. 'It's just that when it comes to sex crimes, the police and prosecutors and members of the court seem to lose their ability to think logically. That said, I'm convinced that as soon as the case is heard in Sweden it will be thrown out.'

www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1337862/WikiLeaks-rape-victims-hidden-agendas-Ive-seen-proof-says-Assange-lawyer.html

Hurtig: Ardin and Wilén Had Hidden Agenda

Asked permission to testify in London.

Rixstep.com
2010-12-12

STOCKHOLM (Radsoft/Rixstep) — Solicitor Björn Hurtig says Anna Ardin and Sofia Wilén deliberately colluded to fabricate allegations against Assange and that the documents in the case prove it. Hurtig asked permission to testify in London on Tuesday. This according to the Mail on Sunday.

Echoing what Australian barrister James Catlin already revealed, Hurtig says he's now seen the documentation in the case and that it's obvious it's concocted and a collusion-- and that at least one of the girls had 'big expectations' for her relationship with Assange.

[Note: false accusations of rape run rampant in Sweden, carry a two-year prison sentence, but are investigated rarely if at all.]

'From what I have read, it is clear that the women are lying and that they had an agenda when they went to the police, which had nothing to do with a crime having taken place.'

'It was, I believe, more about jealousy and disappointment on their part. I can prove that at least one of them had very big expectations for something to happen with Julian.'

'If I am able to reveal what I know, everyone will realise this is all a charade. If I could tell the British courts, I suspect it would make extradition a moot point.'

But there's a catch. Hurtig continues.

'But at the moment I'm bound by the rules of the Swedish legal system which say that the information can only be used as evidence in this country. For me to do otherwise would lead to me being disbarred.'

The Swedish authorities-- their prosecutors and police both-- have repeatedly and shamelessly leaked everything up to this point to the tabloids. So why can't they leak the Ardin/Wilén SMS transcripts to Cryptome or WikiLeaks?

<http://rixstep.com/1/20101212,00.shtml>

Assange Attorney: Secret Grand Jury Meeting in Virginia on WikiLeaks

CNN

December 13, 2010

LONDON-- A secret grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, is meeting to consider criminal charges in the WikiLeaks case, an attorney for the site's founder, Julian Assange, told the Al-Jazeera network in an interview.

"We have heard from Swedish authorities there has been a secretly empaneled grand jury in Alexandria ... they are currently investigating this," Mark Stephens told Al-Jazeera's Sir David Frost on Sunday, referring to WikiLeaks....

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said last week he had authorized "significant" actions related to a criminal investigation into WikiLeaks' publication of the cables, but has declined to elaborate.

Assange is sought for questioning in connection with allegations of sexual assault in Sweden. He surrendered to British authorities last week.

"I think that the Americans are much more interested in terms of the WikiLeaks aspect of this," Stephens told Al-Jazeera. He said it was his understanding that Swedish authorities have said that if Assange is extradited there, "they will defer their interest in him to the Americans ... it does seem to me that what we have here is nothing more than a holding charge." The United States just wants Assange detained, he said, so "ultimately they can get their mitts on him."

"He is entitled under international law, under Swedish law, to know the charges or the investigation that's going on, the allegations made against him and the nature of the evidence which is said to support it," Stephens said. "As I sit here talking to you now, he hasn't that that information, so he's not been able to comprehensively rebut (the allegations)."

Assange is next set to appear in court Tuesday. Stephens said his client is ready to meet with the Swedish prosecutor if she travels to London, but she has not done so. The legal process could be a long one, he said. "There are a number of issues in this particular case which raise European Convention and human rights points."

Meanwhile, The U.S. House Judiciary Committee plans to hold a hearing on "the Espionage Act and the legal and constitutional issues raised by WikiLeaks," according to its website. More details on the hearing and a witness list had not been posted as of Monday morning.

Before WikiLeaks began posting the cables, Assange wrote to the United States and told them he did not want to imperil any ongoing operations or put anyone at risk, Stephens said. Redactions put in place are not seen to have exposed anyone to risk, he said.

Beside the United States, WikiLeaks has apparently angered Russia and China, Stephens told Al-Jazeera. Russia has accused him of being a CIA operative, according to the attorney, while cyberattacks against WikiLeaks have appeared to come from Russian and Chinese computers. "He does seem to have picked enemies, if you like, with the three major superpowers," Stephens said of Assange....

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/12/13-3>

Julian Assange to appear in court to appeal for release

- *Sweden's bail refusal to be tested at UK court*
- *Baroness Kennedy joins website founder's defence*

Vikram Dodd
The Guardian
13 December 2010

The WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, will try to win his release from prison tomorrow, a week after being held on remand after Sweden requested his arrest over allegations that he sexually assaulted two women.

Even if the judge at Westminster magistrates court in London grants Assange bail, he could still be held. The Crown Prosecution Service, which will represent the Swedish authorities in the UK court, has the right to appeal against any bail decision. Usually the suspect would be held in custody until an appeal hearing anyway.

Raj Joshi, a former head of the European and international division at the CPS, and an expert on extradition, said: "If they feel they have grounds for opposing bail, they would be duty bound to appeal that. He'll be held pending the appeal, and until it is decided. That hearing is usually held within 48 hours."

The chances of Assange going underground, given that his face was "plastered all around the world", were low, he added. "With a number of conditions, such as, maybe, a tag, it would be difficult to see why bail would not be granted."

The decision on whether to oppose bail will be made by the Swedish authorities, with Britain's CPS merely representing their interests at tomorrow's hearing. Speculation that the US could lodge an extradition request continued over the weekend, but it is regarded as highly unlikely that any such request would be lodged tomorrow.

Lady Kennedy, who has extensive experience in human rights, has joined Assange's defence team. His case has stirred fresh controversy about European arrest warrants, which the Swedish authorities would use for his extradition.

Lady Ludford MEP, the Liberal Democrat European justice and human rights spokeswoman, claimed the arrest warrant system, which she said she supported, was being used by Sweden to carry out a fishing expedition. Sweden had yet to formally charge Assange with any offence.

In a letter to the Guardian, Ludford wrote that past cases showed that it was "not a legitimate purpose for an EAW to be used to conduct an investigation to see whether that person should be prosecuted". She added: "Normal cross-border cooperation on collection of evidence or interrogation of suspects called 'mutual legal assistance', using for example video-conferencing or a summons for temporary transfer of a suspect, should be used when more appropriate. I urge the UK courts to refuse to allow the Assange EAW to be a fishing expedition without a pending actual prosecution. EU rules should be properly respected so that the integrity of the European arrest warrant process is protected."

Ahead of the case, lawyers today visited Assange in Wandsworth prison, south London, where the 39-year-old is being held in the segregation unit. Assange's mother Christine is understood to have flown from Queensland, Australia to London to attend his bail hearing afternoon. It also emerged last night that the film-maker, Michael Moore, has offered to post security for the WikiLeaks founder.

Assange's lawyer Mark Stephens visited him in Wandsworth prison yesterday afternoon and said his client was being held under harsher conditions than last week. He claimed Assange was being confined to his cell for all but half an hour a day, and denied association with others prisoners, access to the library or TV.

"He's subject to the most ridiculous censorship," Stephens said. "Time magazine sent him a copy of the magazine with him on the cover and they censored it not just by ripping off the cover but by destroying the whole magazine."

Stephens also claimed a number of letters to Assange from media organisations have not reached him. He said Assange was under 24-hour video surveillance and had complained that a tooth which broke off while he was eating had later been stolen from his cell.

Stephens said Assange's UK legal team had still not seen the prosecution evidence against him. "His Swedish lawyers have some of the material but not all and it's in Swedish so we can't take proper instructions."

The decision by the district judge Howard Riddle to remand Assange into custody was made despite the film director Ken Loach, the journalist John Pilger, and the socialite Jemima Khan, offering sureties for him totalling £180,000. The judge had concluded that because of the "serious" nature of the allegations against Assange, his "comparatively weak community ties" in the UK, and the fact it was believed he had the financial means and the ability to abscond, there was a substantial risk he would fail to surrender to the courts.

The allegations about Assange were made by two women. The first complainant, known as Miss A, said she was the victim of "unlawful coercion" on the night of

14 August in 2009 in Stockholm. The court heard Assange was alleged to have "forcefully" held her arms and used his body weight to hold her down. The second charge alleged he had "sexually molested" her by having sex without using a condom. A third charge claimed Assange "deliberately molested" Miss A on 18 August.

A fourth charge, relating to a woman called Miss W, alleges that on 17 August, Assange "improperly exploited" a situation where she was asleep, to have sex with her without using a condom.

A poll by Comres for CNN revealed today that 44% of Britons believe the charges against Assange are an excuse to place him in custody so the US can prosecute him over the US embassy cable leaks. But the same number say he should be sent to Sweden for questioning.

Meanwhile a dating site profile from 2007, supposedly created by Assange, had prompted by yesterday some lively online debate. The profile on the OKCupid site featured pictures of Assange, though gave the name Harry Harrison-- who described himself as a "passionate and often pig-headed activist intellectual" who sought to change the world. He concluded: "Write to me if you are brave."

European arrest warrant in spotlight

Letter to the Editor
The Guardian
 14 December 2010

The case of Julian Assange has again put the European arrest warrant (EAW) in the spotlight (Report, 9 December). The EAW is a valuable and successful EU instrument, cutting the delays and red tape that in the past allowed major criminals to party beyond the reach of the law.

But the EAW is restricted to "the purposes of conducting a criminal prosecution", which must mean imminent charge followed by trial. If your reports are correct that the Swedish request for extradition of Assange under an EAW is "to face questioning" or for "interview", this would appear to conflict with the high court case of Asztalos last February, which confirmed that it is not a legitimate purpose for an EAW to be used to conduct an investigation to see whether that person should be prosecuted.

Such issues do not come up only in high-profile EAW cases, but in its everyday implementation. That is why EU justice ministers last June called on national authorities not to misuse the EAW. Normal cross-border co-operation on collection of evidence or interrogation of suspects called "mutual legal assistance", using for example videoconferencing or a summons for temporary transfer of a suspect, should be used when more appropriate.

Some lack of care by the Swedish authorities seems to be indicated by the fact that the first EAW they issued against Assange omitted details necessary for a UK court to be able to check if the warrant fulfilled all the requirements. I urge the UK courts now to

refuse to allow the Assange EAW to be a fishing expedition without a pending actual prosecution. EU rules should be respected so that the integrity of the EAW process is protected.

*Sarah Ludford MEP
Liberal Democrat, London*

The Julian Assange case: a mockery of extradition?

The European arrest warrant is being used to have thousands of people flown out to face charges that wouldn't stick in the UK

*Afua Hirsch
The Guardian
14 December 2010*

There may be many unintended consequences of the race to prosecute Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder. But as he faces extradition to Sweden, where he is accused of rape, one of the more eccentric side effects has already become clear: the rise to prominence of the European arrest warrant.

This legal instrument has been controversial since it was introduced in 2003, creating everyday injustices; but rarely has anyone outside the small group of lawyers that handles cases really cared. Now followers of the WikiLeaks story wonder how Assange could be extradited with so few questions asked. Why, for example, can our prisons detain someone (Assange is currently on remand in Wandsworth prison) for an offence under Swedish law that does not exist in British law? And how can a judge agree to an extradition without having seen enough evidence to make out a *prima facie* case?

The 2003 Extradition Act originated in an EU decision agreed just one week after 9/11. It was sold to voters as a way of ensuring cross-border cohesion in prosecuting suspects wanted across Europe for terrorism and serious crime. The level of cohesion in criminal justice systems across Europe, the argument went, and their common obligations under the European convention on human rights, provided a sufficient basis of trust that an arrest warrant by an EU country could be agreed by the UK with little scrutiny.

It's been downhill from there. Around three people per day are now extradited from the UK, and there is little to suggest that the majority are terrorists or serious criminals. In fact those involved in the process agree that many of the cases are "trivial".

This month I watched proceedings in Westminster magistrates' court as Jacek Jaskolski, a disabled 58-year-old science teacher, fought an EAW issued against him by his native Poland. Jaskolski—also the primary carer for his disabled wife—has been in the UK since 2004. His crime? Ten years ago, when he still lived in Poland, Jaskolski went over his bank overdraft limit.

There are instances when unauthorised bank borrowing can have criminal elements, but this is not one of them. The bank recovered the money, and there is no allegation of dishonesty. A similar case in Britain would be a civil, not a criminal, matter.

But it is a criminal offence in Poland, where every criminal offence has to be investigated and prosecuted, no matter how trivial. As a result Poland requested 5,000 extraditions last year alone, accounting for 40% of all those dealt with by Britain. By contrast the UK made just 220 requests.

In 2008 a Polish man was extradited for theft of a dessert from a restaurant, using a European arrest warrant containing a list of the ingredients. People are being flown to Poland in specially chartered planes to answer charges that would not be thought worthy of an arrest in the UK, while we pick up the tab for police, court, experts' and lawyers' time to process a thousand cases a year. This whole costly system is based on the assumption that the criminal justice systems of countries such as Poland are reasonable enough that it is worth complying with all their requests.

The level of frustration with the failure of this assumption is now beyond question. Even David Blunkett, who as home secretary presided over the introduction of the system, has regrets. "There is room for improvement with the EAW," Blunkett told the Commons home affairs select committee this month. "When we agreed to the system we believed that people would act rationally." The government is now conducting a review into extradition, with a panel led by a former court of appeal judge and senior extradition barristers.

But the EAW is not a stand-alone measure—it was intended as part of a much more ambitious agenda for the harmonisation of criminal justice systems across the EU. In January the European evidence warrant is meant to come into effect. Like the EAW, this would require Britain to give automatic recognition to search warrants issued by member states.

By next December the UK is supposed to have adopted mutual recognition of other states' decisions on probation, bail, the transfer of prisoners, and the suspending of individuals' finances. The Lisbon treaty, should the UK opt in, would take things even further. Opting out would still mean implementing the measures already agreed, and prevent negotiation of measures being applied in the rest of Europe.

In both the Assange and the Jaskolski cases the EAW is set on a collision course where the labyrinthine world of EU mutual recognition meets the reality of defendants' rights. And suddenly the mutual confidence that the public are meant to have in the criminal justice systems of other EU states—in Sweden's immunity from pursuing a politically motivated rape claim, or Poland's ability to be reasonable—does not seem to exist after all.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2010/dec/14/julian-assange-european-arrest-warrant?CMP=tw_tfd

Julian Assange to stay in jail as Sweden fights bail decision

WikiLeaks founder granted £240,000 bail but Swedish authorities appeal for case to be heard within 48 hours at higher court

*Mark Tran and Vikram Dodd
The Guardian
14 December 2010*

The WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, is to remain in jail after the Swedish authorities decided to challenge a decision by a British court to grant him bail on allegations of rape in Stockholm.

A judge in London granted Assange £240,000 bail with strict conditions, including a curfew and the surrendering of his passport. But when counsel for the prosecution indicated it would appeal, the judge told Assange he would remain in jail until a hearing at a higher court within 48 hours.

Assange's lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, had asked the City of Westminster magistrates court in London for bail on five conditions: £200,000 in security, surety of £40,000 from two people, a curfew, daily reporting to police, and surrender of his passport. The judge agreed, to much rejoicing among Assange's supporters.

But elation turned to anger as lawyers representing Sweden challenged the decision. Speaking outside the court, Mark Stephens, one of Assange's lawyers, said: "The prosecution is doing no more than taking instructions from Sweden. They are continuing to persecute Mr Assange ... An innocent man is in custody."

The decision followed two hours of confusion as Stephens first said he understood that the prosecution would decline to challenge the court's decision.

Sweden's decision means that the next legal arguments will be heard at the court of appeal. No time has yet been fixed.

Assange entered Westminster court one at 2.12pm looking paler than at a previous hearing last week, and wearing a dark jacket and open-necked white shirt. With so much press interest, people were given permission to stand; in a break with tradition, journalists were allowed to tweet the proceedings. Amid chaotic scenes, Robertson, who cut short a holiday in Australia to be in court, had to bang on the door to get in.

Some of Assange's celebrity supporters attended the hearing, including socialite Jemima Khan, Bianca Jagger and Fatima Bhutto, niece of the assassinated Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. Outside, one protester held up a placard that read "Sex crimes, my arse!" But media outnumbered the protesters, who were about 30 strong.

Arguing that Assange should be granted bail, Robertson challenged the legal basis on which the WikiLeaks founder had been arrested. He said: "We doubt whether this actual category of rape would be rape under English law," he told the court.

Appearing for the Swedish authorities, Gemma Lindfield argued that Assange should be declined bail as the charges were serious and there was a real possibility he would

leave the country. "This is not a case about WikiLeaks, rather a case about alleged serious offences against two women," she said. She said the allegations were serious and Assange had only weak ties to Britain and "the means and ability to abscond".

The judge rejected her arguments and agreed that Assange would stay at Ellingham Hall in Suffolk, an estate owned by Vaughan Smith, founder of the Frontline club in London, who is one of the people offering security. Assange will have to report daily to a nearby police station at Bungay.

The initial decision was greeted by cheers outside the courtroom, and Assange's supporters welcomed the move. "I'm very pleased that he is out," said the writer and political activist Tariq Ali. "I think the extradition charges should now be dealt with in the same way. His barrister made the same point, that this is not rape under English law and there is absolutely no reason for extradition. We are delighted he is out and he should never have been locked up in the first place."

Even if the Swedish challenge fails, it could be a week before Assange is released. Mark Stephens, another of Assange's lawyers, said it would take some time to raise the bail money.

Accusing the Swedish authorities of mounting a "persecution not a prosecution", Stephens said Assange would have to stay behind bars until the £200,000 is raised in cash and delivered to the court, as it did not accept cheques.

Speaking to reporters after the court hearings, Stephens said: "There is enormous relief tinged with enormous sadness. Assange will spend another night in solitary confinement. It's a pretty unpleasant situation he's going through."

Borgström: 'I Know Things Too!!!'

Tripping over one's own feet can leave one with one's nose in the funky stuff.

*Rixstep.com
14 Dec. 2010*

Perennially clumsy Swedish attorney Claes Borgström's in the news again. Yesterday he read about Björn Hurtig in the Mail on Sunday and he knew he had to speak out--despite claiming he doesn't want to talk to the media at all.

Speaking outside his office in the Swedish December cold, CB lashed back at BH. 'I've refrained from saying things I know about Assange.'

Borgström is most worried about Hurtig's claim to be able to prove what more and more people are concluding of late: the two girls Anna Ardin and Sofia Wilén made the whole thing up.

'From what I've read it's clear that the girls are lying and that they had a hidden agenda when they went to the police which had nothing to do with the crime that was to have been committed.'

'That's nonsense', blurted Borgström. 'The court has access to all the documentation. And should Hurtig have documents of importance and not present them, then he isn't caring very much for his client.' [*Hurtig explained that the documents are in the possession of the prosecutor and that he has not been granted permission to explain their contents in detail.--A.B*]

Borgström then reminds the reporter that he refuses to talk about the case to the media and doesn't like it tried there either. And insists yet again that his clients have been treated unfairly by the media.

'Unfortunately Hurtig is a part of that. Then it's Assange's British solicitors who don't know what they're talking about.'

Geoffrey Robertson QC and the others will be glad to hear that. But CB can't stand being outdone by BHs or anyone-- he's gotta know some things too.

'I've declined to say things I know about Assange. I know some things that I can't reveal at this stage. But of course I'll reveal them in court.'

So if Hurtig holding back information hurts Assange, what happens when Borgström does the same thing?

Things are going downhill for the Swedish attorney previously credited with the biggest scandal in the history of Swedish jurisprudence. This scandal-- which CB brought on himself all by himself-- promises to be even worse. But this time around it's not certain his once-powerful political friends will be able to bail him out.

<http://rixstep.com/1/1/20101214,00.shtml>

Assange/Sweden: Case Børked from Get-Go

Scandalous details surfacing at last.

*Rixstep.com
14 Dec. 2010*

LONDON (Radsoft/Rixstep) — The British are finally learning now flimsy the Swedish case against Julian Assange is. When details of the charges were finally read out last week, journalists and others in the courtroom in Westminster were shocked and stunned.

'That's rape?'

When it was further heard that Anna Ardin filed a complaint that after she'd had sex with Julian Assange and they'd fallen asleep in her bed and his 'erect penis' had nudged her back-- which according to Ardin 'violated my sexual integrity'-- the assembly covered their ears.

Today Julian Assange was granted bail-- and then the Swedes decided to appeal at the very last minute.

But what happened today may be nothing compared to what happens in the next few days as more and more details of the Swedish case leak out.

The Assange case files are available to those who know how to get them. Göran Rudling is one. Rudling earlier exposed Anna Ardin for trying to wipe her tracks of proof that she's concocted the entire story from the get-go. But now Rudling's gone through the actual 37-page interrogation protocol and sundry documents and what he's found can't be described as anything short of a clownish mess.

Rudling doesn't want to lay all the blame on the policemen involved: he says there's quite a lot of blame to be laid on their superiors as well.

'It's important when investigating serious crimes to get everything right from the get-go. The start of an investigation is the most important part. If you miss evidence, if you contaminate the scene of the crime, if you dally with interrogating those involved, if you don't conduct proper interrogations, if you don't check your facts, then it's unbelievably more difficult to figure out what actually took place. It's enormously difficult to make up for what's lost at that initial stage.

'As it looks now when I review the details of the first police interrogations, I'm seriously surprised at how many mistakes were made in such a short time-- mistakes that set the investigation out in the wrong direction from the very first hours. I know it's very difficult to investigate sex crimes and that the police devote a lot of time to investigating them. But the question is if the police have adequate equipment and if they get sufficient support from their superiors.

'It's sad to have to write this', continues Rudling. 'Mostly because I know the police have a difficult job and they work hard to help us. And most often they don't get any appreciation-- just a continual whinging. But I have to write this so we can effect a change here so the police get better tools and methods to investigate crimes. No case should be handled as this case has been handled-- and I'm still not privy to it all.'

'We know in the Assange case that two women came into the Klara police station in central Stockholm at 14:00 local time on Friday 20 August 2010. They said they 'wanted to talk and get advice about two events and they were unsure how they should proceed. Preliminarily they cited the crime of rape and claimed they were both victims.'

'After the police talked with both women, each in turn, the police made a few calls-- to the unit for family violence, to the head of the station. Everyone they talked with seemed in agreement these were cases of rape. They then contacted the prosecutor on duty who decided to arrest Julian Assange in absentia on suspicion of rape and molestation. In other words, the decision was made before any formal interrogation of the plaintiffs had taken place.'

'And now to the interrogations themselves. Woman #2 (Sofia Wilén) was interrogated immediately after the complaint was filed. The interrogation began at 16:21 and was concluded at 18:40. When the interrogation was concluded, Julian Assange had already been arrested *in absentia* for one hour forty minutes.'

This first interrogation was a so-called 'conceptual interrogation' ('konceptförhör'). This means that the interrogator writes down what's interpreted and thought to be pertinent to the case.

'When I read this interrogation I'm struck by the fact that there's no mention of why this woman waited over three days to file a complaint, why she was accompanied by Anna Ardin, what relationship she had with Anna Ardin, what she's talked about with Anna Ardin before coming to the police, why she chose to have sex with Julian Assange, or how she reacted when she learned that Anna Ardin had also had sex with Julian Assange.'

The key issue in the case seems to be that [Wilén] states that she was awakened by Julian having sex with her. Sex with a sleeping victim. That's the key issue. And then it was unprotected sex as well.

'The interrogation of Anna Ardin takes place the following day between 11:31 and 12:20. The interrogation is conducted by telephone and it too is a 'conceptual interrogation'. The interrogator jots down what she remembers and feels is of importance. The suspected crime is either rape or sexual molestation. This interrogation doesn't either touch on what contact Anna's had with Wilén, if they've talked together through their stories about the alleged crimes, when Anna Ardin found out Assange had also had sex with Wilén-- or why Anna Ardin waited almost exactly one week before filing charges.'

'They haven't either investigated Anna Ardin's actions with Julian after the alleged rape. There's nothing about the crayfish party, the Twitter tweets, or the fact that Anna Ardin chose to be the press secretary for Julian Assange and WikiLeaks two days after the alleged crime.'

'Neither is there mention of the fact that the Swedish Pirate Party sent out a press release on 17 August where Anna Ardin is listed as the press secretary in Sweden for Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. There is not a single witness who can in any way corroborate Anna Ardin's story or tell how she behaved after the alleged crime. Quite simply it looks like the circumstances surrounding the events in question have been poorly investigated.'

The interrogator classifies the crime 'molestation'.

'I want to point out that I've read only parts of the complete protocol', says Rudling. 'But I'm able to draw certain conclusions based on what I've read.'

'There are several things wrong with these interrogations. To start with, they're only conceptual interrogations. Nothing of what the women actually said is recorded or registered. This makes it impossible after the fact to ascertain what's actually been said. And no other interrogator can judge the claims of the women, their believability, or exactly what should be further investigated.'

'They also had two separate interrogators. This means there's no opportunity for the interrogator to ask control questions to Anna Ardin about what Wilén is claiming. This makes it more difficult-- not to say impossible-- to find out if the women colluded in their testimony-- something that should be investigated when two women arrive at a police station at the same time and claim they've been raped by the same man.'

'Neither can the police now figure out if the information is the result of the plaintiffs responding to questions or whether it's part of their original stories. And we gain no idea of how they reacted to questions-- if they hesitated when replying, if something in their breathing or their voices changed, or if they hesitated in some way when the tough questions were asked.'

'And we don't even know what questions the interrogators asked. And we can't know what the interrogators found to be of importance.'

But Göran Rudling is not the only one with access to the case files. Sweden's tabloid media also have access to them.

'I've read what many journalists have written and said about these first police interrogations-- but I've not heard a one of them say or write anything even implying they might be shoddy.'

'But now I've said it. Perhaps the reason is I'm not a journalist.'

[Note: These excerpts are translated from the following original in Swedish.--A.B.]

<http://rixstep.com/1/20101214,02.shtml>

* * *

Första polisförhören orsak till problemen i fallet Assange

*Göran Rudling
14 december, 2010*

Vid utredning av allvarliga brott är det av yttersta vikt att det blir rätt från början. Det är utredningens början som är det viktigaste. Missas bevis, smutsas brottsplatsen ned, väntar man med att förhöra de inblandade, görs dåliga förhör med vittnen och offer, kontrollerar man inte uppgifter så är det otroligt mycket svårare att komma fram till vad som verkligen har hänt. Det man förlorar i början är enormt svårt att ta igen.

Som det ser ut när jag går igenom uppgifter från de första polisförhören blir jag allvarligt förvånad över hur många misstag man gjort på så kort tid. Misstag som gjort att utredningen verkar ha tagit fel riktning från första timmen. Jag vet att sexualbrott är mycket svåra att reda ut och att polisen lägger ned mycket tid. Frågan är om de poliser som gör jobbet har bra och ändamålsenlig utrustning och om de får tillräckligt stöd av ledningen.

Det är tråkigt att skriva detta. Mest för att jag vet att polisen har ett svårt arbete och de jobbar hårt på att hjälpa oss. Och oftast får de inget tack utan det är bara ett evigt gnällande. Men jag måste skriva detta så vi får till stånd en förändring. Så att polisen som gör jobbet får bättre verktyg och metoder för att reda ut sexualbrott. För som detta ärende hanterats får fler ärenden inte hanteras. Och jag känner fortfarande till oerhört lite.

Polisförhören av de två kvinnorna i fallet Assange

I fallet Assange vet vi att vid 14 tiden fredagen den 20 augusti kommer två kvinnor in på en polisstation i centrala Stockholm "som ville prata och få lite råd om två tidigare händelser och de var lite osäkra på hur de nu skulle gå vidare. Inledelsevis så nämndes brottet våldtäkt och att båda kvinnorna skulle varit utsatta."

Efter att polisen samtalat med de kvinnorna, givetvis var och en för sig, ringde polisen några samtal, bl.a familjevåld och stationsbefäl. Alla som polisen pratade med var rörande överens om att det rörde sig om våldtäkt. Efter detta togs kontakt med jouråklagare som fattade beslut om att Julian Assange skulle anhållas i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för en våldtäkt och ett ofredande. Beslutet om anhållan togs alltså innan några förhör av målsägarna hade ägt rum.

Så till själva polisförhören. Kvinna 2 förhördes direkt efter att polisanmälan gjordes. Förhöret startade 16.21 och avslutades 18.40. När förhöret väl avslutades hade Julian redan varit anhållen i en timme och fyrtio minuter.

Förhöret var ett så kallat konceptförhör. Det innebär att förhørsledaren som genomför förhöret skriver ned det som han/hon uppfattar och som han/hon bedömer som viktigt för fallet.

När jag läser förhöret slås jag att det inte finns några uppgifter om hur det kommer sig att Kvinna 2 har väntat i drygt tre dagar med att anmäla våldtäkten. Inte heller finns några uppgifter om varför hon hade sällskap med Anna Ardin när hon kom till polisen. Inget om vilken relation hon hade till Anna och om och vad hon pratat med Anna om innan hon kom till polisen. Inte heller finns uppgifter om varför hon valde att ha sex med Julian och hur hon reagerade när hon fick veta att Anna också hade haft sex med Julian.

Det som verkar centralt i fallet är att Kvinna 2 uppger att hon vaknade av att Julian hade sex med henne. Sex med ett offer som sover. Det är det centrala. Och så var det så att det samlaget var oskyddat.

Förhöret med Anna Ardin genomförs på lördagen den 21 med start 11.31 och slut 12.20. Det genomförs per telefon och är ett konceptförhör, förhørsledaren skriver ned vad hon kommer ihåg och anser viktigt. Brottsmisstanken är våldtäkt alternativt sexuellt ofredande. Även detta förhör verkar inte gå in närmare på vilken kontakt Anna haft med Kvinna 2, om de pratat med varandra om övergreppen eller när Anna fick kunskap om att Julian haft sex med Kvinna 2. Och varför Anna väntat i nästan en vecka på att anmäla brottet.

Inte heller har Annas förehavande med Julian efter den påstådda våldtäkten blivit utredda. Det står ingenting om kräftskivan, tweets eller det faktum att Anna Ardin valde att blir pressekreterare i Sverige för Julian Assange och Wikileaks två dagar efter övergreppet. Inte heller nämns det faktum att Piratpartiet skickade ut en pressrelease den 17 augusti där Anna Ardin nämns som pressekreterare i Sverige åt Julian Assange och Wikileaks. Inte nämns ett enda vittne som på något sätt kan verifiera Anna Ardins historia eller hur hon betedde sig efter övergreppet. Det ser helt enkelt ut som om omständigheterna runt brottet blivit dåligt utredda. Efter att förhöret om påstådd våldtäkten klassas brottet som ofredande.

Problem med förhör

Jag vill poängtera att jag har bara läst delar av förhören. Men av det jag har läst kan man dra vissa slutsatser.

Problemen med dessa förhör är flera. Dels är de konceptförhör. Inget av det som kvinnorna sagt under förhören finns registrerat. Det gör att det är omöjligt att i efterhand kunna verifiera vad som sagts. Inte heller kan någon annan utredare göra en bedömning av kvinnornas påståenden och trovärdighet och vad som man måste utreda vidare.

Det är också två olika förhørsledare. Det innebär att det inte fanns möjlighet för förhørsledaren att kunna ställa kontrollfrågor till den senast hörda kvinnan om vad den första kvinnan sagt. Det gör att det blir svårare, för att inte säga nästan omöjligt, att få reda på om kvinnorna på något sätt samverkat när de kommit för att lämna in sina anmälningar. Något som det vore rimligt att det utreddes när två kvinnor kommer in samtidigt och påstår att de blivit våldtagna av samma man.

Inte heller kan man få reda på om informationen framkommit på grund av frågor eller om det är information som målsägaren lämnat via egen berättelse. Och vi får ingen som helst uppfattning om hur de reagerat på frågor. Om de tvekat när de lämnat sina svar, om något i andning eller rösten ändras eller om de tvekat på något sätt när de svarar på tuffa frågor.

Vi vet inte heller vilka frågor som förhørsledaren ställde och kan inte avgöra vad som förhørsledaren ansåg som viktigt. Det gör att det är svårt att veta vad som man bör vidtaga för åtgärder vid kommande förhör. Med konceptförhör finns en risk att fler förhör blir bara mer av ungefär samma sak. Man tröskar om samma sak.

Förenklat kan man säga att det finns tre olika typer av förhör. Ju allvarligare brottet är desto viktigare är det att använda sig bästa tänkbara förhörsmetod.

1. Det bästa är att förhöret genomförs på polisstationen där man spelar in förhöret med minst två kameror och bra ljud. Då kan andra utredare följa förhöret i ett annat rum och man kan spela upp det igen och igen för att fokusera på de delar som är viktiga.
2. Vad som borde vara ett absolut minikrav vid alla sexbrottsförhör är att förhöret åtminstone spelas in på band. Då finns en möjlighet att i efterhand kunna spela upp det som sagts så att andra utredare kan göra en bedömning av vad som verkligen sagts.
3. Det som tyvärr fortfarande är mycket vanligt är det som är absolut sämst. Det är konceptförhör. En polis ska samtidigt som hon lyssnar på vad målsägaren säger, skriva ned det och fundera på nya frågor. Detta gör att målsägarens berättelse antingen missas eller avbryts av förhørsledarens anteckningar. Dessutom bestäms det som slutligen hamnar i förhørsprotokollet av vad som förhørsledaren uppfattade och bedömde som viktigt.

Jag har läst vad många journalister skrivit och sagt om de första polisförhören. Jag har inte hört någon som sagt eller skrivit att de är dåligt genomförda konceptförhör. Och att konceptförhör är helt undermåliga när man utreder sexualbrott. Nu har jag i alla fall sagt det. Kanske beror det på att jag inte är journalist. Jag har jobbat som säljare av komplicerade produkter och tjänster. Då vet man att om jag inte ställer väldigt bra

frågor kommer jag inte få veta ett enda dugg om kunden, kundens verklighet och problem och vilka konsekvenser det har för kunden. Och om man inte vet mycket om kunden och kundens upplevda verklighet då kommer man misslyckas.

Vad kräver Rikspolisens och Åklagarmyndigheten?

För mig är det obegripligt att ingen nämnt att det handlat om konceptförhör av kvinnorna i fallet Assange. Jag är ännu mer förvånad att åklagare, poliser, advokater, utredare och andra som sysslar med sexualbrott inte har förbjudit att konceptförhör används vid sexualbrott. Att de borde förbjudas står en att läsa i en i en granskning genomförd av Rikspolisstyrelsen och Åklagarmyndigheten som redovisades 2005. Vid granskningen framkom att den vanliga metoden vid förhör är just konceptförhör. (Med undantag för Jönköpings län.)

Jag har plockat ut några viktiga delar av denna 97 sidiga rapporten:

En förundersökning bör bedrivas så att den resulterar i ett så fullständigt beslutsunderlag som möjligt för att förundersökningsledaren ska kunna ta ställning till om åtal ska väckas eller om förundersökningen ska läggas ned. Av olika skäl gör sig detta krav särskilt gällande vid förundersökningar beträffande våldtäkt och grov våldtäkt.

Som tidigare konstaterats är våldtäkt ett svårutrett brott där målsägandens och den misstänktes uppgifter många gånger är de enda som finns att tillgå beträffande själva gärningstillfället.

Ett förhör som dokumenterar målsägandens egna ord och inte en sammanfattning gjord av förhørsledaren blir ett bättre beslutsunderlag för förundersökningsledaren, som oftast inte har möjlighet att vara närvarande vid alla förhör och kanske framför allt inte vid det första förhöret.

Förhören är alltså mycket viktiga för utgången av en utredning. Inspektionsgruppen anser att vid målsägandeförhör bör bl.a. följande beaktas:

- att förhören skall hållas personligen, d.v.s. inte per telefon
- att målsäganden inledningsvis får lämna en sammanhängande fri berättelse
- att dokumentation i största möjliga utsträckning sker i form av videoupptagning alternativt s.k. dialogförhör

Jag har varit så naiv så jag trott att när en granskning gjorts så har man också vidtagit åtgärder. Uppenbart är att så inte är fallet. Vad beror detta på? Vem bär ansvaret för detta? Och vilka ska avgå? Personligen tror jag på att städa trappan uppifrån.

Det är otroligt att man ännu efter fem år inte har genomfört de de åtgärder granskningen krävde. Varför sker inte dokumentation i form av videoupptagning? Det är ju viktigt för att kunna bedöma vad gärningsmannen och målsägaren sagt eftersom det ofta inte finns andra uppgifter. Och det är speciellt viktigt vid det första förhöret som inte ska vara per telefon. Detta är inget konstigt. Snarare självklart.

Hur kan det vara så att de stackars poliser som ska utreda sexualbrott endast får papper och penna till hjälp. Varför får de inte modern utrustning? Varför kan de inte ens få en bandspelare? Det är för helvete år 2010. Varför ska sexualbrott utredas på samma sätt som de gjordes på 1800 talet?

Vad är det som gör att en massa kvinnoorganisationer kräver att man ska tillsätta en granskningskommission vid våldtäkter så man kan få veta varför brottsutredningarna så ofta läggs ned? En granskning är ju redan gjord? Men det verkar inte som några chefer hos polisen och åklagarmyndigheten har gjort något. Kan läsa de inte läsa, eller vad tusan är problemet.

En enkel åtgärd är att ge cheferna sparken och se till att de nya som kommer har läsglasögon och att de gillar att jobba med förändringsprocesser. Och ge de poliser som gör jobbet riktig utrustning.

Har inkompetens hos chefer på Polis- och Åklagarmyndigheten bidragit till att fallet Assange blivit så konstigt hanterat? Det är bisarrt att fallet Assange, som sysselsatt en hel världs nyhetsredaktioner i månader, kanske beror på något så enkelt som att polisen har använt metoder som enligt polisens egen granskning dömts ut redan för 5 år sen. Jag kan inte tro att det är sant. Och jag kan inte tro att jag är en av de första som säger det. Med förbannat hög röst.

En enkel åtgärd är att tillsätta chefer som kan läsa en rapport och är villiga att genomföra de förändringar som granskningen rekommenderat. Och så tillsätta två utredningar. En när det gäller fallet Assange och en som gäller vad som gick fel i utredningen av polischefen Göran Lindberg. Polisen kunde, enligt Leif GW Persson, med några timmars jobb gripa Göran Lindberg några år innan han till slut åkte fast.

Ingenting av det som står i granskningsrapporten när det gäller förhör är svårt att genomföra. Varför pratar man om fler poliser istället för att hjälpa de poliser vi har att göra jobbet bättre, enklare och så att det ger bättre resultat.

<http://www.samtycke.nu/2010/12/forsta-polisforhoren-en-orsak-till-probleme-i->

Karl Rove Driving the Effort to Prosecute Julian Assange?

Legal Schnauzer
December 14, 2010

Former Bush White House strategist Karl Rove likely is playing a leading role in the effort to prosecute WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, a source with ties to the justice community tells Legal Schnauzer.

Assange was arrested last week in London for alleged sex crimes in Sweden. A lawyer for Assange said Monday that the arrest was a ruse designed to give the United States more time to build a case against Assange on other charges. The lawyer said a grand jury is being prepared in Washington, D.C., to look into WikiLeaks' activities. Meanwhile, Assange has a court date today in the UK, where he is expected to seek a release on bail.

That Assange's legal troubles would originate in Sweden probably is not a coincidence, our source says. Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt has been called "the Ronald Reagan of Europe," and he has a friendship with Rove that dates back at least 10 years,

to the George W. Bush campaign for president in 2000. Reinfeldt reportedly asked Rove to help with his 2010 re-election in Sweden.

On the hot seat for his apparent role in the political prosecution of former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman, Rove sought comfort in Sweden. "When [Rove] was in trouble and did not want to testify on the three times he was invited [by the U.S. Congress], he wound up in Sweden," our source says. "Further, it was [Reinfeldt] that first hired Karl when he got thrown out of the White House. Clearly, it appears that [Rove], who claims to be of Swedish descent, feels a kinship to Sweden . . . and he has taken advantage of it several times."

Why would Rove be interested in corralling Julian Assange? To help protect the Bush legacy, our source says. "The very guy who has released the documents that damage the Bushes the most is also the guy that the Bush's number one operative can control by being the Swedish prime minister's brain and intelligence and economic advisor."

Could Rove also be trying to protect himself? What if WikiLeaks has documents-- or Rove thinks it could get documents-- that prove "Turd Blossom's" role in criminal activity during the Bush years? What if someone with a conscience from the Bush administration-- if such a person exists-- provided WikiLeaks with documents that show Rove's role in political prosecutions, the unlawful firings of U.S. attorneys, and more? Could Rove be trying to save his own doughy butt?

Reporting from Amy Goodman, of Democracy Now!, lends support to our source's insights about Rove and Sweden. In a piece from December 2008, "Karl Rove in Sweden," Goodman wrote about the ties between "Bush's Brain" and Reinfeldt. This was just a few weeks after Barack Obama had won the presidential election in the United States:

Traditional Swedish politics also are in flux. Brian Palmer is an American, a former Harvard lecturer, who has immigrated to Sweden and become a Swedish citizen. Palmer has penned a biography of Sweden's prime minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt. Palmer credits Reinfeldt, 43, with leading the shift away from the progressive social policies for which Sweden has become world-famous. He said Reinfeldt, in 1993, "wrote a book, 'The Sleeping People,' where he said that the welfare state should only prevent starvation, nothing beyond that. After being elected ... one of his first major visits abroad was to George Bush in the White House."

Reinfeldt and his Moderate Party hired Karl Rove as a political consultant to help with the election coming in 2010. Palmer went on: "We have a real kind of silent war on the labor movement. We have a rather dramatic change in the tax system, abolishing the inheritance tax and most property taxes, cutbacks in social-welfare institutions." This week, a new coalition of center-left political parties formed to challenge this rightward drift.

The U.S. electorate has thoroughly rebuked the Bush administration, handing Barack Obama and the Democrats a mandate for change on issues of war and health care, among others. One of the world's leading laboratories for innovative social policies, Sweden is now wrestling with its own future. Those seeking change in the U.S. would be wise to watch Sweden, beyond Nobel week.

In December 2009, Goodman conducted an interview with Brian Palmer, Reinfeldt's biographer:

AMY GOODMAN: Brian Palmer, talk about the shift that's going on in politics here—you've written a biography of the current prime minister—and how this fits in with the story we just talked about, the story of Alfred Nobel, both the Peace Prizes and his founding of, really, the weapons industry in this country.

BRIAN PALMER: One can begin by saying that the reasons for Sweden's reputation as a progressive paradise, the strongest labor movement in the world with 87 percent of workers unionized, creating over many decades the strongest welfare state, the one that on the UN Human Poverty Index has the least poverty in the world. And then, what we've seen over the last twenty years, but particularly since the 2006 election, is a move away from all of that.

We have a prime minister who in the 1990s wrote a book, *The Sleeping People*, where he said that the welfare state should only prevent starvation, nothing beyond that, no other standard should be guaranteed. After being elected, Fredrik Reinfeldt, one of his first major visits abroad was to George Bush in the White House, this in spite of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo, a visit that many people thought shouldn't have happened, his coalition then getting—bringing over Karl Rove for advice and support—Karl Rove, the architect of President Bush's electoral victories.

AMY GOODMAN: They brought Karl Rove here?

BRIAN PALMER: This past summer.

AMY GOODMAN: Because?

BRIAN PALMER: Because he can offer good advice on how to win the 2010 election. And—

AMY GOODMAN: Is this unusual for Karl Rove to do this kind of international consulting?

BRIAN PALMER: According to his website, it's his only foreign consulting, for the Moderate Party of Sweden.

AMY GOODMAN: Wasn't the current prime minister visiting Bush in the White House?

BRIAN PALMER: Yeah, and there were many people writing that this shouldn't happen. He justified the visit, that he would persuade Bush to sign the Kyoto Accord, but people who were there say that he didn't even really attempt that.

PRESS RELEASE

December 14th. 2010

Contact: Ciaran O'Reilly, mobile 079 392 905 76

Armed Police Called to Australian Embassy as Australian Protesters Occupy Foyer Demanding the Release of Julian Assange

On Monday 13th December at 5 pm, concerned Australian academics, artists, activists and expats occupied the foyer of the Australian Embassy on The Strand, London. They

refused instruction by embassy security to vacate the building reading aloud a letter of demands addressed to the Australian High Commissioner.

The letter calls for the Embassy to be proactive in securing the immediate release from custody of fellow Australian citizen and founder of WikiLeaks Julian Assange. The letter has been signed by celebrated journalist John Pilger, Australian born human rights activist Peter Tatchell, veteran Australian anti-war activist Ciaron O'Reilly and a growing number of British based Australians outraged with the persecution of the WikiLeaks founder. Assange is presently held in London's Wandsworth Prison having been denied bail at an initial hearing at Westminster Court last week. Mr. Assange's next bail appearance, which will take place on Tuesday 14th December.

Armed members of the Metropolitan Police's Diplomatic Protection Unit were first to arrive on the scene, followed by three vans of riot police deployed in the vicinity for unrelated student protests and finally a more relaxed member of the local Charring Cross police station arrived on foot. Following the exit of the five protestors, the closure of the embassy and the departure of the police the protestors commenced a vigil outside the embassy.

The front steps of the embassy were employed as a makeshift stage as the vigil was addressed by Australian academics Professor Michael Dutton, university lecturer Saul Newman, Australian activist Ciaron O'Reilly and entertained by Australian band "Lovers Electric".

A makeshift shrine was constructed in front of the embassy consisting of candles, images of civilian victims of the war on Afghanistan and framed photographs of Julian Assange presently jailed at London's Wandsworth Prison, defendant in the initial U.S. military case against WikiLeaks Corporal Manning presently jailed at a U.S. marine base at Quantico, Virginia, USA and London resident Shaker Aamer who enters his eight year of detention in Guantanamo Bay.

"Australians for the Immediate Release of Julian Assange" believes that the refusal to grant bail to Mr. Assange is unjust and unwarranted. 'They argue that this denial of bail and present imprisonment of the WikiLeaks founder are politically driven by forces with which the Australian government are in connivance. They believe the actions of the Australian government and embassy in relation to Mr Assange, an Australian citizen, amount to a dereliction of duty. They are also demanding that the Australian government immediately cease co-operation in the persecution of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks.

A spokesperson for the group, veteran Australian anti-war activist Ciaron O'Reilly, stated: "Many of us share Julian's background of being raised in the authoritarian state of Queensland where civil liberties were denied as matter of course. This formative experience shaped Julian in terms of his passion for free speech as it shaped us before him. Others of us are dismayed that, like Vietnam and Iraq, the present Australian government has followed the United States into another immoral, illegal and unwinnable war in Afghanistan. Julian's work with WikiLeaks has been courageous and revelatory. He's in that jail for us and we're out on the streets for him! We need to free him and bring this war and invasion of Afghanistan to an end!"

The following letter was read and delivered to the Australian Embassy in London on December 13th. 2010.

High Commissioner to the United Kingdom

Australia House
Strand,
London WC2B 4LA

Dear Mr Dauth,

We Australians, here in London and from further afield, ask you to convey our urgent and emphatic request to the Gillard Government to do its utmost to defend Julian Assange's human rights and the free and lawful operation of Wikileaks.

Australians around the world watch with grave concern as an Australian citizen is vilified by his own Prime Minister and Attorney-General, experienced lawyers whose words display a shocking disregard for the human right to the presumption of innocence, and risk prejudicing any legal proceedings Mr Assange may face.

We welcome the Government's subsequent assurance that Mr Assange's passport will not be cancelled and that your embassy will afford him "all appropriate consular assistance."

We learn from an Australian Government website[1] that the High Commission has a duty to ensure Mr Assange "is treated no less favourably than local citizens detained for similar offences." UK citizens, of course, enjoy the protection of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantee their right to freedom of expression, presumption of innocence and fair trial. That is, UK citizens enjoy a significantly higher degree of legal protection than do Australians, and the Australian High Commission must ensure Mr Assange's treatment by UK authorities accords with those more stringent standards.

May we remind all consular staff and the Australian Government that Mr Assange "has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers"[2] and to do so "without interference by public authority." [3]

Further, Mr Assange has a human and legal right to be "presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law" and to be given a fair trial.[4]

As you must know well, it is unlawful under s104 of the Criminal Code Act 1995 for anyone intentionally or recklessly to cause death or serious harm[5] to an Australian citizen outside Australia. And yet the Australian Government has voiced no objection to the death threats levelled against Mr Assange by high-profile US citizens and others.[7]

In light of the above, we, the undersigned:

1. Ask that Ms Gillard publicly and unequivocally withdraw her statement alleging illegal conduct on Mr Assange's part, explain to the public why it was wrong for her to say that, and to apologise to Mr Assange.
2. Call on the Gillard Government to robustly defend Mr Assange both at home and abroad and to respect and defend his right to receive information and impart information freely, without interference by any public authority.
3. Ask the Attorney-General to initiate investigations into threats of violence against Mr Assange by persons in the United States and Canada, including Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee, in violation of Australian law.
4. Urge the Gillard Government to oppose strenuously any application to have Mr Assange extradited to the United States, because it is unlikely he would receive a fair trial there.

We thank you for your attention to these matters of fundamental importance to a free and democratic society.

[1] 'Consular services: Arrested, detained and jailed overseas'
(<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/faq.html>)

[2] Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (emphasis added). The same is stated more fully in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Australia is a party, and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which also applies to Mr Assange.

[3] ECHR, Art. 10(1)

[4] ECHR, Art. 6 and elsewhere

[5] Including "harm to a person's mental health (whether temporary or permanent) [including] psychological harm to the person;" and conduct that "endangers, or is likely to endanger, a person's life" (s146)

[7] See <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/41914.html>

Sincerely, your compatriots,

Present signatories

John Pilger (from Sydney, Australia) <http://www.johnpilger.com/>

Peter Tatchell, (from Melbourne, Australia) London based, Human Rights Activist
<http://www.petertatchell.net/>

Michael Dutton, (from Brisbane, Australia) Professor of Politics, Goldsmiths University of London.

Deborah Kessler, (from Brisbane, Australia) Concerned Citizen.

Ciaron O'Reilly, (from Brisbane, Australian), London Catholic Worker/ Ploughshares.
<http://www.londoncatholicworker.org/>

Eden Boucher, (from Adelaide, Australia) Musician "Lovers Electric".
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lovers_Electric

David Turley, (from Adelaide, Australia), Musician "Lovers Electric".
 Sharon Turley, (from Adelaide, Australia) Classical Musician.
 David Warburton (from Adelaide, Australia), Coffee Brewster
 Saul Newman, teaches Political Theory at Goldsmiths, University of London.
 John Hutnyk, (from Melbourne, Australia) Professor of Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths University of London.
 Peter Thomas (from Rockhampton, Queensland) teaches History of Political Thought at Brunel University, London.
 Maria Albrecht, (from Melbourne, Australia) Catholic Worker Farmhouse
<http://www.thecatholicworkerfarm.org/>
 Olivia Ball (from Melbourne, Australia) Author
 Eric Snowball (from Sydney, Australia) Social Worker.
 Errol O'Neill (from Brisbane, Australia) Actor.
 Mary Kelly (from Brisbane, Australia) Trade Unionist.
 Dan O'Neill (from Brisbane, Australia) Scholar.
 Dr Linnell Secomb (from Melbourne, Australia) Head of Department of Social, Political and Cultural Studies, University of Greenwich
 Errin Collins, (from Lithgow, Australia) Occupational Therapist
 Eric Snowball (from Sydney, Australia) Social Worker.
 Rik (from Sydney, Australia), Sound Engineer.
 Nick Gill (from Perth, Australia) Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Bristol

WikiLeaks: Anonymous takes down Swedish prosecution website

Swedish Prosecution Authority website crashed after attack by online activists

Josh Halliday
The Guardian
 15 December 2010

The Swedish prosecutor's website crashed late yesterday, moments after the authority announced its intention to fight the decision to grant WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Julian Assange bail in the UK.

The website of the Swedish Prosecution Authority, Aklagare.se, was **brought offline for almost 11 hours** on Tuesday in the latest online attack by Anonymous, the loose-knit group committed to crippling the websites of companies and governments perceived to be acting against WikiLeaks. The site was back online at the time of publication.

At least three hackers linked to the Anonymous attacks, including two Dutch teenagers, have been arrested this week as authorities crack down on the illegal online assaults that have brought down the sites of Visa, Mastercard and PayPal in the past fortnight.

Assange this week issued a rallying call to his supporters, urging them to protect the whistleblowers' site from what he called "instruments of US foreign policy"—citing Visa, Mastercard and PayPal. Downing Street also put its websites on red alert in anticipation of being targeted by the group, though no substantial attack materialised.

WikiLeaks' primary site, WikiLeaks.org, reappeared on Friday, one week after being taken offline by its California-based hosting provider, Everydns.

But the internet security firm Spamhaus yesterday warned that the site's new incarnation could be riddled with malware run by "Russian cybercriminals". WikiLeaks.org redirects users to a mirror site-- mirror.wikileaks.info-- which sits within an IP range hosted by the Russian firm Webalta.

"Our concern is that any WikiLeaks archive posted on a site that is hosted in Webalta space might be infected with malware," says Quentin Jenkins, a security researcher at Spamhaus. "Since the main wikileaks.org website now transparently redirects visitors to mirror.wikileaks.info, and thus directly into Webalta's controlled IP address space, **there is substantial risk that any malware infection would spread widely.**"

Wikileaks.info was offline earlier today. Its Russian-run DNS provider, Heihachi, is also "highly involved in botnet command and control and the hosting of Russian cybercrime", according to experts from Spamhaus and computer security firm Trend Micro. The domain owners have responded to the allegations, but the statement is inaccessible due to the site outage.

Around 2,000 sites are operating as a mirror to WikiLeaks, pointing a portion of their server space to WikiLeaks content so that it is technically almost impossible to entirely remove from the internet.

Anonymous has vowed to avenge the site in any way it can. Late last week the group admitted that its actions, known as distributed denial of service attacks (DDoS), were becoming ineffective, and said they would move to finding the "best, least exposed [US diplomatic cables] leaks" and spread around the web.

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Julian Assange freed on bail

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange emerges from high court and is driven away to backer's country estate

*Esther Addley and Luke Harding
The Guardian
16 December 2010*

With a smile and a short statement of quiet defiance, Julian Assange tonight walked free from custody and into the kind of media scrum more commonly seen after a decades-long prison sentence, rather than nine days on remand.

This was the third hearing in as many weeks relating to the WikiLeaks founder's bail application over sex assault charges against two Swedish women, for which his extradition is being sought, and is unlikely to be the last before the allegations, which he denies, are resolved.

But with the global storm over the website's leaks and a gathering campaign of online protest against what is seen by some of his supporters as a politically motivated process, this was never going to be a mere procedural hearing.

Journalists from around the world-- the US, Sweden, Spain, the Netherlands-- queued from before dawn to secure a seat in court, while a pyramid of photographers and TV crews teetered precariously at the entrance to the Royal Courts of Justice in central London, in anticipation of the Australian, at some point, walking out of its imposing front doors on to the Strand.

At 6pm, more than five hours after being told that, with conditions, he was indeed free to leave, he did so, and walked out into a battery of flashing lights.

Though in court he had seemed weary, leaning his head against the mahogany wall of the dock as the appeal was heard, Assange had found new energy when he was finally let out of the court's cells, thanking "all the people around the world who have had faith in me", those members of the press "who are not all taken in", and "the British justice system itself, where, if justice is not always an outcome, at least it is not dead yet".

He had had plentiful opportunity, "during my time in solitary confinement in the bottom of a Victorian prison", to reflect on the conditions of those around the world who are also held in solitary confinement, he said, and would continue "to protest my innocence in this matter and to reveal, as we get it, as we have not yet, the evidence from these allegations".

Sweden is seeking Assange's extradition over allegations of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion, made by two women during a period of 10 days in August. One of the women, Miss A, says she was victim of "unlawful coercion" and "sexual molestation", alleging that Assange had sex with her without a condom when it was her "express wish" one should be used. The second woman, Miss W, accuses him of having sex with her on 17 August without a condom while she was asleep at her Stockholm home.

Assange admits having consensual sex with both women but denies any criminal wrongdoing.

On 7 December he voluntarily attended a police station in London where he was arrested and, later, denied bail, being remanded to Wandsworth prison in south London. A senior district judge at Westminster magistrates court last week granted conditional bail, a decision which was immediately appealed, meaning he remained in custody until yesterday.

However, having overcome the efforts of Swedish and British prosecutors to keep him in prison until his extradition hearings, expected early next year, the Australian was nearly undone by logistics. Having attracted a formidable army of high-profile backers, among them the celebrity campaigner Jemima Khan and the Oscar-winning film-maker Michael Moore, Assange's team had submitted a list of possible backers willing to offer surety and attest to the fact that the Australian would not attempt to flee.

But Mr Justice Ouseley, head of the administrative court, is not a man easily swayed by celebrity, expressing his concerns that "many of those who are offering themselves as sureties are doing so because they are supporters of [Assange's] activities with WikiLeaks", rather than being in any position to attest to his character and the likelihood of his absconding.

Having heard submissions from the crown that Assange, as a "nomadic" person, was unsuitable for bail, he dismissed the campaigning journalist John Pilger as "another peripatetic Australian".

Unfortunately, not all those he deemed acceptable to stand surety-- the Australian journalist Philip Knightley, the publisher Felix Dennis, the Nobel prize-winning biologist Sir John Sulston, the former Labour minister Lord Evans and Professor Patricia David, a retired professor of education-- appear to have expected to get the nod. There was, accordingly, a tense few hours while the five were frantically tracked down at locations across the country and persuaded to present themselves in court or at a designated police station to complete the paperwork. An additional pressure was the requirement that Assange reach his bail address by 10pm, his curfew time, otherwise he would be in breach of his bail conditions.

That address, after his Victorian cell, may come as a pleasant shock. The WikiLeaks founder will now endure the hardship of a Georgian country house on the Norfolk-Suffolk borders, Ellingham Hall, a property so grand that its sheer scale was raised as an objection in court by the crown, who argued that electronic equipment would be unable to monitor Assange across the "vast" extent of the estate. (It was suggested by his lawyer that the Australian would willingly restrict himself to "the manor house").

There he will be the guest of Vaughan Smith, a former army captain and the founder of the Frontline Club, a members' club for journalists in London, where Assange had previously stayed.

Last night Smith told the Guardian his friend would be treated to a celebratory dinner of "stew and dumplings" and joked that there was no prospect Assange could escape. "He's not very good at reading maps. He's topographically awful. If he runs off into the woods I will find him," he said. Assange, Smith stressed, was in no sense a fugitive and was merely staying at his country estate as a regular guest. "We are not harbouring him. That much is very clear."

Others, however, were not in joking mood: Pilger said the biggest threat to Assange's liberty was the US government, which he called "the great unspoken in this case. It is a spectre of which we are all aware that he might end up in a high-security prison in the US."

Assange's WikiLeaks colleague Kristinn Hrafnsson last night said the website would continue its activities, with Assange once again at the helm, from Ellingham Hall. "We have a fairly decent internet connection there. We will keep on operating as we have done before."

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange granted bail: as it happened

The Guardian
16 Dec. 2010

6.37 pm. Here's a final summary of the day's events:

- Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was freed on bail and vowed to continue to fight against the rape allegations he faces in Sweden. He said he hoped to reveal evidence to prove his innocence as and when he obtained it.
- High court judge Mr Justice Ouseley, upheld the decision by City of Westminster magistrates court on Tuesday to free Assange on strict conditions. But there was a wait of more than four hours before it was confirmed that the bail conditions would be met today and he would not have to face another night in jail. The bail conditions were as follows: a £200,000 cash deposit, with a further £40,000 guaranteed in two sureties of £20,000 and strict conditions on his movement.
- Lawyers acting for the Crown Prosecution Service argued that Assange was likely to abscond. But the judge noted that Assange had made arrangements at an early stage of his stay in Britain for his lawyers to be in contact with the Metropolitan police over the ongoing case in Sweden. "That is not the conduct of a person who is seeking to evade justice," the judge said.

And here's the text of Assange's full statement delivered outside the court on his release:

It's great to smell the fresh air of London again.

First, some thank yous. To all the people around the world who have had faith in me, who have supported my team while I have been away. To my lawyers, who have put up a brave and ultimately successful fight, to our sureties and people who have provided money in the face of great difficulty and aversion. And to members of the press who are not all taken in and considered to look deeper in their work. And I guess finally, to the British justice system itself, where if justice is not always the outcome at least it is not dead yet.

During my time in solitary confinement in the bottom of a Victorian prison I had time to reflect on the conditions of those people around the world also in solitary confinement, also on remand, in conditions that are more difficult than those faced by me. Those people also need your attention and support.

And with that I hope to continue my work and continue to protest my innocence in this matter and to reveal, as we get it, which we have not yet, the evidence from these allegations. Thank you....

5.48 pm. Julian Assange has just been released....

5.00 pm. While we're still waiting, the Crown Prosecution Service has issued the following brief statement: "The Crown Prosecution Service acts as agent for the

Swedish Government in the Assange case. The Swedish Director of Prosecutions this morning confirmed that she fully supported the appeal." It doesn't say whether the Swedish government asked the CPS to appeal...

3.32 pm. WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson welcomed Julian Assange's bail victory and said it would have been a "travesty of justice" if he had remained locked up. "I'm delighted by this decision. It will be excellent to have Julian back with us again. Let's hope that will happen as early as this evening," Hrafnsson told Luke Harding.

Hrafnsson said it would be entirely possible for WikiLeaks to operate out of the remote manor house on the Norfolk-Suffolk borders to where Assange will be bailed. "We have a fairly decent internet connection there. We will keep on operating as we have done before. WikiLeaks has many members and we have never all been in the same place." Of today's high court judgment upholding bail, he said: "It's what I expected. I had full confidence that justice would be done, otherwise it would have been a travesty."...

2.43 pm. More direct quotes from Stephens on when Assange will be released:

"We are expecting Julian to be released some time later today, or at a worst case analysis tomorrow. Everybody is working very hard for that-- the police, the prosecution and our own legal team. We are hopeful that he will be released from here [the court] but if the formalities are not completed before the bus goes back to Wandsworth, he will be released from Wandsworth later.

"If Julian is released I am sure before he is whisked off to the country for his mansion arrest, he will be able to have a word with everybody. I'm hopeful that he will want to do that. We haven't addressed the question of American legal action or the potential for it. Our main focus is delight and joy, and delight and joy of Julian's family, that he is going to be released in the very foreseeable future.

"He will not be going back to that Victorian prison. He will not be going back to that cell once occupied by Oscar Wilde."...

2.11 pm. The Swedish authorities argued that there was a "real risk" Assange would abscond if granted bail, according to PA. Gemma Lindfield, appearing for the Swedish authorities, described Assange as living a nomadic lifestyle with no significant ties in the UK. Those offering to provide sureties had not known him long, she said.

Given the extent of his support as the founder of WikiLeaks, he had "the means and ability" to flee the country or go into hiding in the UK. Supporters who might have to pay up if he were to abscond could regard that as "money lost for the cause", said Lindfield.

Rejecting her submissions and ordering conditional bail, the judge described how shortly after he arrived in the UK from Sweden, Assange had been aware that the allegations against him in Sweden were still live. He had made arrangements for his solicitors to be his point of contact with the Metropolitan police so that in the event of a warrant being issued, the police would not have to search for him. The judge said: "That is not the conduct of a person who is seeking to evade justice."...

1.55 pm. The Swedish authorities will have to pay costs, according to Vaughan Smith. He also claims today's judgment has vindicated Assange....

1.17 pm. Luke Harding said: "Julian Assange has just been granted conditional bail. Mr Justice Ouseley is tweaking conditions at the moment. He did raise some concern about Assange's supporters suggesting that there was a possibility that this was a gesture of support rather than anything more meaningful. But in the end he did endorse the decision of Westminster magistrates court. I would expect him to be freed--whether that will take hours or a little longer, he will be out." It could take up to an hour to process Assange's release, according to PA....

1.05 pm. Justice Ouseley has upheld the decision to grant Assange bail, according to Sky News. There were cheers outside the court. PA has confirmed that Assange was granted bail subject to conditions....

12.21 pm. The case is looking good for Julian Assange, according to Luke Harding, who popped out of the court for this Audioboo update on comments from the judge. Mr Justice Ouseley said: "The history of the way it [the case] has been dealt with by the Swedish prosecutors would give Mr Assange some basis that he might be acquitted following a trial."...

11.47 am. Esther Addley managed to pop out of the court to report on the judge's comments about Twitter. "This is not something I normally deal with," Mr Justice Ouseley said. "District judge Riddle [on Tuesday] did permit the use of tweets. That's to say short text messages, made by use of a Blackberry or a laptop."

He said tweets from the court would represent a distraction. "I recognise the calls for debate... The issue involving Twitter may involve the potential for disruption to the atmosphere of the court, which one might call its dignity."

Esther added that Assange looks "frazzled". He is wearing a white shirt with no tie and a dark shirt. He is flanked in the dock by two guards and behind ornate bars, she said.

11.01 am. Julian Assange's mum has turned up at the court, as has Frontline club founder Vaughan Smith who has offered to put up Assange in his Suffolk pile.

Meanwhile PA has been talking to some of the WikiLeaks supporters gathering at the court. Bulgarian Angel Spasov, 30, who lives in north-east London, said: "What has happened is completely wrong. We are supporting freedom of speech and he has shown the world the truth. He is doing this to make it a better world and governments around the world may not like it but we should be able to know what has really happened."

Verena Payr, 29, travelled from her home in Tyrol, west Austria, to support Assange at court. She said: "I heard everything about the charges and I thought I had to do something. I went to the WikiLeaks website, joined the forum and agreed to start a demonstration in London. I want to have a pint with him." It is raining, but even if it was minus 20 degrees I would still be here."...

9.35 am. The Crown Prosecution Service has confirmed that it made the call to appeal against bail, a decision criticised by Assange's lawyers. A spokeswoman said: "It is standard practice on all extradition cases that decisions regarding bail are taken by the domestic prosecuting authority. It would not be practical for prosecutors in a foreign jurisdiction, who are neither present in court when decisions are made, nor familiar with the domestic laws concerning bail, to make such decisions."

Assange's lawyer Mark Stephens said this was "highly irregular". He told PA: "The question we have to ask is if they weren't talking to the Swedes, who were they talking to? It's highly irregular because, as (director of public prosecutions) Keir Starmer said on Radio 4 this morning, the CPS are supposed to act as the agents of the Swedish authorities and they appear to be acting without the knowledge of their director or the Swedes. It remains opaque and unclear as to who actually gave the order to oppose bail."

In a statement on her website, Sweden's director of prosecutions Marianne Ny said: "At a hearing on Tuesday December 14, Westminster magistrates court in London decided that Julian Assange should be granted bail. The decision was appealed by the British prosecutor. As I have already stated, I cannot at the moment provide information concerning the development of the matter, as it is handled by British authorities...."

8.56am. So far UN general secretary Ban Ki-moon hasn't said much about the diplomatic cables, even though they revealed that US diplomats were ordered to spy on him. Cables showed that diplomats were asked to gather biometric details on key UN officials. Last night Ban made light of the issue by mildly teasing the US at the annual UN Correspondents' Association dinner.

AFP reports: "Ban started his speech, to an audience that included US ambassador Susan Rice, by flashing details such as 'credit card number', 'shoe size' and 'ring finger 7.5' on to the screen.

8.45 am. The legal blogger Carl Gardner deserves credit for revealing that it was the British authorities, and not the Swedes, who took the decision to appeal against bail. Last night he wrote: "The CPS has phoned me to confirm it took the decision to appeal bail yesterday in Julian Assange's case— without consulting the Swedish prosecutor. The CPS spokesman stressed to me that this is usual practice in extradition cases. The CPS makes all decisions on bail, apparently. That is in line with article 12 of the European arrest warrant framework decision. It follows that it's the CPS who consider Julian Assange a 'flight risk', and who oppose bail."

8.23 am. The media scrum is already building outside the high court.

The Guardian is there in force. Patrick Kingsley tweets: "A veritable hubbub now outside the Royal Courts of Justice. About 20 journos here, 2 or 3 members of the public."

Esther Addley tweets: "Queues already outside high court for Assange appeal hearing. A colleague was here at 6am. Dedication!"

Vikram Dodd and Luke Harding will also be reporting from the court.

8.13 am. If you're in the US air force you won't be reading this, at least not at work. WikiLeaks and news organisation that published the leaked cables, including the Guardian, have been blocked to air force staff.

The exercise has been dismissed as "pointless". But today US top brass defended the decision. Major Toni Tones told CNN: "Our actions to block the access of classified material from an unclassified network is not to discriminate against any news outlet or information website. The primary purpose is to ensure the security of our unclassified systems and to safeguard classified information."

7.57 am. It's another big day for WikiLeaks and there's lots to catch up on.

The high court will hold a hearing today on an appeal against Tuesday's decision to grant bail for the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. The hearing is due to start at around 11.30am. It is part of a legal battle over whether Assange should be extradited to Sweden over sexual assault charges.

Will there be more tweeting from the court?

Last night the Guardian reported that it was the British authorities who decided to oppose bail for Assange, and not prosecutors in Sweden as previously thought. "The Swedish authorities are not involved in these proceedings. We have not got a view at all on bail," Karin Rosander, director of communications for Sweden's prosecutor's office, told us.

At the same time the US prosecutors are building a conspiracy case against Assange, according to the New York Times.

The respected campaign group Human Rights Watch has urged the US not to prosecute Assange. In a letter to the US president it said:

Dear President Obama:

We write to express our concern at the prospect that the US government would employ espionage laws against WikiLeaks or its founder for the release of US state department cables. Regardless of how one views the intentions, wisdom or strict legality of the WikiLeaks release, we believe that resorting to prosecution will degrade freedom of expression for all media, researchers and reporters, and set a terrible precedent that will be eagerly grasped by other governments, particularly those with a record of trying to muzzle legitimate political reporting.

There is also concern about the treatment of Bradley Manning, the former US intelligence operative, suspected of leaking the diplomatic cables. According to an investigation by Salon's Glenn Greenwald, Manning is being held under conditions that some would regard as torture.

Manning has been subjected for many months without pause to inhumane, personality-erasing, soul-destroying, insanity-inducing conditions of isolation similar to those perfected at America's Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado: all without so much as having been convicted of anything.

Meanwhile another batch of leaked cables makes further disclosures. Here's a summary:

- Striking resemblances between BP's Gulf of Mexico disaster and a little-reported giant gas leak in Azerbaijan experienced by the UK firm 18 months beforehand have emerged.
- The president of Azerbaijan accused BP of stealing billions of dollars of oil from his country and using "mild blackmail" to secure the rights to develop vast gas reserves in the Caspian Sea region.
- Senior figures in Thailand are concerned about the suitability of the crown prince to become king, citing rumours that he has lovers in several European capitals in addition to his wife and son in Thailand.
- American energy firm Chevron was in discussions with Tehran about developing an Iraq-Iran cross-border oilfield, despite US sanctions against Iran.

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Links to other parts of the series

Documents in PDF format

Require Adobe Reader or similar program

Part 2: 17 December 2010 – 17 February 2011

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case2.pdf

Part 3: 20 February 2011 - 17 July 2011

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case3.pdf

Part 4: 8 August 2011...

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/docs/case4.pdf

For more and better-organized information:

www.nnn.se/nordic/assange.htm

Other resources

<http://wlcentral.org>

<http://justice4assange.com>

<http://rixstep.com/1>

<http://www.samtycke.nu>

<https://www.flashback.org/sok/assange>