



## Assange & Sweden

### Miscellaneous Information: Part 8

20 June 2014 – 31 December 2016

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. I do not claim credit or responsibility for any of the information included here. It is provided merely as a service to anyone who is interested in the case, and especially to those who for various reasons may have not been able to learn much about it.

A large portion 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 initialled --A.B.]*. But there is nothing systematic about that, either, and everything in this document should be interpreted with due caution. Let the reader beware.

Questions and comments regarding any of this information are welcome and may be addressed to me via e-mail at: [editor@nnn.se](mailto:editor@nnn.se)

– Al Burke

### Links to entire series

[www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/resources.htm](http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/resources.htm)

### For more and better-organized information

[www.nnn.se/nordic/assange.htm](http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange.htm)

## Selected Highlights

The following selected highlights may be of some help in sorting through the information in this document. Note that it is *only* a selection, not a complete index. Each number refers to the first page of an article or series of articles which may extend over several pages. Please note as well that there is considerable overlap — an article may be relevant for more than one of the subjects listed, but only one is referenced here.

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## **Julian Assange Hopes New Information Filed in Swedish Court Next Week Will Remove Arrest Warrant**

*Kevin Gosztola  
Firedog Lake  
June 20, 2014*

WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Julian Assange has been living in the Ecuador Embassy in the United Kingdom for two years. To mark the anniversary, his legal defense team is making a push to have the United Nations Human Rights Commission intervene in the case. His legal defense team is also planning to make a filing in Swedish courts next week that will contain new information.

Ecuador granted Assange political asylum because of the United States Justice Department's ongoing national security investigation into WikiLeaks, which has involved a secret grand jury empaneled in Alexandria, Virginia. The grand jury has sought information on Assange, staffers, volunteers and others with ties to WikiLeaks. Assange's fear is if he goes to Sweden he will be extradited to the United States. He faces sexual assault allegations but no charges.

On CNN's "The Lead" with Jake Tapper, Assange said, "I hope it will remove the arrest warrant, which has technically kept the matter going on for four years," although he added, "it won't permit me to leave the embassy because we still have the threat of extradition to the US from the UK."

Fifty-nine international organizations, including the American Association of Jurists, the National Lawyers Guild, and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), have signed on to reports submitted to the UN's Universal Periodic Review, which examines the human rights records of countries every four years. The reports use Assange as a case study to call attention to how Swedish prosecutors "routinely place suspects in lengthy, isolated or unexplained pre-charge detention" and how prosecutors will sometimes engage in pre-trial questioning and sometimes refuse to do so in other cases.

The organizations argue that Sweden has violated Assange's human rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights.

The English report indicates, "A well-functioning cooperation framework exists in the [European Union] for questioning suspects abroad. Questioning suspects abroad at the preliminary investigation phase is routine practice in most cases in Sweden. It has not depended on the gravity of the offense or similar criteria."

Examples of cases are listed:

- The Arboga murder case: Swedish police traveled to Germany to question a murder suspect in 2008. The suspect was subsequently put on trial and convicted in Sweden.

- The Uppsala Christmas murder case: Swedish police traveled to Serbia to question a murder suspect in 2012. The suspect was subsequently charged and extradited to Sweden, where he was put on trial.
- The G4S helicopter robbery case: A Swedish citizen named Alexander Eriksson was questioned by Swedish police in Serbia in 2010. That same year he was extradited, tried and convicted in Sweden.
- The Trustor affair: UK citizen Jonathan Guinness (Lord Moyne) was accused of involvement of the disappearance of £50,000,00 from the accounts of the Swedish investment firm Trustor (of which he was director). An arrest warrant was issued in absentia, but it was dropped after Lord Moyne agreed to being questioned in the UK. The Swedish Prosecutor traveled to London to question him in 1997. He was put on trial in Sweden and acquitted in 2001.
- The Prosolvias case: A major fraud case in which onfo the suspects, Dan Lejerskär, a cofounder of a company, was repeatedly questioned at the Swedish consulate in San Francisco by the prosecutor between 1998-2005 during the investigation phase. His defense lawyer was present. Lejerskär was tried and acquitted.

There have been four “formal offers” made to the prosecution to “interview” Assange “in person, in writing, via telephone or via video-link.” But “all offers have been declined,” frustrating efforts by Assange to resolve the case.

Assange has also reiterated his call to the Justice Department to drop its investigation into his journalistic activities and the activities of his media organization.

“It’s not correct for Eric Holder and the DoJ to use weasel words and state that they will not prosecute a reporter for reporting,” Assange declared during a press call. “The dealing with sources, protecting them, enabling them to engage in a safe communication is a natural part of the national security reporting process.

“The DoJ’s weasel words in our analysis are designed to split off national security reporters from those reporters who simply report the contents of a press conference. National security reporters are required by their profession to have intimate interactions in order to assess and verify and investigate of the nature of the material that they are dealing with. So, I call on Eric Holder today to immediately drop the ongoing national security investigation against WikiLeaks or resign.”

During Assange’s second year in the embassy, unnamed senior law enforcement sources made anonymous statements to the Washington Post multiple times about the possibility of prosecuting Assange. WikiLeaks responded, “The anonymous assertion that Julian Assange may not be indicted for publication of classified documents, even if true, only deals with a small part of the grand jury investigation. That investigation has been primarily concerned with trying to prove somehow that Julian Assange and WikiLeaks were involved, not merely in publication, but in a conspiracy with their sources. There is also the question as to the status of the DoJ investigations into WikiLeaks involvement in the Stratfor and Snowden matters.”

There was confirmation of a criminal investigation in a lawsuit seeking records related to individuals targeted for surveillance on the basis of their support or interest in WikiLeaks. Justice Department lawyers argued records related to WikiLeaks must remain secret because the release may “cause articulable harm” to an ongoing Justice Department and FBI criminal investigation and “pending future prosecution.”

While Assange certainly does not like being confined in the embassy, he said, “The greatest concern for me is the intelligence gathering that the British police [are] doing on my visitors to the embassy, aggressively demanding their names and identity details,” as they come and go. The surveillance also makes it difficult to do his work since he deals with sensitive documents.

Nonetheless, on CNN, Assange announced that there would be a new WikiLeaks release of material tomorrow, which pertained to fifty countries. “Sixty-seven percent of global trade” is involved in these negotiations of which the documents are related.

The United Kingdom can now only extradite someone to another country if they face charges. So why isn’t Assange able to leave the embassy?

Michael Ratner, one of Julian Assange’s lawyers, said on “The Lead” that is legal defense team calls it the “Julian exception to the Assange law.”

“The law was passed to make extradition tougher. You can’t any longer use mere allegations as was done in Julian’s case. You actually need a decision to charge or charges. That hasn’t happened in Julian’s case. The reason we call it the exception is it’s not retroactive to Julian.” At least, the UK doesn’t think the law covers his case.

<http://dissenter.firedoglake.com/2014/06/18/julian-assange-hopes-new-information-filed-in-swedish-courts-next-week-will-remove-arrest-warrant/>

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## **Assange files case to dismiss Swedish warrant**

*Justice4Assange*  
*June 24, 2014*

On Tuesday 24th of June at 1pm CET, Julian Assange’s lawyers filed a request to Stockholm District Court to rescind the decision to detain him without charge.

The decision has kept him in different forms of deprivation of liberty since 7 December 2010 (3.5 years). The legal actions will lead to the first custody hearing since his arrest.

Submission to Stockholm District Court:

<http://justice4assange.com/IMG/pdf/IASubmissionCourt24June14.pdf>

On 1 July the Prosecution Authority submitted a reply:

[http://justice4assange.com/IMG/pdf/PA\\_2014-07-01-2.pdf](http://justice4assange.com/IMG/pdf/PA_2014-07-01-2.pdf)

The court set the date for the hearing for 16 July 2014.

The Julian Assange case is Sweden's longest running pre-trial, pre-charge deprivation of liberty (the matter is formally at the 'preliminary investigation' stage). Julian Assange is in a legal no-man's-land: he has not been indicted so he cannot formally defend himself.

The Swedish government refuses to guarantee he will not be extradited to the United States. The Swedish prosecutor, unlike in other cases, refuses to question him in London or via video link, instead demanding that Mr. Assange give up his right to political asylum and speak to her in Sweden. The UK has encircled Mr. Assange at a cost to date of over GBP 6.6 million/USD 11 million/SEK 75.000.000 (see: <http://govwaste.co.uk>).

Assange obtained political asylum in relation to the United States criminal investigation against WikiLeaks in 2012. The United Kingdom and Sweden have both refused to give a guarantee that Julian Assange will not be extradited to the United States for his WikiLeaks activities. Earlier this week, 59 international organizations submitted complaints about the investigation against Julian Assange to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

On 19 June 2014, 56 international free press and human rights organisations signed an open letter to US Attorney General Eric Holder to drop the investigation against WikiLeaks: <https://t.co/cbZcz2dHEE>

Read Julian Assange's sworn statement from September 2013 about his stay in Sweden: <http://wikileaks.org/IMG/html/Affid...>

<http://justice4assange.com/Assange-files-case-to-dismiss.html>

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## **Marianne Ny Withholding Evidence**

*Assange in Sweden*  
*June 24, 2014*

Assange lawyers today made it clear why they were filing with the Stockholm district court: there's been a change in Swedish law as of 1 June. The change means prosecutor Marianne Ny must now turn over the case evidence she's so far withheld from Assange and his defence team.

Former Assange lawyer Björn Hurtig was given a 'look' at this evidence in November 2010 by a sympathetic assistant prosecutor (not Marianne Ny) but instructed he could not copy or make notes of what he saw. (He was further threatened with disbarment if he talked to the British courts.) Hurtig went on to state: "If I were able to reveal what I know, everyone would realise this is all a charade. If I could tell the British courts, I suspect it would make extradition a moot point."

The evidence in question includes transcripts of SMS messages between the two women and others.

The change in Swedish law, following the EU standard, has been described by Assange lawyer Thomas Olsson as ‘a little bit of a revolution’ when it comes to Swedish jurisprudence.

But there are further issues, further matters that make this case even more suspect.

- ‘New evidence’? Swedish prosecutors can ‘pull rank’ on each other to reopen preliminary police investigations previously closed by other prosecutors, but they must cite a reason for doing so, and that reason is often the emergence of new evidence, which in the Assange case was a torn condom and a piece of another torn condom. This ‘evidence’ was sent to the state crime lab at the time Marianne Ny, at the request of Claes Borgström, pulled rank on prosecutor Eva Finné, who’d already declared that ‘no crime had been committed’. The results of the lab tests were known only much later, at which time it was found that the condom provided by Anna Ardin had been ‘fabricated’ by her to match her description in her own testimony, and was absolutely not a condom she and Assange had used— in fact, the lab could prove it hadn’t been used by anyone for sex, meaning Ardin was guilty of falsification of evidence, a crime that carries a sentence just as harsh as rape itself. Yet the Swedish police have not opened a case in the matter, Marianne Ny has not commented in the matter, and the complicit Swedish media have been silent.

- Why seek out Borgström? Claes Borgström— the ‘Quick lawyer’ who earned \$750,000 by ‘playing the game’ and ‘keeping quiet’ in that judicial scandal, doing nothing to defend his client, simultaneously aware that exculpatory evidence was withheld from the courts by the prosecutor— has admitted that the women had not known, when they first met, that preliminary police investigations could be reopened. Reopening the case with ‘new evidence’ had been his idea. So the question remains: why did the women seek him out? As for the one woman: her part of the case had already been closed, and she’d insisted she wasn’t responsible for filing the complaint anyway, the police had opened the case, and that she had been railroaded. She was so upset that she didn’t even conclude her interrogation. So why meet Borgström? As for the other woman: her part of the case concerned only misdemeanours (although falsifying evidence as she’d done counts as a felony against her). There aren’t many suggestions; all are rather damning.

- So foolish to lie, Marianne! Marianne Ny systematically lied ‘TIME and again’ to the media about questioning Assange in London— first at the magazine of the same name, then later with new excuses in Swedish media. She was finally backed into a corner and forced to admit she had no reason for refusing, leading spokeswoman Karin Rosander to twist her tongue on several occasions, attempting to explain the inexplicable. Several jurists and one supreme court justice have questioned her actions. There’s even been speculation that Marianne Ny is tasked with questioning Assange in another unrelated matter— Sweden once had military forces in Afghanistan— which is not allowed by the EAW framework, but something she might possibly get away with in Stockholm.

<http://assangeinswedenbook.com/>

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## Assanges krav: Upphäv häktningen

*Nya turer i fallet Julian Assange – hans svenska advokater begär i dag att häktningsbeslutet ska upphävas.*

Johanna Eklundh

SVT

24 juni 2014

I dag lämnar Assanges advokater in en begäran om att häktningsbeslutet ska hävas.

Det var vid ett Sverigebesök 2010 som Wikileaks-grundaren ska ha begått övergrepp mot två svenska kvinnor. Assange har hela tiden nekat till anklagelserna. Sedan två år tillbaka befinner han sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London, av rädsla för att en resa till Sverige för förhör skulle leda till att han utelämnas till USA för de dokument som läckts via Wikileaks.

Sedan den 18 november 2010 är han häktad i sin frånvaro i Sverige, men nu hoppas hans advokater att häktningsbeslutet ska hävas.

– Det har gått så många år och inträffat så mycket som gör livet svårt för Julian Assange. Jag tror att domstolen kommer att känna trängande behov av att ompröva det här häktningsbeslutet. Vi kan inte ha en situation där en person behandlas på det här sättet, säger Thomas Olsson, en av Assanges advokater, i Gomorron Sverige.

Under dessa år har möjligheten för den svenska åklagaren att åka till London för att förhöra Assange flera gånger debatterats. Åklagarmyndigheten anser inte det vara ett bra alternativ, eftersom det inte skulle kunna leda fallet framåt. Skulle förhör leda till åtal skulle han ändå behöva komma till Sverige.

Men Thomas Olsson menar att det inte är en rimlig förklaring.

– Det är inte alls ovanligt att man åker utomlands för förhör när det gäller brott som är knutna till utlandet. Det gjorde man till exempel i Trustorhärvan. Så det är anmärkningsvärt att man inte gör det i det här fallet, det verkar som det går någon form av prestige i just det här fallet.

Claes Borgström är målsägandebiträde för en av de kvinnor som anklagat Assange för övergrepp. Han anser inte att förhör i London är ett alternativ för åklagaren.

– Dels är förutsättningarna annorlunda för en svensk åklagare att sitta på Ecuadors ambassad än att hålla förhör här i Sverige. Men framför allt så blir det sannolikt inte bara ett förhör som behövs, man måste konfrontera målsäganden med Assanges uttalanden och sen kanske åka tillbaka till England på nytt.

Borgström säger att hans klient varit väldigt utsatt under de här åren, och att ovissheten kring vad som kommer att ske och väntan är jobbig för henne.



– Målsäganden har inget inflytande över det som pågår. För henne är det en påfrestning. Klart att det är naturligt för Assange att begära omprövning av häktningsbeslutet, det skulle alla göra i den situationen. Men han kunde också ha ställt sig till åklagarens förfogande när han var i Sverige. Det är helt klart ett unikt fall.

*[Allt som Borgström säger har vederlagts upprepade gånger av bl.a den pensionerade åklagaren Rolf Hillegren, Advokatsamfundets generaldirektör Ramberg och nu i överklagandet. --A.B.]*

Julian Assange har uttryckt stort misstroende mot det svenska rättssystemet, något hans advokat har stor förståelse för efter alla turer. Men Claes Borgström menar att han blivit schysst behandlad, och inte har någon anledning att tro att Sverige ska lämna ut honom till USA. *[Även detta befängda påstående har vederlagts. --A.B.]*

– Han har befunnit sig på fri fot i Sverige, han har befunnit sig på fri fot i England, och ingen begäran om utlämning till USA har lämnats in. Han kanske bara är orolig för att bli dömd för det brott han faktiskt är misstänkt för.

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DN: 2014-06-24

## **Assange vill häva svenskt häktningsbeslut**

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assanges advokater begär i dag att det svenska häktningsbeslutet ska hävas.

– Det har gått väldigt lång tid sedan det ursprungliga häktningsbeslutet. Det har inneburit omfattande ingrepp i hans grundläggande rättigheter. Mot bakgrund av att åklagarna inte har prövat möjligheterna att höra honom i London så är det oproportionerligt att upprätthålla häktningsbeslutet, säger advokat Thomas Olsson som tillsammans med Per E Samuelson är ombud för Julian Assange.

Det var i augusti 2010 som Julian Assange anklagades för våldtäkt och sexuell ofredande av två kvinnor under ett besök i Sverige. En utredning inleddes, men Julian Assange lämnade Sverige innan den var klar.

Sverige begärde honom senare utlämnad enligt en så kallad Europeisk arresteringsorder. Efter en lång prövning beviljades den. För två år sedan sökte Assange sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London. Ecuador beviljade honom politisk asyl och sedan dess har han befunnit sig på ambassaden.

Assange och hans advokater har flera gånger begärt att svensk polis och åklagare ska höra honom på plats i ambassaden. Överåklagare Marianne Ny har inte velat göra det.

I eftermiddag går Assanges advokater in med en begäran till Stockholms tingsrätt om att upphäva häktningsbeslutet.

– Vi hoppas att den kommer att prövas under de närmaste dagarna, säger Thomas Olsson.

Överåklagare Marianne Ny vill för närvarande inte ge någon kommentar i ärendet utan hänvisar till tidigare beslut i ärendet.


”Om Julian Assange skulle förhöras i London och utredningen därigenom skulle leda till åtal mot honom krävs fortfarande att han kommer till Sverige för att en rättegång ska kunna genomföras och ett eventuellt straff kunna verkställas. Enligt svensk lag krävs att den åtalade är personligt närvarande vid rättegången vid den här typen av brott. Sammantaget bedömer åklagaren att ansökningar om att få bistånd med ett eller flera förhör med Assange i London inte skulle föra ärendet framåt”, heter det i ett uttalande i Assange-ärendet på Åklagarmyndighetens hemsida. *[Allt detta bemöts i dagens överklagande. --A.B.]*

• *Stefan Lisinski*

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AB: 2014-06-24

# Assange ruttnar på ambassaden

 I två år har han suttit och ruttnat på Ecuadors ambassad i London. Vore det inte för en svensk åklagare skulle han vara helt...

## Assange **ruttnar** på ambassaden

*Eva Franchell*

I två år har han suttit och **ruttnat** på Ecuadors ambassad i London. Vore det inte för en svensk åklagare **skulle han vara helt bortglömd**. *[Ja, så har Eva Franchell hållit på i flera år. --A.B.]*

Men Julian Assange **hänger sig kvar**. Med jämna mellanrum går han ut på balkongen och förbannar den svenska rättvisan. Det är så vi kommer ihåg honom numera, som **mannen som gömmer sig** på ambassaden. **Kändisen som vägrar att komma ut** för att han inte vill skickas till Sverige för att bli förhörd i en sexbrottsutredning.

Han är häktad i sin frånvaro. Den svenska åklagaren Marianne Ny har hela tiden hävdat att Assange ska förhöras i Sverige, men han vägrar att lämna ecuadoriansk mark.

I dag begär hans svenska advokater att Stockholms tingsrätt ska häva häktningsbeslutet mot Assange. "Åklagaren försöker inte ens pröva möjligheten att hålla förhör i London", skriver de.

Hittills har Marianne Ny nämligen vägrat att åka till London lika hårdnackat som Julian Assange har vägrat att åka till Stockholm. Det hela har utvecklats till ett ställningskrig som måste få ett slut.

Även om Julian Assange har fel när han tror att Sverige kommer att utvisa honom till tortyr och dödsstraff i USA så har han ändå anledning att vara paranoid. Assange publicerade faktiskt de amerikanska försvarshemligheter som läcktes av soldaten Chelsea Manning som numera avtjänar 35 års fängelse i just USA.

Assange har hotats, hatats och älskats för sina avslöjanden och sannolikt fick han **storhetsvansinne** på kuppen. Han agerar som en **missförstådd rockstjärna** och det är möjligt att han betedde sig som en också. På besök i Sverige hade han sex med två kvinnor som sedan polisanmälde honom. [*Nej. Den ena sökte råd och den andra följde med; det var polisen som anmälde honom. --A.B.*]

Allting handlar nämligen inte om Julian Assange. Det handlar om de båda kvinnorna som nu får vänta för att åklagaren vägrar att agera praktiskt.

Det behöver inte vara så svårt. Åk till Ecuadors ambassad i London. Förhör **rockstjärnan** på plats. Kvinnorna förtjänar att få sin sak prövad. Julian Assange är misstänkt för olaga tvång, sexuellt ofredande samt **våldtäkt**. Det är allvarliga anklagelser, men åren går och **hans minnesbilder bleknar**.

Fallet måste snarast få ett avslut så att kvinnorna kan gå vidare i livet [*för att inte tala om "rockstjärnan" --A.B.*].

• *Eva Franchell*

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/ledare/ledarkronika/evafranchell/article19110733.ab>

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## **Julian Assange makes fresh bid to break deadlock in Swedish **rape** case**

*Lawyers say change in Swedish law earlier this month means WikiLeaks founder should have access to text message data*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
24 June 2014*

Lawyers for Julian Assange have called for controversial telephone evidence to be released as they made a fresh attempt to break the deadlock in the rape case brought four years ago against the WikiLeaks founder.

Filing a challenge to the prosecution in the Swedish courts, lawyers for Assange—who last week marked the second anniversary of his asylum in Ecuador's embassy in London—said a recent revision to Swedish law requires evidence held by the prosecution to be made available to the defence.

Text messages sent by the two women plaintiffs were seen by defence lawyers in 2010, but copies of the messages were not issued to them. Assange has claimed that text messages sent by one of his accusers show that she was ambiguous about his arrest and even opposed to it.

"The messages strongly suggest that there is no basis for the arrest and they are thus vital so that he [Assange] can effectively tackle the arrest warrant," the lawyers say in documents filed with Stockholm district court on Tuesday.

The court said the request would be assessed within a few days by judge Bertil Sundin, who declined to comment.

The Swedish detention order that Assange is challenging requires him to be extradited to Sweden to face questioning over the alleged rape and sexual assault of two women there in August 2010.

Assange claims cooperation with the British and Swedish authorities would expose him to an ongoing criminal investigation by the US Department of Justice into WikiLeaks activity.

Sweden's code of judicial procedure was updated on 1 June to conform with EU law, and now includes a provision that anyone arrested or detained has the right to be made aware of "facts forming the basis for the decision to arrest".

"There is material in the prosecutor's possession that we know is to Julian Assange's advantage," said his lawyer Thomas Olsson, based in Stockholm.

"The new law enables her to release that new material, which has been in the prosecutor's possession from the start ... We have seen the text messages but have not been able to use them because we could not demand that the prosecutor hand them over as evidence to the court."

The new law was "a little bit of a revolution" in Swedish legal procedure, Olsson said.

Bengt Ivarsson, president of the Swedish Bar Association, confirmed that since 1 June a suspect has had the right to be made aware of "all the circumstances that have influenced a court's decision", so all the papers for the prosecution must be handed over to the defendant.

"The new law gives us more power," said Per Samuelson, another lawyer for Assange in Stockholm, who said they had also written directly to the prosecutor on Tuesday to request the text messages. "In 2011 we were allowed to read them and memorise them, but we do not have the full messages."

The lawyers also argue that the "severe limitations on Mr Assange's fundamental freedoms" over the past four years are "unreasonable and disproportionate".

They further attest that the arrest warrant should be rescinded because it cannot be implemented, owing to Assange's asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy. "Under Swedish

law, if a detention decision is not useful for its purpose, then it must be rescinded," Samuelson said.

Swedish legal opinion at a senior level has swung against the prosecutor's decision not to travel to London to interview Assange, with Anne Ramberg, head of the Bar Association, calling the current impasse a "circus".

Elisabeth Massi Fritz, a lawyer for one of the women in the case, did not respond to telephone and email requests for comment. Interviewed this year, she said her client would wait as long as it takes to get justice in court, even if Assange stayed in the Ecuadorean embassy until the statute of limitations on the case expired in 2020.

The Swedish prosecutor declined a request to comment.

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2014-06-30

The WikiLeaks Twitter account criticized the media for spreading a rumor about Julian Assange starring in a fashion show (12,600 results on Google News Search) despite Assange never hearing of it and the fashion show director Ben Westwood stating, "I haven't spoken to Julian at all actually".



# Julian Assange blir modell

Wikileaksgrundaren gör catwalkdebut under Londons modevecka

Publicerad: 2014-06-26

Rekommendera

19

Pin it

Tweeta

5



Julian Assange.

Foto: AP

**FASHION NEWS** Från att sprida läckor till att se läcker ut på catwalken – Julian Assange ger sig in i modevärlden.

Det är den brittiske designern Ben Westwood, son till modelegendaren Vivienne Westwood, som anlitat Wikileaksgrundaren som modell.

– Jag vill uppmärksamma Julian Assanges situation. Det som hänt honom är fullkomligt orättvist, säger Ben Westwood till [tidningen Daily Mail](#).

Julian Assange befinner sig sedan två år tillbaka på Ecuadors ambassad i London där han gömmer sig undan för att slippa utlämnas till Sverige. Här är han häktad i sin frånvaro

misstänkt för olaga tvång, sexuellt ofredande och våldtäkt.

Så för att Assange inte ska riskera att gripas mitt på catwalken kommer visningen äga rum inne på ambassaden.

Kläderna som Ben Westwood designat är inspirerade av skådespelaren Clint Eastwoods gamla spaghettiwesterns och Assange kommer att skrida ner för catwalken till musiken från filmen "Den gode, den onde, den fule".

Westwood har även hämtat inspiration från Julian Assange själv, en person känd för sin totala brist på modekänsla.

Visningen kommer ske i september under modeveckan i London och Julian Assange får sällskap av sex manliga modeller. Bland de inbjudna gästerna syns Hollywoodstjärnan George Clooney och hans fästvän Amal Alamuddin som agerat försvarsadvokat åt Assange.

Kanske kan det nya intåget i modevärlden göra att han slipper ha stilpolisen i hälarna – men det kommer knappast fria honom från övriga anklagelser.

Anna Flytström  
Aftonbladet:  
2014-06-26

Subject: Julian Assange blir INTE modell  
Date: 2 Jul 2014  
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>  
To: anna.flytstrom@aftonbladet.se

Hej!

När kan vi förvänta oss en rättelse och en ursäkt från Aftonbladeet och Anna Flytström?



Hälsningar,  
Al Burke

\* \* \*

Subject: Re: Julian Assange blir INTE modell  
Date: 2 Jul 2014  
From: Anna Flytström <anna.flytstrom@aftonbladet.se>  
To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

Hej!

Vår artikel är baserad på den information som designern själv gick ut med. Nu när vi sett att han inte ens frågat Assange så har vi tagit ner artikeln, Tack för att du uppmärksammade oss på det.

mvh  
Anna Flytström  
Reporter  
Aftonbladet Hierta AB

\* \* \*

Subject: Re: Julian Assange blir INTE modell  
Date: 2 Jul 2014  
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>  
To: anna.flytstrom@aftonbladet.se  
CC: Eva Franchell <eva.franchell@aftonbladet.se>, Åsa Linderborg <asa.linderborg@aftonbladet.se>, jan.helin@aftonbladet.se



Tack för det snabba svaret. Bra att ni har tagit ner artikeln, men frågan kvarstår: När kan vi förvänta oss en rättelse och en ursäkt?

Det var för resten inte bara designern som "inte ens frågade Assange". Det gjorde inte heller Aftonbladet eller de många andra medier som av allt att döma ansträngde sig inte det minsta för att bekräfta den ytterst tvivelaktiga "nyheten" om Assanges påstådda modellplaner.

Frestelsen att utnyttja denna icke-nyhet för att ännu en gång försöka förlöjliga Assange — men i själva verket göra bort sig själv — var tydligen för stark. Det har blivit ett slags journalistiskt reflexbeteende, som när pirayor ger sig på en saftig köttbit.

Assange är som bekant ett lovligt byte för svenska och andra journalister, och med varje nytt påhopp får man ju ännu ett tillfälle att påminna folk om att han är "misstänkt för olaga tvång, sexuellt ofredande och våldtäkt" så som det står i din artikel. (Obs! Hittills, efter snart fyra år, finns det inga juridiska "anklagelser" — bara misstankar.)

Som vanligt skriver man bara "våldtäkt" — en betydande förenkling av den egentliga misstanken om *mindre grov våldtäkt*. Ett missvisande ordval alltså, och det är svårt att bli av med misstanken att det är avsiktligt.

Återigen tjänar Assange som ett slags Rorschachtest för journalistikens mindre beundransvärda tendenser.

Hälsningar,  
Al Burke

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## **After 2 Years of Confinement, Will Sweden Resolve Assange's Case? Swedish Foreign Minister Won't Say**

*This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.*

*Democracy Now!*  
July 2, 2014

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt refuses to address questions from Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman about the case of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is wanted for questioning in Sweden on allegations of sexual offenses. Assange's attorneys recently asked the Swedish government to withdraw a warrant that has kept him confined in Ecuador's London Embassy for two years. Assange has voiced fears he would ultimately be sent for prosecution in the United States if he were to return to Sweden. Assange's attorneys say the warrant should be lifted because it cannot be enforced while Assange is in the embassy and Swedish prosecutors refuse to question him in London.

Although Assange faces a warrant for questioning, he has not been formally charged. Fifty-nine international organizations have submitted reports to the United Nations challenging Sweden's treatment of Assange. Speaking at the Almedalen political festival in Visby, Bildt refuses to address the case directly, calling it an issue



for the Swedish judicial system, not its political one. We get reaction to Bildt's comments from Assange legal adviser Jen Robinson, who also discusses the parallels between Assange and National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden. "We are now seeing a trend of whistleblowers, publishers, journalists having to seek asylum and refuge in countries around the world because of their concern about prosecution in the United States," Robinson says.

AMY GOODMAN: I stayed on that line of questioning when I met the Swedish foreign minister today, Carl Bildt.

AMY GOODMAN: What are your thoughts about Almedalen?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: Well, it's a very unique thing. It's been going on for years, and it's getting bigger and bigger. But it's quite fun. It's quite fun.

AMY GOODMAN: Could I ask you— we're looking at the case of Julian Assange, and 59 legal and human rights groups have made a submission to the U.N. Human Rights Council challenging the pre-charge detention, which makes it a foreign policy issue. As foreign minister, what are your thoughts on this?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: None, because it's a question for the legal authorities and not a question for me.

AMY GOODMAN: But because it's in the U.N. Human Rights commission—

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: Well, that doesn't make—

AMY GOODMAN: —the Council.

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: That doesn't make any difference whatever, because it's still a legal issue within the legal system. And as you have in the U.S., I guess, you have the separation between the executive and judicial branch. And the executive—that's sort of the nature of democracy or constitutional democracy. If you're a representative of the executive branch, you have no say—and shouldn't have any say—in what the judicial branch is doing. And that applies here, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: Will it weigh into the Universal Periodic Review that Sweden is up for now before the U.N. Human Rights Council?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: I haven't a clue. I would doubt that very, very much, I have to say.

AMY GOODMAN: Could I ask why Sweden doesn't just question him at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, where he is?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: You would have to ask the legal and judicial system on that, of course.

AMY GOODMAN: Then, last question is: Is this an issue that's being raised to you more and more as you travel as foreign minister?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: No, I think I haven't heard it for a long time. I think you are the first one to bring it up with me for probably a year or something like that.

AMY GOODMAN: Are you concerned about it? Is it a concern in Sweden, considering he's been dealing with this for four years?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: Go around here and judge yourself. I think the answer is — was — no.

AMY GOODMAN: Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. I met him today here at this open-air democracy festival, where the politicians, the prime ministers, the foreign ministers, representatives in the Parliament walk by everyday people as they discuss issues of democracy.

Right now, we're ending the show with Jen Robinson. She is the legal adviser to the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, who has just passed the two years holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London. He was granted political asylum in Ecuador.

Jen Robinson, you just heard the foreign minister of Sweden saying that this is not an issue for a foreign minister, a foreign affairs minister, because this is just in the judiciary in Sweden. Talk about what's happened to Julian Assange.

JENNIFER ROBINSON: Julian, it's been almost four years now since these allegations first surfaced. And we filed an appeal last week before the Swedish courts to challenge the arrest warrant, because we say it's disproportionate. It's been four years that he's been waiting for the purposes of being questioned on these allegations, and it's available to the Swedish prosecutor to be able to go to London and to question him there in London.

AMY GOODMAN: Just step back for a moment. Explain why he is being— Britain has agreed to his extradition. What was he charged with here in Sweden?

JENNIFER ROBINSON: Julian is facing a number of sexual offense allegations. He hasn't been charged yet. The case before the British courts was purely on the applicability and the validity of the European arrest warrant. It didn't consider the underlying evidence in the case. We have filed an appeal here in Sweden to challenge the detention, because we say that it is possible for them to question him through other means. He doesn't need to be in custody to be questioned. And Sweden has done this in a number of other cases. We've also applied for—

AMY GOODMAN: You mean that they could go to the Ecuadorean Embassy in London and question him. I mean, this issue of him not having even been, in the U.S. term, indicted might surprise many.

JENNIFER ROBINSON: It's been almost four years, and he hasn't yet been charged. The Swedish prosecuting authority says that they need to question him one more time before they can make a decision about whether to charge him or not. And we've been offering his testimony since 2010. The Ecuadorean ambassador has offered him to be questioned with no restrictions from within the Ecuadorean Embassy. And we say that this is a reasonable and proportional measure for the Swedish prosecutor to take. If it is

possible for her to be able to resolve this case, then she ought to take the means that are available to her to do so.

AMY GOODMAN: What about here, the appeal that was just introduced this week by the Swedish lawyers for Julian Assange?

JENNIFER ROBINSON: Julian's Swedish counsel have filed an appeal against the arrest warrant based upon the disproportionate exercise of discretion of the prosecutor and the fact that they could actually question him in the embassy. They've also applied for the evidence in the case, because we believe that evidence exists which fundamentally undermines the prosecutor's case and would show grounds to drop the case. So we're waiting to get access to that evidence. That appeal should be heard any time in the next week. But I think while this is certainly a legal issue and an issue for the Swedish prosecutor, undoubtedly this has political ramifications for Sweden, for the U.K. and for the United States, so I do think that it is an issue for Mr. Bildt to give comment on.

AMY GOODMAN: You just spoke here around the issue of the Internet. You were also speaking about Edward Snowden. Do you see comparisons between Snowden, who's gotten political asylum in Russia, and Julian Assange, who's now gotten political asylum in Ecuador, yet wanted here in Sweden?

JENNIFER ROBINSON: Of course there are similarities. We're seeing now a trend of whistleblowers, publishers, journalists having to seek asylum and seek refuge in countries around the world because of their concern about prosecution in the United States. Julian is inside the Ecuadorean Embassy because of his concern of prosecution for his publications associated with WikiLeaks. Edward Snowden is in asylum in Russia for releasing that information. So, yes, the cases are similar. And this is our main concern. We would like to resolve the Swedish case. It is not about the Swedish case for Julian being in the Ecuadorean Embassy; it is a matter about the United States' potential prosecution.

AMY GOODMAN: Why the United States? Let's end there.

JENNIFER ROBINSON: There's an ongoing grand jury and criminal investigation into WikiLeaks.

AMY GOODMAN: How do you know this?

JENNIFER ROBINSON: We know this because it came out in court filings just last month, filed by EPIC, a Freedom of Information case. We know that there's an ongoing grand jury. And the Department of Justice continues to say that this is open. Unless and until the U.S. gives an assurance that Julian will not be prosecuted, he will remain inside the Ecuadorean Embassy. And that is, and has always been, our main concern.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, Jen Robinson, I want to thank you for being with us. Jen Robinson is the legal adviser for Julian Assange. She's here at Almedalen, the political week, an open-air democracy festival in Sweden.

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## Swedish court sets date for Julian Assange rape case hearing

*16 July hearing is first legal battle in the case since WikiLeaks founder sought asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy in London*

David Crouch  
The Guardian  
3 July 2014

Prosecutors in Sweden pursuing Julian Assange over rape allegations have rejected a demand by his lawyers to hand over new evidence and withdraw the warrant for his arrest, setting the stage in two weeks' time for the first legal battle in the case since 2012.

In a sharply worded rebuttal, prosecutors stated that Assange does not have the right to see copies of the case files.

Lawyers for the WikiLeaks founder requested last week that text messages sent by his accusers be passed to the defence in an attempt to break the deadlock in the rape case brought four years ago against him.

"There is still probable cause to believe that Julian Assange is guilty of the offences that he was arrested for, and the basis for his detention, risk of flight, is undiminished," prosecutors Marianne Ny and Ingrid Isgren said in a submission to Stockholm district court.

The court announced on Thursday that the two sides will present their arguments on 16 July in a public hearing—the first formal legal discussion of the case since Assange sought asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy in London two years ago.

Dismissing the lawyers' argument that restrictions on Assange's "fundamental freedoms" since the allegations were made in 2010 are unreasonable and disproportionate, the prosecutors said Assange's confinement in the embassy is voluntary and "cannot be equated with detention".

"In our opinion, when assessing proportionality, only the time [detained] for questioning in the English courts should be taken into account," the prosecutors said. Assange was held for just 10 days in December 2010, they point out.

They also reiterated their refusal to travel to London to interview Assange in the embassy, which is seen by some Swedish politicians and senior legal figures as a possible first step to resolving the case.

Legal experts say that new legislation on a suspect's right to see evidence in the case before trial is open to different interpretations and has yet to be tested in court.

"The law states specifically that this provision does not give the suspect the right to have copies of case files," the prosecutors said in their rebuttal.

On Thursday Stockholm district court extended the invitation to Assange to appear at the hearing in two weeks' time. **Writing to him at an "address unknown"**, the court said valid reasons for not attending were problems with public transport, sudden illness, or unforeseen circumstances. It advised him to arrive in good time and "clear your pockets of metal objects and put them in the plastic bins provided".

Thomas Olsson, a Stockholm-based lawyer for Assange, said: "The statement from the prosecutor gives us strong arguments for our case."

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## **DN! Goes Inside Assange's Embassy Refuge to Talk WikiLeaks, Snowden and Winning Freedom**

*This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.*

*Democracy Now!*  
July 7, 2014

In a Democracy Now! special, we go inside the Ecuadorian embassy in London to interview Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. He has been holed up there for more than two years, having received political asylum. He faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States. In the U.S., a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing a trove of leaked documents about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as classified State Department cables. In Sweden, Assange is wanted for questioning on allegations of sexual misconduct, though no charges have been filed. Late last week, there was the first break in the latter case in two years, when a Swedish court announced it would hold a hearing on July 16 about a request by his lawyers for prosecutors to hand over new evidence and withdraw the arrest warrant. In the first of a two-part interview, Assange discusses his new legal bid in Sweden, the ongoing grand jury probe in the United States, and WikiLeaks' efforts to assist National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden.

AMY GOODMAN: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has just entered his third year inside Ecuador's Embassy in London where he has political asylum. Assange faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States. Here in the U.S., a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing a trove of leaked documents about the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, as well as State Department cables. In Sweden, he's wanted for questioning on allegations of sexual misconduct, though no charges have been filed. Late last week, there was the first break in the Swedish case in two years. A Swedish court announced it would hold a hearing July 16th over a request by his lawyers for prosecutors to hand over new evidence and withdraw the arrest warrant....

AMY GOODMAN: The Ecuadorean Embassy in London, where Julian Assange is holed up— he has been here for just over two years, just celebrated his 43rd birthday inside the embassy. Here you can see the British police, and right in front of me is the balcony where Julian Assange has come out and addressed his supporters and addressed the media. The Ecuadorean flag hangs from that balcony. As to when Julian

Assange will come out, well, he is concerned, if he steps foot outside, he will be arrested by the British police. So, for now, he's inside, this nomad of the digital age. Welcome to Democracy Now!, Julian.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Thank you, Amy.

AMY GOODMAN: How are you doing here? It's been over two years that you have really not seen daylight for any extended period of time.

JULIAN ASSANGE: There's been nearly four years that I've been detained without charge, in one form or another, here in the United Kingdom, first in prison, the solitary confinement, then under house arrest for about 18 months, and now two years here in the embassy. The Ecuadorean government gave me political asylum in relation to the ongoing national security investigation by the DOJ, the Department of Justice, in the United States into our publications and also into sourcing efforts. So, did I enter into a conspiracy with Chelsea Manning, who was sentenced last year to 35 years in prison?

So, the question as to how I'm doing, of course, personally, it's a difficult situation, in a variety of ways. I would say that when someone's in this position, what you are most concerned about is the interruption in your family relationships. So, because of the security situation, that's made it very hard for my children and my parents.

But if we look at the bigger picture, WikiLeaks, as an organization, has survived that attack by the U.S. government, and we've gone on to do further work and some quite significant work. Unlike many media organizations during that period, we have not gone bankrupt, despite a worldwide, extrajudicial banking blockade by Visa, MasterCard, PayPal and so on, and none of our members of staff have been fired. So, I think if you went back and said to yourself, "What are the chances that a small investigative publisher could publish this information about the Iraq War and the State Department and the Afghanistan War and many other documents about Guantánamo, and enter into conflict with the United States government in a very serious way, would they still be publishing? Would their people be in prison?" and you would think, probably, yes. But actually, we have managed to mostly overcome, apart from my situation here, the barriers that have been put up against us.

AMY GOODMAN: So, July 16th is a significant date. You are wanted in two investigations, or you're being investigated by the U.S. government because, as you said, of WikiLeaks, of exposing many documents— tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands? How many would you say? Around the Iraq War—

JULIAN ASSANGE: Eight million so far.

AMY GOODMAN: Eight million— around the Iraq War, around the Afghanistan War, and cables of the State Department that go back for decades. You're also wanted by Sweden for questioning, often misstated as "because you've been charged"—

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: — for questioning around sexual misconduct. And July 16th is a big date in that case. Why?

JULIAN ASSANGE: While most of our resources have been concerned with the ongoing U.S. investigation and pending prosecution, which the U.S.— which the DOJ admits to in its court filing of the 25th of April this year, continues, the Swedish investigation has obstructed my asylum. So, United Kingdom says, "Look, there's this questioning warrant that Sweden has put out for you. They may have dropped the case," which they did and re-raised it, "but nonetheless there's this questioning warrant, and therefore we say you cannot go to Ecuador to accept asylum until we've extradited you to Sweden."

Now, that is actually a violation of international law. The international law is quite clear: Asylum trumps extradition, because of the nature of the relationships with the U.N. and the 1951 asylum convention. So, every time we try and we get some traction publicly and politically in the U.S. case, people say, "Oh, no, no, the whole thing is really about the Swedish case." So it's quite important to deal with the Swedish matter and kind of show it for what it is and that it should be dropped.

There has been no movement. Although the Swedish government is obligated to somehow progress the situation, they've been very happy to keep it a complete stasis. They've refused to come here to speak to me here or pick up a telephone or to accept an affidavit. They have also refused to provide a guarantee that I will not be extradited to the United States if I offer to go to Sweden. So, that situation means we have to tackle the Swedish matter, it seems, in Sweden. The only other alternative is perhaps going to the International Court of Justice in relation to the asylum.

Anyway, so it will be the first date in nearly four— in four years that the matter has been heard about in Sweden. And my lawyers are confident that either in the lower court, and more likely the appeal court, we will be able to dismiss the case, because the law is reasonably clear. You're meant to proceed with— the Swedish government has an obligation under its own law to proceed with maximum speed, with minimum cost, and also with bringing the minimum suspicion on the person who's being investigated. And it is in clear violation of all those points of law.

AMY GOODMAN: This hearing that will take place on July 16th is a result of an appeal by your Swedish lawyers. Why didn't they appeal before?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, several things have happened in the interim. Because of the abuses in this case and some other cases, new European law was introduced and pulled in— and enacted in Sweden. And it was meant to be enacted by June the 1st this year; it wasn't. But by July the 1st it should have come on board, so just recently. So that new legislation permits people who are suspects, who had their liberty deprived in some way, to be able to access evidence that shows that they're innocent. And so, we understand that there's significant evidence that was collected by the police that show that I am innocent, and they have thus far refused to hand it over. But this new European law means that they have to hand it over.

AMY GOODMAN: In affidavits that I have read, your lawyers were allowed to see text messages of the women who have accused you.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, what's hard to— you have to be careful in saying that they have accused me, because actually when you read their correspondence and their early statements, they don't say that at all. In fact, they say that they didn't accuse me and that the police took the matter and the state accused me, that they didn't want any charges, that they weren't filing a formal complaint. That's what they say in those text messages.

AMY GOODMAN: Your lawyers weren't able to get copies of them at this point, but they were allowed to look at them.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: One of them saying something like, "I did not want to put any charges on Julian Assange, but that the police were keen on getting a grip on him"?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah, and that she was railroaded into things and really did not— she did not want what occurred to occur.

AMY GOODMAN: So, you were questioned in Sweden originally, and the chief prosecutor actually— is it the prosecutor who dropped the case against you?

JULIAN ASSANGE: The chief prosecutor of Stockholm reviewed the material very early on in the case and dropped the rape complaint, dropped it, said there's no— said, "It's not that I don't believe what the women say, but there's just no evidence that any crime has been committed." And so, the matter was dropped. Then, subsequently, a senior Swedish politician, Claes Borgström, who was running for election, then took it to Gothenburg, a city which has nothing to do with the case [*a special unit for the prosecution of sex crimes is based there --A.B.*], and resurrected it under another prosecutor.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, what could happen on July 16th?

JULIAN ASSANGE: The options for them, they can simply— they can dismiss it; they can say that the law is unclear and ask maybe European Court of Justice to give clarity on this new European law and how it is to be implemented.

AMY GOODMAN: There's also a law here that was just passed in Britain that seems to have come about as a result of your case. Unfortunately, you're not protected under it.

JULIAN ASSANGE: That's a very important development. So, as a result of the abuses in my case, which were seen by the Supreme Court— there was a split in the Supreme Court.

AMY GOODMAN: Here in Britain.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Here in Britain. And subsequently, the Cambridge Journal of Comparative Law wrote two papers about what had happened. And there's a lot of concern about this idea that you could extradite someone without even charging them. So, political pressure— there was a backbench revolt in the British Parliament, principally amongst the conservative backbench, that this was— you know, that any police officer in Europe could just ask for someone in the U.K. to be extradited without it going before a court and without them being charged. And so new legislation was introduced to prevent that happening. So, no more extradition without charge from the U.K. But there was then debate that, "Well, will this in fact protect Assange?" And so, a specific clause was entered into it that it will not be retrospective for those people where the court has decided that they will be extradited, but they haven't been extradited yet— which just applies to me....



AMY GOODMAN: I just came from Sweden, from Almedalen, where 25,000 people gather to talk about politics, and all the parties there and the leaders are there, among them the foreign minister, Carl Bildt, and I asked him about this challenge that was just introduced to the U.N. Human Rights Council. Let's go to a clip of that.

AMY GOODMAN: Could I ask you— we're looking at the case of Julian Assange, and 59 legal and human rights groups have made a submission to the U.N. Human Rights Council challenging the pre-charge detention, which makes it a foreign policy issue. As foreign minister, what are your thoughts on this?

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: None, because it's a question for the legal authorities and not a question for me.

AMY GOODMAN: But because it's in the U.N. Human Rights commission—

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: Well, that doesn't make—

AMY GOODMAN: — the Council.

FOREIGN MINISTER CARL BILDT: That doesn't make any difference whatever, because it's still a legal issue within the legal system. And as you have in the U.S., I guess, you have the separation between the executive and judicial branch. And the executive— that's sort of the nature of democracy or constitutional democracy. If you're a representative of the executive branch, you have no say— and shouldn't have any say— in what the judicial branch is doing. And that applies here, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: That was Carl Bildt, the foreign minister of Sweden, saying this is a judicial issue, an issue of the judiciary, and he won't intervene. Your comment on that?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, I only wish that was the case. But, in fact, Carl Bildt, the Swedish foreign minister, a hawkish trans-Atlanticist who was hired by the Liberation of Iraq Committee, for cash, to provoke the invasion of Iraq here in Europe, and has done many similar things— this year was his 14th Bilderberger, he's an old friend of Henry Kissinger, etc. Carl Bildt has, in fact, continually, publicly interfered and denounced WikiLeaks and me, or statements that my lawyers have made, in various ways over the past four years— not only Carl Bildt, but the rest of the Swedish Cabinet, as well. So, it's one of these situations where when someone doesn't want to answer a question, they rely on principles— which are good principles, of not interfering in judiciary— but on the other hand, when they want to interfere, then they do just that.

AMY GOODMAN: And the significance of the U.S. government being involved with Sweden to a level we haven't seen before? You have the secretary of state at the time, Hillary Clinton, coming to Sweden; the attorney general, Eric Holder, coming to Sweden; President Obama coming to Sweden. That's never happened in U.S. history when it comes to Sweden.

JULIAN ASSANGE: And John Kerry, as well.

AMY GOODMAN: And John Kerry, the current secretary of state.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah, yeah. The last secretary of state visit was Kissinger in 1976.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you believe this has to do with you?

JULIAN ASSANGE: I don't think it's just to do with me. There may be an element. For example, the Holder visit was unscheduled and was sudden and occurred at the time when there was a significant debate in Sweden about dropping the matter in relation to me. That's possibly related to me. And the Hillary visit, yes, it was just a week before I was meant to be extradited to Sweden.

But I think it more likely reflects a very strong alliance between Sweden and the United States, which has developed since the end of the Cold War, and rapidly since 2006, when the center-right party, the moderates, entered into government. And that alliance we can see, for example, in that Swedish troops are under U.S. command in Afghanistan; that Sweden was the fifth into Libya; that Sweden was the number one seller of arms to the United States during the Iraq War, in absolute terms; that the National Security Agency and Sweden have an agreement, which is even stronger than the agreement between— that in aspects is even stronger than the agreement between GCHQ, the British intelligence agency, and National Security Agency to conduct bulk surveillance of traffic passing through Sweden.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, if the case dissolved in Sweden, if the allegations were dropped, could you walk outside of this embassy here on British soil?

JULIAN ASSANGE: No, but that case would stop obstructing part of the asylum. So we still have the issue as to whether the British would then activate a U.S. extradition request. The British are also conducting their own counterterrorism investigation in relation to our involvement and The Guardian's involvement in Edward Snowden's documents. And there's also questions about the Snowden grand jury that we're not sure about. But the most clear aspect is the WikiLeaks grand jury in the U.S., which has been the largest investigation and pending prosecution of a publisher in U.S. history, more than a dozen different agencies involved. It's very well documented, not just by us, but by other journalists and New York Times. And, in fact, the DOJ admits it in court filings. So, that's an issue.

Now, in 2012, when the conflict was at its height, and this embassy was completely surrounded by British police— it is still surrounded by British police. There is still a siege underway with about eight to 16 uniformed and undercover police officers around the embassy at any time. But going back to 2012, there was a siege involving, at various times of the day, over a hundred police officers. At that time, the British police were ordered to smash— ordered to smash into a diplomatic car, if I was in a diplomatic car; if I had diplomatic immunity, to arrest me. So, that's quite extraordinary that there would be a direct instruction to violate the most tested part of international law, which is the Vienna Convention, which is the protection of embassies and diplomatic cars. It's not like there's any debate on whether it might be illegal and might be legal to do that under some circumstances. It's completely illegal. And yet the British police were ordered to do it.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you sense a shift here? I mean, you have Baroness Jenny Jones, for example, who's in charge of a police committee in the London House, saying, "Why are we spending this money?" In fact, hasn't there been a breakdown of how much money has been spent? In U.S. dollars, something like \$11 million.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah, it's come out under a Freedom of Information Act request just about two— about two weeks ago, that the U.K. had reached 6.5 million pounds,

or about eleven-and-a-half million dollars. It's now up to 6.7 million pounds. Interestingly, when there's a request of the breakdown, because that only— that should be about 16 people full-time. When there's a request of the breakdown, they refuse to reveal the breakdown under national security— for national security reasons. So the U.K. government— there's something that they're doing with that police surveillance that they say is a matter of national security.

AMY GOODMAN: So, let me ask you about this latest letter that was written to Attorney General Eric Holder, signed by many organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Anthony Romero of the ACLU, Reporters Without Borders, World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters and many others, calling on the Justice Department to officially close all criminal investigations against WikiLeaks and its editor-in-chief, you, Julian Assange, and to stop harassment and other persecution of WikiLeaks for publishing in the public interest. Talk about what this means and whether you think this will happen in the United States right now, whether this investigation against you, which has come up in everything from the Manning trial to other places, will stop.

JULIAN ASSANGE: I think it's a sign of a developing mood in the United States, to see conservative organizations like Human Rights Watch, which, as you well know, has a lot of former State Department people in it, to come out with that position, that this prosecution, or this pending prosecution of WikiLeaks by the DOJ, National Security Division, is a dangerous precedent to set and would be a significant stain on the record of the Democrats. And so, I think there is a view that that should be stopped, and a number of different organizations are pushing for it. Now, of course, that always should have been the view. You can ask the question: Why wasn't Human Rights Watch in there two years ago saying these things? Well, I think people were scared. I think they really were scared and that they thought that perhaps they could isolate us and, "OK, let the U.S. government go after WikiLeaks, just as long as we can keep our media organizations and our human rights groups, and we can stay out of the fight."

But if you look at how the Espionage Act prosecutions have developed, there is now more investigations and prosecutions by the Obama administration of people under the Espionage Act— principally, whistleblowers and journalists— than all previous presidents combined, going back to 1917— in fact, more than double. And people understand that it's not just us. In fact, the precedent has been set that you can perhaps do this to almost anyone. And that should be checked.

AMY GOODMAN: In this letter, they go on to quote Eric Holder, the attorney general, saying, "you promised that [quote] 'as long as I am attorney general, no reporter who is doing his job is going to go to jail.'"

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah.

AMY GOODMAN: He recently said this.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, unfortunately, you can see the conditional, which is doing his job. And we're being— interestingly, this public statement by Holder reflects a development of thought in the State Department over the past two years that we have been following quite closely. And it is to somehow say that there are certain types of reportage which are legitimate and other types of reportage which are not legitimate. And the State Department has refused to recognize us as a media organization. And it's

done that in a number of different ways, not just in its public statements by its officials over a wide variety of time, but, for example, when the Bradley Manning trial was on and Kristinn Hrafnsson, our spokesperson— the top award-winning journalist of Iceland, has won journalist of the year three times— applied for a visa to go to the trial, to the U.S. State Department, a journalist visa, it was refused. And the grounds for refusal were not specified; they refused to specify them. But they are obviously that the State Department has a policy position that it will refuse to recognize WikiLeaks as a media organization, because then this would activate their other position that they're not going to prosecute journalists for doing their jobs.

AMY GOODMAN: Here you are, Julian Assange, in the Ecuadorean Embassy, under siege by a number of governments, under surveillance by many. And yet you manage to work with Edward Snowden, perhaps the most famous whistleblower today in the world, to help him, once he gave over his documents in Hong Kong, the former NSA contractor, to the journalists Laura Poitras and Glenn Greenwald, make his way to Russia, where he got political asylum. Can you explain how you did this?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, I think it's— first of all, will explain why WikiLeaks, as an organization, took on that case. Well, personally, I've been through a very similar— I could see the experience Edward Snowden was about to go through. I have been through a similar experience. And I've also watched Chelsea Manning go through an even worse experience, now sentenced to 35 years in prison and, at one stage, kept in cages in Kuwait and so on, and treated very, very badly. So, I have personal sympathy for what he was about to go through— and not just from the legal side, but also from the press side. But as a result of us having gone through it, we developed certain understandings about diplomacy, secure communications, which had long been our specialty, and we have a good kind of diplomatic network as a result of specializing in diplomatic publications. So we thought there was a chance that we could help him, and he reached out and asked for help, and we thought it was important to assist.

The other thing is about the sort of signal it sends. The U.S. government decided to smash Chelsea Manning— absolutely smash him— to send a signal to everyone: Don't you ever think about telling people what's really going on inside the U.S. military and its abuses. And they tried to smash also the next most visible person and visible organization, which was WikiLeaks, to get both ends— the source end and the publishing end. Now, we have mostly defended ourselves. I'm in a difficult position here, but WikiLeaks has never censored any of its publications in response to that attack.

So we wanted to try and set a counterexample with Edward Snowden, that in fact you can blow the whistle, you can reveal this information to the public, which is of tremendous historical importance. It's of importance to the ongoing development of civilization. Are we going to end up into a mass surveillance system with a very aggressive and strong military-industrial complex, or do we have an attempt to steer away from that? But if we could erect Edward Snowden as someone who blew the whistle and survived, and not even survived, but thrived and spoke about it and kept informing people of what was going on, then we wanted to do it, because that incentivized other sources coming forward.

AMY GOODMAN: And so, how did you do it?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, you know, you have to understand I need to speak carefully, because there is an ongoing Edward Snowden grand jury, which is looking at the matters of those people who assisted Edward Snowden, as well as Edward Snowden himself. But there's a lot of surveillance of this embassy; on the other hand, we had developed certain techniques in defeating surveillance. And they're not easy. They are hard techniques, and they do take diligence. But the reality is, the National Security Agency, for all its surveillance power, and the DOJ, for all their coercive power, in the end, they are bureaucracies. They are perfectly nasty, boring bureaucracies. And bureaucracies are inefficient, and they move slowly. And we knew this from our dealing with the State Department and the Pentagon previously.

And so, we were able to move quickly and fast and assess the situation, from a legal and political perspective, in Hong Kong and the mechanisms that would be needed to get him out, get him asylum, and the flight path that would be needed so he had protection at each step of the way and that none of the intermediary countries would grab him, due to us making pre-arrangements and also due to just the sort of where they stood geopolitically. So that's what we did. And it's not like it was guaranteed to work. In fact, there were certain stages where there were quite some risks. But the risks of inaction were even greater.

AMY GOODMAN: So you not only helped him from here, but Sarah Harrison, who we just recently interviewed in Germany, who is British, but concerned, if she comes back to Britain, she, too, will be arrested, actually accompanied him on that trip from Hong Kong to Russia, stayed with him at the— both at the airport for five weeks and then for months after that.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yes, that's right. Yeah, so, Sarah Harrison, one of our people, who went to Hong Kong to deal with the situation both from a legal perspective and a journalistic perspective, she was acting as a secure conduit to our lawyers, who were trying to understand the asylum situation and advise him. And from a journalistic perspective, of course, it's a very interesting story. Accompanied him to Hong Kong— sorry, accompanied him out of Hong Kong to Moscow and dealt with a very difficult situation there of gaining him asylum, and, importantly, making sure— once it became clear that it would be difficult for him to go to Latin America, making sure that the situation into which he entered into asylum in Russia was a well-negotiated one, was not one of weakness. And so she stayed there for some three or four months to make sure that he had freedom in Russia and was well respected there. And to their credit, the Russian authorities did the right thing: They gave him asylum, and they didn't interfere or coerce with his conditions there.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you think is the most significant revelation that's come out of the Snowden-leaked documents? I mean, you who know so much from the documents that you've released.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, because it is our specialty to understand surveillance systems of various kind, and it was my profession beforehand, the broad— many of the broad parameters, we already knew about. But the confirmation of each one of those parameters was extremely important for others to realize it. I think what is most surprising is not any one thing. It's the scale, the incredible scale, and that at any point where you could guess, "Are they doing this, or are they not doing it?" they are doing it. So, for example, intercepting packages that are sent out in the post and backdooring

them, backdooring chips. So we see the corporation list between National Security Agency and U.S. hardware manufacturers, so Intel, Qualcomm, that makes the chips for telephones and so on. That's quite surprising. That had been rumored and speculated on, but that the actual physical hardware is backdoored before you even get it, that, I think, is— that is a bit surprising. And then the absolute numbers, the billions of interceptions that are occurring per day. Actually, people who were studying this knew that, but to see a map of the world and the different countries with how many millions or billions of intercepts per day were coming in, I think that is probably the most consequential.

AMY GOODMAN: And the latest news that's just come out of Berlin, the arrest of a German intelligence officer for spying for the United States on the inquiry that's been opened into the whole NSA scandal?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah, very interesting. No surprise at all that intelligence officers are being bribed by the United States. We have had volunteers being paid by the FBI and so on, being bribed by the United States. That's no surprise at all. What is very interesting is that Germany has decided to make it public, that they have found someone and that they're going to prosecute him, not just dismiss him. That's a decision by the German government to cater to the popular will of the German population....

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton has been doing a number of interviews on her book-slash-pre-presidential tour, and she was interviewed by The Guardian, where she talks about Edward Snowden.

HILLARY CLINTON: If he wishes to return home, knowing that he would be held accountable but also be able to present a defense, that is his decision to make. In any case that I'm aware of as a former lawyer, he has the right to mount a defense. And he certainly has the right to mount both a legal defense and a public defense, which of course can affect the legal defense. Whether he returns or not is up to him. He certainly can stay in Russia, apparently under Putin's protection, for the rest of his life, if that's what he chooses. But if he's serious about engaging in the debate, then he could take the opportunity to come back and have that debate. But that's his decision. I'm not making a judgment one way or the other.

AMY GOODMAN: Those are the words of Hillary Clinton, that Edward Snowden should come home and, as the current secretary of state says, "man up" and face a trial.

JULIAN ASSANGE: He has no possibility to conduct a meaningful defense in the United States. That's just a sad reflection of how the federal court system has evolved in relation to national security cases. They will make sure, A, that the case is in Alexandria, Virginia. In fact, they already have. That's where his grand jury is. It's where the WikiLeaks grand jury is. It is the highest density of military intelligence contractors and government employees in all of the United States. That's why it's there, so they always get what they want.

The state secrets privilege is used in these espionage cases, where the government tries to work out a way to present evidence that it doesn't allow to the defense under the basis that it's classified. So, even at the sort of procedural level, he will not be able to conduct a meaningful defense.

Then, in relation to his obligations under law for classified access, it's a strict liability. So he can't conduct any whistleblower defense that it was in the public interest, etc. It's strict liability.

And then we only need to— and you go, "Well, how does that all play out in practice?" Well, actually, we've seen the case of Bradley Manning: 35 years for speaking to the press, no allegation that there was any money involved, no allegation that he was dealing with any opponents of the United States government, and 35 years in prison. So, those are the actual conditions that people go through in cases like this.

AMY GOODMAN: In fact, when Hillary Clinton talks about his public defense, that he could mount one, when it came to Chelsea Manning, then Bradley Manning, when Manning was being tried, we could not even hear Manning's voice, except that a tape of his voice was smuggled out of the courtroom, so we were able to play a very muffled tape. So how would Edward Snowden defend himself?

JULIAN ASSANGE: And in the Chelsea Manning case, it was even worse than that. We filed to get his— Center for Constitutional Rights, a number of cases, even to get any transcript out of that hearing. So, you'll see a similar thing in the Snowden case, a lockdown under the basis that secrets are being discussed. And then the conditions that Snowden would be kept in in the United States would be SAMs, special administrative measures, because it's what they do in these national security cases. They say that there's something in his head that's valuable— it's not just documents— and that by speaking, he could reveal this information. And so he'd basically be kept in incommunicado detention during the bail process, and the court case, I imagine, could go for five to seven years, even if in the end political constellations came together and he won in the Supreme Court.

AMY GOODMAN: Well, presumably, Julian Assange, this applies to you, as well. What do you think would happen if you're extradited to the United States?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, just that. It's not even what I think. WikiLeaks and I have a team of excellent lawyers— there's about 30 of them now— that have been understanding the situation for several years. They include Michael Ratner from the Center for Constitutional Rights and others in the United States. And their advice is that, yes, there's a high chance that you would be subject to SAMs, special administrative measures, during the whole time that the court case went on. You obviously wouldn't get bail as a foreigner. So the punishment is in the process. And the DOJ understands that. And if you look at other cases, like Thomas Drake, for example, former National Security Agency whistleblower, given 13 counts of espionage, and then, in the end, he beat it and beat them down to one count of mishandling classified information. So you see this attempt to punish people by drawing them into a long and extended, drawn-out process, and, OK, in the end maybe you'll win it, but you don't get all those years back again. And, you know, that I have responsibilities to the organization I'm running, to my family, and I've been advised to not go to the United States. And I think that's good advice.

AMY GOODMAN: Finally, where we are here, in the Ecuadorean embassy, you have described it as a kind of space station. Can you describe it for us, how you live here 24 hours a day?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, it's a space station in the sense that I'm sealed from the outside world and natural light, and therefore have to create my own cycle of light, like you also do in space. But, you know, it's—

AMY GOODMAN: So you have a light machine.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yes, and timers and so on. But being in an embassy is actually, in some ways, not in others, a national security reporter's dream, because there's no subpoenas to an embassy. You can't subpoena. The British police can't come in. The Ecuadorean police can't come in. No police can come in. There can be no raids in the night or during the day. And that's quite a comforting position for the publisher of WikiLeaks to work from. It's not a position I would like to keep forever, obviously, but it does at least allow me to continue working— yes, with a lot of constraints about can my family safely visit, can sources safely visit, can our most sensitive staff safely visit the embassy. There's a lot of surveillance of the embassy. Some of that has been publicly declared. There's a lot of other surveillance of the embassy that we are aware of, in different forms, surrounding what faces onto the embassy in different ways, which I don't want to go into what we know and what we don't know, for obvious reasons.

AMY GOODMAN: We're right across from Harrods, the famous department store.

JULIAN ASSANGE: There is, under the Freedom of— under, actually, the Data Protection Act, we filed a act against Harrods and got information out showing how Harrods were in fact assisting the police surveillance operation.

AMY GOODMAN: How?

JULIAN ASSANGE: By permitting the police to use various buildings and facilities that Harrods has, not just the formal building, but they have a number of buildings which face onto the embassy. Additionally, it might be something of interest that Harrods was bought out by the Qatar sovereign fund a while ago, so it is ultimately Qatar that is supporting the surveillance operation of this embassy through its collaboration with the British government.

AMY GOODMAN: What about the outside security here? We just look beyond the curtains, and we see police vans.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Around the embassy, there are a number of uniformed police and plainclothes police operating and others. The publicly admitted expenditure is now 6.7 million pounds, \$11.5 million. It's about \$15,000 per day. And so, there has been some analysis of that and what that means. There's about eight visible people around the embassy. But the salaries cover 16 people, so there's a number of others also involved in the processing and management of the information. That doesn't include what MI5 is doing and what GCHQ is doing.

AMY GOODMAN: And you found— the embassy here found a bug in the ambassador's office?

JULIAN ASSANGE: That's right. The embassy security found, at the time of the visit of — shortly before the visit of Ricardo Patiño, the Ecuadorean foreign minister, in terms



of the security— getting ready for the security of the minister's visit, yes, they found a bug planted, a GSM bug planted in a hidden socket in the ambassador's room.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you expect there are many others?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, some parts of the embassy. Fortunately, the embassy has a 24-hour security guard— me— who never leaves the building and is always watching or alarmed in one way or another. So not all places, but, yes, others.

AMY GOODMAN: What gives you hope? And what do you see as the greatest legacy of WikiLeaks?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, hopefully the greatest legacy is still to come. But WikiLeaks started in 2007, but it was really this very public confrontation that we had in 2010, 2011, which people saw watching. So it was not— a new generation saw history unfolding in real time, before their eyes, a history that they were part of. Young people see the Internet as their place, where they exchange ideas and culture and so on. And previously, they had been politically apathetic, because they didn't feel that they could be a part of the power process. But seeing Hillary Clinton's personal cables and equivalents for many different countries, and the fight that we were in, and being part of that in some way, by spreading this information or talking about it with others, educated a new generation. And the Internet went from being a politically apathetic space to being a political space. And that then spread into many different things. And so, I think this is actually the most significant thing that we have done.

We have also, in terms of the publishing industry, widened the envelope of what is acceptable to publish and so on. That's been quite important and set off a cascade of examples, which— going through allegedly Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden and Jeremy Hammond and many others, to come forward and reveal abuses in government.

AMY GOODMAN: Is there another Edward Snowden in the pipeline?

JULIAN ASSANGE: I'm sure — I'm sure there will be. In fact, I'm sure there already is.

[www.democracynow.org/2014/7/7/exclusive\\_inside\\_embassy\\_refuge\\_julian\\_assange](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/7/7/exclusive_inside_embassy_refuge_julian_assange)

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## **Julian Assange on Aiding Snowden, Tiff w/ The Intercept & Whether He'll Ever Leave Embassy Refuge**

*This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.*

*Democracy Now!*  
*July 9, 2014*

AMY GOODMAN: We return to our interview with WikiLeaks founder and publisher Julian Assange from inside Ecuador's Embassy in London, where he has political asylum and has been living for more than two years.

In a nutshell, Julian, if you would, can you summarize the releases of documents since the "Collateral Murder" video was released in the spring of 2010? For people who aren't keeping up on things, and even if you are an avid viewer of the media or reader of the media, especially in the United States, they may know who Julian Assange is, the publisher of WikiLeaks, but actually what it is you have released, the substance of these documents, could you just go through them?

JULIAN ASSANGE: WikiLeaks has been publishing since 2007. We have published material from every country— almost every country in the world and about every country in the world. We are now up to just over eight million individual documents that we have released during that period. Now, the heat in the debate with the United States arose in 2010. We have had heated debates with other countries, and we've had major court cases in the United States in relation to our fight with Swiss banks and so on. In 2010, the number of documents and publications that we were releasing, each one after another, ended up erecting a grand jury against us by the DOJ, National Security Division. And so, we entered into a major media conflict with the U.S. government.

So, going in order, they are "Collateral Murder," a documentary that we produced based on the tape from an Apache helicopter mowing down 12 to 18 people in Baghdad, including two Reuters journalists, and very clearly engaged in the murder. And the murder was an unarmed man, wounded, crawling in the gutter, and good Samaritans came to rescue him, and all of them were killed, and two children came away with serious injuries.

Then the Afghanistan War Logs, now, these came at a very important moment in 2010, where Michael Hastings had just— the late Michael Hastings had just released a report on McChrystal, and these publications came not long after that.

AMY GOODMAN: This is the Rolling Stone journalist who died in a car crash.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Rolling Stone journalist who died in a car crash. And that shifted the debate about Afghanistan. Early in 2010, it was: What can we do to win in Afghanistan? After the Hastings article about McChrystal and WikiLeaks' war logs, the result was: There was no longer a debate about can we win in Afghanistan; it is how were we going to get out of Afghanistan. So it was quite an important shift.

Then, with the Iraq War Logs, which were published in October 2010, which in some ways has been one of our best analytical works, we worked together with not just other media organizations, but a number of statistical organizations to work out what the kill count was for Iraq, and combining with other figures, and we ended up with more than 100,000 civilian casualties— in fact, 15,000 new, completely undocumented civilian kills— and documenting U.S. involvement and approval of Iraqi torture centers within the police and many killings of civilians at checkpoints and some political issues and so on. And that produced a number of inquiries and has fed into cases that have been taken by Iraqis, and that has now ended up with an ICC filing, International Criminal Court filing, against the British military.

If we then move on, in December of that year, we started the release of Cablegate, the more than 251,000 U.S. diplomatic cables from all around the world from 1966 to 2010. And that is the largest compendium of diplomacy that has ever been released. It's about 3,000 volumes of material. As a sort of history of how the modern world behaves in practice, it's extremely important, and it fed into the Tunisian revolution quite directly. In fact, Ben Ali's propaganda minister, after the government fell, said that the WikiLeaks releases about Tunisia is what broke the back of the Ben Ali system.

AMY GOODMAN: Because?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, because it exposed the corruption that many Tunisians knew about, but in a much more flagrant form of what money had gone where and people keeping pet tigers and so on, but also that there was various kinds of debates about it, and within the United States and from others, and that when push came to shove the U.S. would probably back the military and not Ben Ali. And it was undeniable. So it wasn't just the Tunisian activists alleging this; it was a U.S. ambassador writing back to Washington, for several years, you know, that the U.S. had kind of let it gone on, but documenting what had gone on. And that then made its way into Europe and affected the French support for Ben Ali, and the Tunisians became— Tunisian activists again confident. And then, two weeks— 20 days later, Mohamed Bouazizi set himself on fire, and then he became the personified symbol of all the problems, and then it properly kicked off. But anyway, the propaganda minister and some others say this is what broke the back of the Ben Ali system.

And those cables are really quite incredibly important. They have gone into literally dozens of court cases. They have released people from prison. People have been released from prison holding these cables above their head as the reason that they had been released from prison. The El-Masri case, where the CIA kidnapped a German citizen unlawfully, renditioned him and kept him in a CIA black site for four months, it was a case of mistaken identity. He wasn't even an alleged terrorist. He just happened to have the same name. And they then dumped him in eastern Europe, later on, on the side of the road, no explanation given, to try and make it look— you know, to give him no evidence to take a case. And he did try and take cases in the United States.

And this is something relevant, perhaps, what would happen to Edward Snowden in the United States. He was not able to get anywhere because the U.S. government activated state secrets privilege, said all the things that the CIA had done to him were secrets, and they would not be revealing anything at all. He met a complete dead end. Then, as a result of the release of the diplomatic cables, which spoke about what the United States had done with Macedonia, where he was taken from when he tried to enter into Macedonia, he was able to take a case against Macedonia at the— within Europe and to the European Court of Human Rights, and eventually won. And there were six cables cited in the judgment, you know, showing that it actually happened.

Similar cases in Spain, and an important precedent was set about the use of our materials in court cases generally, specifically cables. So, this relates to Chagos islands. So there's an island group called Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. It's owned by the British. It is very important strategically because it's sort of on the way between things. Now, the British handed over, rent-free, one of these islands, Chagos, to the United States military.

AMY GOODMAN: C-H-A-G-O-S.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yeah, to the United States military. And it has been now turned into a base, and rendition flights go through there and so on. But there was original inhabitants. At the time it was handed over to the United States in the '60s, the original inhabitants were pushed off. And they were all pushed off to Mauritius and Madagascar, and they had been trying to fight a court case to come back. And some cables revealed that in fact the British government had told the U.S. it was setting up a secret plan to make it very difficult or impossible for them to come back. It was going to declare— you know, it was going to suck in the Liberal Left. And here's how it was

going to do it. Create a marine park. It's a coral atoll, the Chagos islands. Going to create a marine park. Well, what was the economy of the Chagos islands? It was fishing. So this is explicitly that they're going to prevent the Chagos islanders having any meaningful economic return to the island by creating this marine park, which all the Liberals will love. And that way, you know, these islanders won't be able to interfere or spy on the U.S. base.

Anyway, that provoked new litigation by the Chagos islanders in the British courts. And ultimately, the lower courts found that the cables were inadmissible, because they had come from embassies, and there's a Vienna Convention, the same thing that is protecting me here that protects diplomatic correspondence. But in a higher court, it was appealed, and it was found that's not true. Actually, diplomatic cables published by WikiLeaks are not protected by the Vienna Convention. They're already public. It's the first instance of getting them out that's protected, not what happens to them subsequently. So that's quite an important precedent within the common law world, because it means these cables can be used in many more court cases.

AMY GOODMAN: The charge, Julian Assange, that you endanger lives when you release the unredacted documents that you do?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Completely false. And it's not just me who's saying that. It's Associated Press, who did an extensive review. It is the U.S. government itself, in the Bradley Manning case, under oath. Under oath, the head of the person who was responsible for investigating whether anyone had come to physical harm said under oath that they couldn't find a single person who had been killed or physically harmed as a result.

AMY GOODMAN: You're talking about retired Brigadier General Robert Carr. He had a kind of war room dealing with the release of the WikiLeaks documents, is that right, back to 2010?

JULIAN ASSANGE: That's right. Robert Carr in the Pentagon started up what they called a WikiLeaks war room, which had more than 150 people in it— DIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, and FBI and others— involved in trying to understand what we were going to publish, what we had and what the effects were. And a lot of money was spent trying to check us in different ways. And the result of all that expenditure and understanding, and then the attempt to build up the Bradley Manning prosecution and to denounce our publishing efforts, which we had revealed that the U.S. military— documenting the deaths of more than 100,000 people in Iraq and Afghanistan, they found that zero people had been physically harmed by our publication.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, you just recently had a Twitter battle with Glenn Greenwald. It might have surprised some. You know, the whole Intercept, the new online publication, releasing information based on Edward Snowden's documents around the NSA spying on whole countries. You felt that they should name the countries, not withhold any names. Explain what that was about.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, I have a lot of respect for Glenn. Glenn has defended WikiLeaks from the attack by the U.S. grand jury over a long period of time. And he's been very brave in the Edward Snowden publications, and, you know, quite forthright.

He left The Guardian, in part because of that reason, because The Guardian was censoring the material that he was trying to publish. But he entered into First Look. And unfortunately, First Look is not just Glenn. First Look is actually the big power. All the money and organization comes from Pierre Omidyar. And Pierre Omidyar is one of the founders— is the founder of eBay and owns PayPal and goes to the White House several times each year, has extensive connections with Soros, and can broadly be described as an extreme liberal centrist. So, he has quite a different view about what journalism entails. For example, he has said this year, and also in 2009, that if someone gave him a leak from a commercial organization, not from the government, then he would feel it was his duty to tell the police. So that's a very different type of journalism standard that comes from Pierre Omidyar. And unfortunately, some of that, or perhaps a significant amount of it, has gone into First Look and created some constraints there.

And that was seen most— seen most disturbingly when First Look knew from the Edward Snowden documents that all of Afghanistan was having its telephone calls recorded. The National Security Agency had corruptly installed mass surveillance inside Afghan telcos, saying to the Afghan government that they were doing— installing this monitoring just going after drug dealers, not mass surveillance but targeted surveillance after Afghan opium dealers, and in fact they were recording the phone calls of every single Afghan. And that's as great an assault to sovereignty as you can imagine, other than completely militarily occupying a country, to record the intimate phone calls of every single Afghan citizen. And Afghanistan, as a country, and its people have the right to choose their own destiny, knowing what is actually happening to them. And **First Look decided that they would censor the fact that Afghanistan was having all its telephone calls recorded.**

AMY GOODMAN: They did say that the Bahamas were. But they said that they feared— they accepted the argument of the U.S. government that people could die as a result of revealing what was happening, or would be threatened as a result of what happened, as what's happening in Afghanistan.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, they were a bit mealymouthed with the original disclosure. Initially, they just said, "We're not revealing it, and the reason we're not revealing it is credible reports that it could lead to an increase of violence." So, structured as a kind of political statement that, well, if Afghans found out about this, maybe they would riot or something.

But we can take this from a number of different lines. My perspective is, that's up to the Afghan people, just like it was in relation to the Arab Spring. If, knowing their environment and what is happening to their environment, they want to elect a new government, they want to roll the government, they want to expel people, that is a matter for that culture. It's a matter of sovereignty of how that country chooses to manage it itself. It's not a matter for other people to prevent a country from managing itself.

But we can also look at just what is the reality. The U.S. government always says this kind of thing. We have seen it for years and years, and it's always been baloney. Let's look at it. They have known for a year that Snowden has had that material. They have known specifically in relation to the country X was Afghanistan— they've known that for several weeks, because First Look had in fact had contacted the U.S. government and were dealing with them. So, if they had specific concerns about people in the U.S. Embassy or something like that, there's plenty of time to have them removed. And then we also gave 72 hours' warning that we would be publishing it.

AMY GOODMAN: I still want to get back to the issue of how it is that you, who are wanted by the most powerful country on Earth, the United States, are able, inside this embassy, under total global surveillance, to help the other most hunted person in the world, Edward Snowden, to get beyond the grasp of the United States.

JULIAN ASSANGE: It's a bit absurd, if we pull back and try and look at it objectively. Where were all the other organizations? All these human rights groups, legal organizations, where were they in the— even refugee organizations— in this difficult situation that had to be done in Hong Kong? Very many meaning— you know, well-meaning organizations, certainly more well funded, The Guardian newspaper and The Washington Post were meant to be, you know, helping Snowden as a source, having an obligation to do that, and yet all of them felt, for one reason or another— fear, lack of ability— that they couldn't do it, and we were forced into a position that we had to do it.

So, yes, we do have some specific experience. So, we have specific experience in dealing with sources who are under very adverse situations trying to communicate securely. And I think that is an important lesson, that, actually, the organization— an organization that specializes in defeating surveillance for national security cases was the organization that was able to do this. Yes, we had some diplomatic contacts, and we certainly had the will and the desire to not see another Chelsea Manning. But I think a lot of it— we couldn't have done that if we hadn't specialized in these secure communications techniques for so long. How could we possibly coordinate as an organization, when the other organization, the opposing organization, was the National Security Agency, without— with about a thousand times more employees and a budget 10,000 times the size? I think it's because we had specialized in communicating in a secure manner.

So that tells you about, what about all those people who— which is nearly everyone— who don't specialize in communicating in a secure manner? They can't do that. Aha! Now you see the problem with mass surveillance. Now you see that there's all sorts of things that can't be done anymore because of mass surveillance. And, OK, we're able to do it because we're specialists, but only because we're specialists.

AMY GOODMAN: So how do people protect themselves?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, you can't become a specialist unless you want to do that full-time and spend years and years doing it. That is the reality that we're in right now. Fortunately, the National Security Agency stories have produced an understanding in people that they are being surveilled, and that's created a demand, and as a result of that demand, various nonprofit organizations and commercial organizations are starting up to create technology that people can communicate with securely. But it's still very hard to understand this technology. So, who's actually behind the company? What jurisdiction is it? Are they— can they be bribed? The National Security Agency spends \$350 million per year bribing manufacturers of cryptography or otherwise compromising through direct interaction their cryptography. So, I think it is quite difficult.

And in some ways, until new technology is more developed— there's some good things like Tor and Telegram Messenger, perhaps, but until it is more developed and better understood, then people need to go back to the old ways. And, you know, I joke that, suddenly, Cuban intelligence, which a lot of people in the intelligence industry

had considered like stuck in the '60s and hadn't made any real advances in a long time— suddenly, that's a great thing. You know, like how is it that Cuba has survived even though you've got this mass surveillance and so on? Well, because they are stuck in these old ways of writing codes on paper and so on.

But we also do that. We use a collection of very old techniques that are completely non-electronic, as well as, you know, some sort of sophisticated, modern electronic techniques, because the reality is that a lot of the electronic communication— electronic communication revolves on so many elements— so, the people who manufacture the chips for the computers that you're using, the radiation that's being given off by the computers, the security programs that are installed, the operating system. There are so many different elements. And you only need to compromise one. So, in order to communicate securely for an organization like WikiLeaks, one needs to have many different systems that are independent and won't fail just because one failed.

But the question, not for individuals, but for society, is not about can I, as an individual, protect myself if the National Security Agency is after me and wants to spend a serious amount of money; the question, as a society, is how to stop society being dominated by a faction that already has very significant power and its allies. That's the question for a society, including international society. And the answer to that is that one simply has to increase the cost of each— of surveilling each person. At the moment, it's something like— it's under 20 cents per person per day at the moment to surveil each person. You think, surely, that's a lot of money, like if you add up billions of people. Yeah, it is a lot of money. And in fact, that lot of money is spent. There's \$50 [million], \$60 million a year is actually spent doing that. And if you think about— there's about 1.6 billion people who have access to the Internet and operate and communicate across it, OK, National Security Agency and its allies can encompass those people for under 20 cents a day. But if we are able to introduce standards— and nations can do this. Brazil could mandate that all communications with Germany are mandated to use a certain cryptographic standard, so they would only flow to the United States from South America, up to the United States, across to Asia and so on, to get to Europe. Brazil could mandate that there must be securing of those cables and those communications flows. So if we can increase the cost of mass surveillance to where it's something like \$3,000 per person, when you want to go after them, you can only go after individuals, you can't go after entire continents. Then we will be back to a healthier situation, something like we were in maybe in the 1970s in terms of mass surveillance.

AMY GOODMAN: As we are here holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, and I was just thinking, as we heard a siren outside, are you concerned about your own personal safety here? I mean, you've been here for two years. Your both personal physical safety and your mental health, being holed up here?

JULIAN ASSANGE: It's a difficult physical environment. The U.N. minimum standard for prisoners is one hour outside of work or exercise per day. There is no outside. There is no sun. It is a difficult physical environment. On the other hand, I do have good friends and good staff and the staff of the embassy. So, yeah, so I continue on. There is a question, I suppose, how long can one do this sort of thing. And I think the answer is, well, you can do it for quite a long time. It just means you've got to be more diligent about what you're going through. Let's not forget that Bradley Manning was even in an even worse situation for a period of time in Quantico, Virginia. He managed to get through it. And I will also manage to get through this.

AMY GOODMAN: Do you think you're ever going to get out of here?

JULIAN ASSANGE: I think so. I think if we look at the political trajectory here in the U.K., where they've realized extradition without charge is a dangerous thing to expose the population to, and they've changed the law; in the United States, we see this call by 54 different groups, including conservative groups like Human Rights Watch, calling for the U.S. pending prosecution to be dropped; and that we see 59 human rights groups complaining and legal groups complaining to the U.N. in a formal way about Sweden's involvement in this case; and debates in Sweden saying— you know, questioning what has gone on. So, I'm quite confident, bar some— bar a strange war appearing somewhere, that the political progress is positive and even inevitable. The U.K. government has now spent 6.7 million pounds, nearly \$11 million, just on the police encirclement alone over two years. People in the U.K. also are looking at that and going, "How can this be? This is completely, utterly strange and disproportionate to spend that amount of money on someone who hasn't even been charged."

AMY GOODMAN: That's in the case of Sweden. But even if that inquiry goes away, if Sweden decides to end their investigation of you, you've got the U.S. government in this ongoing investigation. And if you're charged there, even if you leave here, the possibility that you'll never know freedom again.

JULIAN ASSANGE: The particular legal circumstance is that the U.S. government can issue a sealed extradition request, which the British government will keep sealed, so we won't necessarily know when that happens or if it has happened. They can also phone in a preliminary extradition demand and send the paperwork within 40 days. So, it is necessary to deal with the U.S. case before I can leave the embassy, and also the counterterrorism investigation here and the Snowden grand jury. There's quite a lot of different things to deal with. But I think we have to remember, in the end, all these cases are political, right? There's geopolitical forces pushing them to continue and inflaming them and bringing prestige into the equation. And so, because the political situation is changing in a favorable manner, I think the legal situation, which we're OK on in terms of the actual law, will start to crystallize in a way that's favorable.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, you mentioned the toll this has taken on your family. What has been the cost to your family, to your parents, to your children?

JULIAN ASSANGE: The security situation has been difficult for my family. I am used to dealing with difficult security situations, but my family is not used to dealing with difficult security situations. And various groups in the United States made threats towards my family, including one threat publicly calling for the killing of some of my children in order to get at me.

AMY GOODMAN: You have how many children?

JULIAN ASSANGE: I don't want to say precisely, because of that risk. So my children have had to move; in one case, change the name that they were using, the same as my mother, etc. So that's a result of the security situation. And then there's also— there's an issue as to whether I can be pressured in certain ways as a result of my family. So can people pressure you. So, that produces a situation where it is quite difficult to see your family, if they're trying to be undercover and there is surveillance all around the embassy and there's press all around the embassy.



AMY GOODMAN: You entered the embassy when you were 40 years old. On July 3rd, just a few days ago, you celebrated your 43rd birthday, your third birthday inside the embassy. Where will you be for your next birthday?

JULIAN ASSANGE: That's a good question. I could still be here. I think the developments are such that if you look at kind of the direction of the— direction of how the politics is going, the U.S. primaries will start in about a year's time. The Obama administration is starting to consider what its legacy is going to be in the liberal Democrat area of things. There's an election next year here in the United Kingdom. There's an election in September in Sweden, which will take their country from center-right to center-left, may not improve things much, in the same way that going from— well, I'm not sure what you call the Obama administration, but going from Democrat to Democrat, if Hillary gets in, may not change things very much in the United States. But this political trajectory, I think, is creating a situation where we can more effectively use the law, you know, that there's not so much pressures on— not so much pressure on the courts to find one way— not so much pressure on the court system. And so I think it's getting to a stage where it's able to act in a more neutral manner.

AMY GOODMAN: If the Swedish government guaranteed that you would not be extradited to the United States, would you agree to go to Sweden for questioning?

JULIAN ASSANGE: That's what we've been asking for four years now. But it's not just me that's been asking for it. The Ecuadorean government, as a state, it has obligations to protect someone that they've formally granted asylum, has asked the U.K., "Can you guarantee Mr. Assange will not be extradited to the United States?" And it's also asked Sweden, "Can you guarantee Mr. Assange will not be extradited to the United States?" Not for anything, not a blanket guarantee, but in relation to our publications. And both governments have said no, that they refuse to do that....

[www.democracynow.org/2014/7/9/julian\\_assange\\_on\\_aiding\\_snowden\\_tiff](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/7/9/julian_assange_on_aiding_snowden_tiff)

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## **WikiLeaks' Julian Assange Responds to Hillary Clinton: Fair U.S. Trial for Snowden "Not Possible"**

*This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.*

*Democracy Now!*

*July 9, 2014*

AMY GOODMAN: Julian, I'd like you to respond to Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, could be running for president, her comments on Edward Snowden. She was interviewed by The Guardian, which first released the revelations based on the documents of Edward Snowden. And if you could just hit the first comment.

HILLARY CLINTON: Well, I would say, first of all, that Edward Snowden broke our laws, and that cannot be ignored or brushed aside.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, that first point of Hillary Clinton's?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, it's always interesting when someone proclaims to be a master of what is within the law and what is not within the law. We've seen a lot with Pentagon generals and other State Department figures, including Hillary. We've seen it in this case with General Alexander, talking about what is the law and what is not the law.

AMY GOODMAN: The former head of the NSA.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Yes. But, actually, in the end, in the United States, it's the Supreme Court that determines what the law is and what the law isn't. And part of what goes into the Supreme Court is the U.S. Constitution and its First Amendment obligations. So, whether the Espionage Act is constitutional is a very interesting question and has not been properly tested before. In fact, the U.S. government has been quite careful to not go to a proper appeal in relation to a conviction under the Espionage Act, in order to keep the threat there and not find that it is unconstitutional in court. So, I think there is actually a question even as to whether Edward Snowden, through his activities, broke the law. But then you can even go, OK, well, if he did, was it in fact the correct thing to do? Maybe the law is out of date. Maybe the law is wrong.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go to Hillary Clinton's next point.

HILLARY CLINTON: Secondly, I believe that if his primary concern was stirring a debate in our country over the tension between privacy and security, there were other ways of doing it, instead of stealing an enormous amount of information that had nothing to do with the U.S. or American citizens.

JULIAN ASSANGE: As a journalist, I have been working at various times in documenting what the National Security Agency has been doing in its burgeoning mass surveillance practice for more than 20 years. And other journalists, some of them very fine, have also been trying to expose the National Security Agency. And other whistleblowers have come forward— so, Thomas Drake, William Binney, both from the National Security Agency, for example. But what was the problem? While we could point to, based on a sophisticated analysis of what the National Security Agency is doing— say, look at this piece here, look at this little bit of congressional testimony, look at the subpoena record, look at the technology that they are buying from this company, look at the number of employees, look at the DOD budget as a whole— when you add everything else up, you can work out the National Security Agency's budget. That's a very complex picture, and that's not a picture that can generate political reform and debate. And what Edward Snowden did was, by bringing out classified documents, that were official documents, that were even some of them just last year, he was able to show, even to people that didn't understand, the complexity of what was actually going on. So, we have proof. People did try to start a debate, using all sorts of methods, including former National Security Agency whistleblowers, and it's only primary source documents in volume that are probably capable of starting a debate about a complex issue like mass surveillance.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton again.

HILLARY CLINTON: I would say, thirdly, that there are many people in our history who have raised serious questions about government behavior. They've done it either with or without whistleblower protection, and they have stood and faced whatever the reaction was to make their case in public.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, Hillary Clinton is alluding to, without mentioning the name of Daniel Ellsberg, the famous Pentagon Papers whistleblower from the 1970s. There's a reason she doesn't mention his name, because Daniel Ellsberg has come forward again and again this year and said that, in fact, he couldn't do what he did in the 1970s today, that the situation has changed, as far as the courts— the use of the state secrets privilege, how things have been sewn up holding all national security cases in Alexandria, Virginia— there's not a neutral jury pool— that he couldn't do that. And the reality is, that's the case for all national security whistleblowers who have classified documents. You can't fight a normal case, as we would think about it in the public. You're swept into a very aggressive system that is set against you from the first instance.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton again.

HILLARY CLINTON: Mr. Snowden took all this material. He fled to Hong Kong. He spent time with the Russians in their consulate. Then he went to Moscow seeking the protection of Vladimir Putin, which is at the height of ironies, given the surveillance state that Russia is. If he wishes to return home, knowing that he would be held accountable, but also be able to present a defense, that is his decision to make. But I know that our intelligence forces are doing what they can to understand exactly what was taken.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Hillary Clinton. Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: This is sadly typical of Hillary Clinton. We have facts about this matter. Not even the National Security Agency accuses him of working with the Russians. In fact, the National Security Agency, formally, in its investigation, has said that they don't think that he was working with the Russians, at least not before he left the agency. And Hillary Clinton, however, tries to reshape the chronology in order to smear Edward Snowden with being a Russian spy. The actual chronology is that Edward Snowden went to Hong Kong. He then saw that the situation was very difficult, reached out for us to help, and we were intimately involved from that point on. So I know precisely, myself, and our staff know, what happened. We submitted 20 asylum applications on behalf of Edward Snowden to a range of different countries, Latin America. It was Ed Snowden's intent to go to Latin America— Venezuela, Nicaragua, Ecuador was also looking favorable, and Bolivia offered him asylum. En route to Latin America, the U.S. State Department canceled his passport, leaving him marooned in Russia, unable to catch his next flight, which had already been booked from the very beginning. His whole path had been booked while he was in Hong Kong.

AMY GOODMAN: But she does say he went to the Russian Embassy in Hong Kong.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Hillary says that he went to the Russian Consulate in Hong Kong. I don't know about that, but I'm sure that perhaps he was looking for all different kinds of asylum options, and that would have made perfect sense for anyone to do that in such a severe situation. It is not a matter of irony that Edward Snowden was marooned by the U.S. State Department in Russia. Asylum is a serious business. It is something of a concern that the countries in western Europe, for example, that he

asked for asylum— France, Germany, Spain— did not in fact come to the table. They were too scared about their geopolitical relationships. It's something of a concern that Edward Snowden, as an American citizen, felt that he could not speak freely in the United States. And he is right. It's the advice of all our lawyers that he should not return to the United States. He'd be extremely foolish to do so.

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go back to Hillary Clinton, who now goes on to talk about the debate in the United States.

HILLARY CLINTON: The debate about how to better balance security and liberty was already going on before he fled. The president had already given a speech. Members of the Senate were already talking about it. So I don't give him credit for the debate. I think he may have raised the visibility of the debate, but the debate had already begun.

JULIAN ASSANGE: A lot of people in the civil liberties community in the United States, in the privacy community in the rest of the world, and specialists, national security journalists like myself, had been following what the National Security Agency has been doing for a long time. We have been trying very hard to erect a debate. And there, yes, there were small debates, that really didn't proceed anywhere. The lawsuits filed by the EFF and ACLU to try and get somewhere went nowhere, because they didn't have the evidence. And what Edward Snowden revealed was documentary evidence, and it was that primary source evidence that has led to this debate. Everyone knows the difference— most people can't even remember hearing about the National Security Agency prior to last year. Now everyone knows about it. And that is almost entirely as a result of these disclosures.

AMY GOODMAN: Hillary Clinton makes other critical points.

HILLARY CLINTON: I don't know what he's been charged with; those are sealed indictments. I have no idea what he's been charged with. I'm not sure he knows what he's been charged with. But even in any case that I'm aware of, as a former lawyer, he has the right to mount a defense. And he certainly has the right to mount both a legal defense and a public defense, which of course can affect the legal defense.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange, your response?

JULIAN ASSANGE: As Daniel Ellsberg, the famous Pentagon Papers whistleblower, has said, it is not possible for a national security whistleblower now in the United States to have a fair trial. It's not possible to have a fair trial because all the trials are held in Alexandria, Virginia, where the jury pool is comprised of the highest density of military and government employees in all of the United States. It's not possible to have a fair trial, because the U.S. government has a precedent of applying state secret privilege to prevent the defense from using material that is classified in their favor. It's not possible to have a fair trial, because as a defendant in a national security case, you are held under special administrative measures, which makes it very hard to look at any of the material in your case, to meet with your lawyers, to speak to people, etc. So, this is— it's just simply not a fair system. And even if you do eventually win by the time you get up to the Supreme Court, you spend seven years or something in a very

serious condition trying to defend yourself, instead of what has happened with Edward Snowden. As a result of him having asylum, we can talk about the issues, not talking about whether Snowden is guilty or not, and Edward Snowden himself can tell the world, "Well, look, this is what actually happened. This is what is going on."

AMY GOODMAN: Let's go back to what Hillary Clinton has to say.

HILLARY CLINTON: But the other issue that has never been satisfactorily answered to me is, if his main concern was what was happening inside the United States, then why did he take so much about what was happening with Russia, with China, with Iran, with al-Qaeda?

AMY GOODMAN: That's Hillary Clinton in her Guardian interview. This last point that she addresses, Julian Assange?

JULIAN ASSANGE: It's no surprise to me that Hillary Clinton thinks that human beings that are not formally U.S. citizens don't have any rights. But not everyone thinks like that. Other people in other countries have rights. Now, if we look at the practicalities of Edward Snowden acquiring documents while he was a contractor for Booz Allen Hamilton working for the National Security Agency and, prior to that, a contractor for Dell, the National Security Agency runs a mass surveillance program, a strategic surveillance program. The same technology, the same protocols are used to surveil people inside the United States, people outside the United States, etc. So if you're trying to collect information to expose mass surveillance, then, by its very nature, you're going to expose National Security Agency practices all over the world, because it's the same process that occurs, whether you're in England or whether you're in Germany or whether you're in the United States....

[www.democracynow.org/2014/7/9/wikileaks\\_julian\\_assange\\_responds\\_to\\_hillary](http://www.democracynow.org/2014/7/9/wikileaks_julian_assange_responds_to_hillary)

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## **In Cables: Bildt, Parmly, USAID and Cuba**

*Hazel Press*  
*July 9, 2014*

WikiLeaks' Cablegate material further clarifies Anna Ardin's contacts and activities in Cuba. A U.S. Interests Section Havana (USINT) cable [06HAVANA23547](#) (November 2006) reveals that Ardin's thesis 'field tutor' Miriam Leiva (of the opposition movement Ladies in White) was in contact with USINT and was supported by bodies (Support Group for Democracy and Cuban Democratic Action) that were funded by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID):

The Ladies in White— relatives of political prisoners— are in disarray over how to respond to the GAO report. Miriam Leiva told us (U.S. Interests Section Havana) November 28 [2006] that at the group's monthly gathering on November 18, she was "lynched" by other key members over a Ladies declaration she drafted, with what she believed to be the group's consent, in support of certain Miami-based groups. The declaration partly states (unofficial translation): "We Ladies in White

are grateful for the medicine, clothes and food that our Cuban brothers in the exile community and friends from various countries have sent our prisoners and family members, through various groups, including the Support Group for Democracy and Cuban Democratic Action."

Ardin's thesis (April 2007) [described](#) her working relationship with Miriam Leiva in these terms:

I owe Miriam greatly for the help she has given, having provided me with, addresses, phone numbers and other input for this thesis, but maybe it was my frequent visits to her and her dissident husband Oscar Chepe's home that upset the authorities.

However, it is more than likely that it was Ardin's so-called investigation into Manuel Cuesta Morúa's Corriente Socialista Democrática Cubana (CSDC) that "that upset the authorities". Ardin's thesis states:

CSDC is the most influential social democratic (or democratic socialist) party. They claim to have 150 members apart from their Red de Ciudadanos (citizen network). The party was founded in 1991 and since 1996 their leader has been Manuel Cuesta Morúa. Most activities are performed in the broader social democratic assemblage Arco Progresista (AP, the ProgressiveArc33) also led by Cuesta Morúa. The majority of the activists in AP are also members of CSDC, and I will investigate CSDC because it is the most apparent party structure within AP and the documents most apt for investigation belong to CSDC.

Cuesta Morúa's description (from a 2010 Cuba Nuestra interview) of Ardin's academic investigation is somewhat different and uses the terms: "economic aid" and "reports":

Two or three groups of young people [from Sweden] linked to the group that [Ardin] headed came to Cuba between 2003 and 2005, up to twice a year. They brought the economic aid and took the reports. Then they informed us by e-mail, or in their next visit, of their assessment: always positive. The last economic aid was brought over by Anna herself in mid-2005.

Cable 06HAV details the fallout (within Cuba) from a highly critical U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (November 2006) into the misuse of "democracy assistance" by Cuban grantees. According to the report, the assistance program was run by the U.S. Department of State (which employed USINT to "distribute aid provided by some grantees") and USAID.

Clearly, the 54-year embargo against Cuba by the U.S. means that the government of Cuba has reservations about such assistance. Further, **donations from foreign interests to either political parties or candidates is illegal in the U.S., Sweden and Cuba.** While the GAO report does not mention Sweden's role in the U.S. program, it does describe the rationale behind Sweden's enrolment:

Given the Cuban government's repressive policies and opposition to U.S. democracy assistance, grantees employed a range of discreet delivery methods that varied in terms of security, flexibility, and cost.

Sweden's involvement in Cuba was dramatically exposed in 2012 after Oswaldo Payá (a prominent Cuban political activist) was killed in a car crash while travelling with two young politicians, Aron Modig and Ángel Carromero from Sweden and Spain,

respectively. Associated Press has reported that Modig admitted giving "\$4,900 for Paya's organization" and that he had "helped organize dissident youth wings." ***Havana Times* quotes Modig stating that "we don't perform these types of activities in any other country."** Carromero has since alleged that Payá's death was no accident.

Ardin's involvement in "these types of activities" ended in October 2006 (Ardin claims she "[got] out of Cuba very fast", while Cubainformación has reported that she was expelled) amid the aftermath of the GAO report. In the same way that Modig helped fund and organise Payá, Ardin worked with Cuesta Morúa. However, there was a hitch for Ardin, in that Cuesta Morúa was not willing to be organised by Sweden. Cuesta Morúa:

In political terms, this means that she could not find a way to explain in Sweden that her work in Havana was in trouble, and at the same time she felt powerless to control what we were doing.

When the strings attached to Sweden's "economic aid" proved not to extend to diminishing the CSDC's independence, Ardin's solution was to remove Cuesta Morúa. To this end, Ardin used the Cuban government's version of the GAO report (described by Cuesta Morúa as "misinformation... constructed to damage the reputation of the Cuban Social Democratic movement") to discredit Cuesta Morúa. Despite the experience of two internships at Sweden's embassies in Washington and Buenos Aires ([PDF download](#)), Ardin's political gambit not only failed, it served to increase Cuesta Morúa's independence.

While 06HAV says that the grantees' response to the GAO report was a declaration promising to "achieve greater efficiency in the use of these funds", others had seen enough: "a number of dissidents, including Manuel Cuesta Morúa of the Social Democratic Current, indicated that they did not want any such support". In rejecting the grants, Cuesta Morúa was ahead of the curve; within eight years, USAID's public image would become so tarnished that it was removed from Cuba democracy programs. In the meantime, USINT's Chief of Mission, Michael Parmly, was displeased with Cuesta Morúa's independence, labelling him a "regime apologist" in a November 2007 cable.

Sweden's Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt, during the 2006 and 2012 "on-island" foreign policy collapses, is closely aligned to the U.S. This relationship extends far enough to be considered usual. For instance, in February 2007 Randy Scheunemann, the executive director of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq (a Neocon NGO), stated: "We recruited Carl Bildt fall of 2002 that he would push for an intervention in Iraq and the removal of Saddam Hussein." Bildt also shares a friendship with, and has acted as an apologist for Henry Kissinger. It goes without saying that Bildt was "on the board of Rand Corporation and the International Advisory Board of the Council of Foreign Relations."

With such ties in place, when U.S. diplomat Casey Christensen stated: "Carl Bildt will likely have more ability to set the foreign policy agenda than any recent Swedish foreign minister", one wonders where the policy ([PDF link](#)) would originate.

In May 2006, Cuba's election to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), was described as "a great disappointment to us" by the then Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Nicholas Burns. By July, Cuba had become "the most belligerent" of "a number of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and Like-Minded Group (LMG) countries"



criticising the U.S. at the UNHRC's inaugural session. Clearly, the U.S. had need of an ally on the Council.

In March 2007, a USINT cable entitled 'Cuba: Swedes Get Taste of Our World' detailed Bildt's response to the failure of Sweden's Cuba operation.

Firstly, Bildt “mentioned Cuba at the UNHRC as a country of Human Rights concern”. The predictable fallout from this provocation was seen by USINT “as an opportunity to educate Europeans and HRC members that the ugly face the Cuban HRC representative showed to Sweden and others was not an aberration, but rather the essential character of the regime he represents”. Interestingly, Bildt's “opportunity to educate” came just in time (April 2007) to assist the U.S. in “preventing any erosion of support for the EU Common Position on Cuba or for the EU's 2003 Restrictive Measures on Cuba and to discourage EU members from accepting continued Spanish leadership within the EU on the Cuba issue.”

Secondly, “Bildt mentioned [to the press] that Swedish diplomatic pouches were tampered with in Havana” and then complained to the Cuban Foreign Ministry, who said that they “would look into the matter”. The Ministry then denied “any pouch infringement” had taken place and accused “Sweden of launching an anti-Cuba campaign”. Perhaps it was these pouches that “upset the authorities” and caused Ardin to leave Cuba “very fast”, before any accidents could occur?

Michael Parmly ends his cable (which was sent to Commander in Chief Southern Command, Guantánamo Bay Naval Base, National Security Council and the Secretary of State) by stating: “We would hope that in Sweden, some of the better organized groups of Cuban exiles might take the opportunity to come to their adopted country's defence— if they haven't already.”

The exile community Parmly refers to is linked to publications like *Misceláneas de Cuba*, which is widely reported to be funded by USAID (they certainly promote USAID publications) and **counts Bildt and Ardin as contributors**. The links between USINT, Swedish diplomats and *Misceláneas* were [exposed](#) (March 2011) by Carlos Serpa Maceira, a Cuban intelligence agent. The agent's infiltration of USINT is detailed in several WikiLeaks cables.

Within four years of Sweden's 2006 intervention in Cuba, the need to find legally secure servers to host the Afghan War Diary would bring the editor of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, into Bildt's domain— at a time when WikiLeaks was about to publish the Iraq War Logs and Cablegate. Since then, Assange had spent four years “detained without charge, in one form or another”, the circumstances of which Bildt does not have “very much to say” about. And yet, the questions Bildt and others must answer, will last forever.

<http://hazelpress.org/bildt-parmly-usaid/4585475441>

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SvD: 8 juli 2014

## Förvriden sanning i fallet Assange

*Julian Assanges försvarsadvokater försöker nu att få Sveriges häkttningsbeslut hävt. Men om tingsrätten häver häkttnings-beslutet är det ett slag i ansiktet på de målsägande och alla kvinnor som blivit utsatta för sexuellt våld. Det skriver advokat Elisabeth Massi Fritz.*

Julian Assanges nuvarande försvarsadvokater Thomas Olsson och Per E Samuelsson lämnade den 24 juni in en begäran till Stockholms tingsrätt om att häkttningsbeslutet mot Assange ska omprövas och upphävas. De hävdar att häkttningsbeslutet inte fyller någon funktion så länge åklagare -Marianne Ny "vägrar" resa till London och förhöra Assange. Deras begäran strimlades faktamässigt sönder av åklagarna Marianne Ny och Ingrid Isgrens yttrande till tingsrätten i frågan.

I efterföljande intervjuer har uppseendeväckande saker sagts av nämnda försvarsadvokater.

Per E Samuelsson sa till Emanuel Karlsten i P3 att det plågar Assange att "sitta inlåst". Att "den enda effekt det här häkttningsbeslutet har, det är ju att hålla honom instängd i London". Och att åklagaren "inte gör sitt jobb och åker till London".

Thomas Olsson sade till Expressen att Assange "befinner sig i princip under husarrest". Till TV4 sade han att "just nu är det ju inte möjligt" för Assange att komma till Sverige, samt att Assange "inte haft någon möjlighet att komma till Sverige efter det att man utfärdade den här europeiska -arresteringsordern".

Vad säger det om Assange när hans försvarsadvokater måste lämna anmärkningsvärda förklaringar för att hans flykt från rättvisan ska framstå som förklarlig? Varför säga att han sitter inlåst, instängd och i princip under husarrest? Varför säga att han inte kan, och inte har kunnat komma till Sverige? Assange befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London av sin egna fria vilja. Det är ingen som håller honom instängd, inlåst eller i något som kan liknas vid husarrest. Assange har när som helst under -tiden som hans överklagan av arresteringsordern behandlats av engelska domstolar kunnat över-lämna sig till engelsk polis för vidare transport till Sverige.

Det är värt att minnas att Assanges förra svenska försvarsadvokat Björn Hurtig fick en ordentlig smäll på fingrarna i form av en varning från Svenska advokatsamfundet på grund av att han bedömdes vilseleda och vara ett opålitligt vittne av en engelsk domstol som skulle besluta om Assanges överlämning från England till Sverige.

När sanningen inte passar så skyller Assange och hans advokater gärna på åklagare Marianne Ny. En åklagare som, inför samma engelska domstol som Björn Hurtig vilseledde, av försvarsadvokaterna och vittnen framställdes som en mans-hatande radikalfeminist. Marianne Ny har fått -utstå mycket hat och oförtjänt kritik, när hon i själva verket mest förtjänat beröm.

Man kan fråga sig varför Assange i augusti 2010 sökte svenskt uppehållstillstånd, när han nu hävdar att han aldrig skulle sätta sin fot här utan en garanti från Sveriges

regering, helst Carl Bildt personligen, om att han aldrig skulle lämnas ut till USA. Man kan också fråga sig varför han gick in på Ecuadors ambassad i London i juni 2012 för att söka asyl några dagar innan han skulle inställa sig hos engelsk polis för att överlämnas till Sverige när han hävdar att de två sakerna saknar samband?

Assange har sagt att han sitter på ambassaden på grund av sin rädsla för att utlämnas till USA, och att han inte skulle lämna ambassaden ens om hotet om överlämning till Sverige försvann. Man kan därför fråga sig varför hans nuvarande svenska försvarsadvokater säger att en hävd svensk häktning skulle ge Assange "friheten" åter, att han skulle lämna ambassaden? Det kan väl inte vara så att han sitter på ambassaden och gömmer sig från en svensk åklagare och två målsägande?

När det gäller Assanges diplomatiska asyl så har Ecuadors ambassad i London en skyldighet att följa engelsk lag då de befinner sig på engelsk mark. De bör därför snarast överlämna Assange till brittisk polis så att de kan verkställa överlämningsbeslutet som flera engelska domstolar har fastslagit. Att försvarsadvokaterna säger att Assange är en politisk flykting som skulle omfattas av FN:s flykting-konvention kunde omöjligt vara längre ifrån sanningen.

Angående Assange och hans försvarsadvokaters otaliga gånger upprepade begäran om förhör på Ecuadors ambassad i London så är det inte i de målsägandes intresse att åklagaren reser fram och tillbaka till London för att bedriva förhör med en misstänkt som inte behagar följa domslut. Däremot är det i de målsägandes intresse att Assange ställs till svars för sina handlingar på svensk mark.

När man läser rapporteringen om det här fallet så är det lätt att tro att det är Assange som är brotts-offret. När hans försvarsadvokater intervjuas frågar man ofta hur Assange mår där han sitter och gömmer sig från rättvisan. Man uttrycker oro för hans hälsa, och man pratar om hur han dagligen motionerar och använder en sollampa. Stackarn sover ju på damtoaletten, skriver tidningarna. Mycket pengar har samlats in till hans försvar, demonstrationer har hållits, svenska företags hemsidor och svenska myndigheter har attackerats med mera. De måls-ägande har fått utstå mer hot, hat och trakasserier än ni kan föreställa er. Det här är ett fall som många känner starkt för. Framför allt är det många som tycker synd om den misstänkta våldtäktsmannen som gömt sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London i två år. Men de målsägande, de faktiska brottsoffren, är helt bortglömda. Vem bryr sig om två kvinnor när en känd mans rykte står på spel? Vilken kvinna skulle välja att anmäla Julian Assange idag med -facit i hand? Troligen ingen.

Ett hävt häktningsbeslut skulle visa att Julian Assanges försök att undkomma rättvisan fungerade. Att han med hjälp av sina advokater, pr-agenter, kändissupportrar, mycket hängivna fans och ett -litet sydamerikanskt land lyckades få världen att tro att detta handlar om yttrandefrihet, politik, om USA, när det i själva verket handlar om en man med makt som förstör två kvinnors liv, ställer sig över lagen och verkar ha kommit på ett sätt att slippa stå till svars för det.

Det skulle vara ett slag i ansiktet på de målsägande och alla kvinnor som blivit utsatta för sexuellt våld om tingsrätten häver häktningsbeslutet.

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SvD: 2014-07-12

## **Dödläget är ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat**

*Att en åklagare håller en förundersökning öppen i fyra år utan att förhöra den misstänkte strider mot skyndsamhetskravet. Det är ett tungt vägande skäl för att upphäva häktningsbeslutet av Julian Assange, skriver hans advokater i en replik.*

Vår klient Julian Assange har varit häktad i sin frånvaro i nästan fyra år. Han har de två senaste åren vistats på Ecuadors ambassad i London under skydd av politisk asyl. Brittisk polis bevakar byggnaden dygnet runt men kan inte tränga sig in på ambassaden. Vi har gång på gång krävt att åklagaren åker till London och förhör Assange. Åklagaren vägrar.

För att bryta detta dödläge har vi begärt att Stockholms tingsrätt ska upphäva häktningsbeslutet. Detta skulle tvinga åklagaren att tänka i nya banor. Frågan kommer att prövas vid häktningsförhandling onsdagen den 16 juli 2014.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz påstår att allt annat än fortsatt häktning skulle vara "ett slag i ansiktet" på hennes klient "och alla kvinnor som blivit utsatta för sexuellt våld" (Brännpunkt 8/7). Detta är slagordsjuridik på lägsta debattnivå.

**Massi Fritz är dessutom fel ute i målets avgörande bevisfråga: Inget brott alls har begåtts.**

Assange hade i augusti 2010 en kortvarig relation med två svenska kvinnor. Det var fråga om frivilligt sex. Allt annat är honom helt främmande.

Kvinnorna kände inte varandra, men fick kontakt och talade ut. Det slutade med att Fritz klient gick till polisen i sällskap med den andra kvinnan. Men inte för att anmäla Assange för något brott.

Av sms framgår att Fritz klient bara ville få råd om hur hon skulle få Assange att testa sig mot sjukdom. Hon ville inte anklaga Assange för någonting och blev chockad när hon fick veta att Assange anhållits i sin frånvaro.

Sanningen är alltså ingen av de två kvinnorna initialt anklagade Assange för något brott, vilket stämmer väl med Assanges version om frivilligt sex.

Även i övrigt förtjänar Massi Fritz debattartikel stark kritik. Hennes inställning till politisk asyl är minst sagt anmärkningsvärd.

Åtnjutandet av politisk asyl är en grundläggande mänsklig rättighet som räknas upp i FN:s deklaration om de mänskliga rättigheterna (artikel 14). Ecuador hänvisar i sitt beslut om politisk asyl uttryckligen till 1951 års flyktingkonvention (Genevekonventionen).

Man beviljar Assange politisk asyl för att ge honom skydd för utlämning till USA. Det har ingenting med den svenska förundersökningen att göra. Det är bara att läsa innantill i beslutet. Det har Massi Fritz uppenbarligen inte gjort.

Massi Fritz gör också ett mycket grovt misstag när hon helt negligerar hotet från USA:s sida mot Assange för att i stället— totalt felaktigt— påstå att Ecuador ("ett litet sydamerikanskt land") skulle ha hjälpt Assange att "undkomma rättvisan" genom att "få världen att tro att detta handlar om USA."

Låt oss påpeka några grundläggande fakta.

Den 5 april 2010 publicerade Wikileaks videon Collateral Murder, som visar en helikopterattack utförd av amerikanska styrkor mot civila i Irak. Senare samma år publicerades 75.000 hemliga dokument från Pentagon, rörande kriget i Afghanistan (Afghan War Diaries), 400 000 handlingar benämnda (Iraq War Logs) och över 250.000 amerikansk diplomatpost (Cablegate) samt 779 fångjournaler från Guantanamo (The Guantanamo Files).

Av bifogade länk framgår den reaktion som dessa publiceringar medförde hos ledande politiska debattörer och makthavare i USA, se tv-klipp.

Detta visar med all önskvärd tydlighet hur fel Massi Fritz har. Parallellt med den svenska förundersökningen pågår ytterst allvarliga brottsutredningar i USA.

Bradley (numera Chelsea) Manning dömdes den 20 augusti 2013 av en amerikansk militärdomstol till 35 års fängelse, anklagad för att ha läckt över 700.000 dokument till Wikileaks.

Det pågår även en förundersökning mot "founders, owners or managers of Wikileaks". Den bedrivs av åklagarmyndigheten vid Eastern District of Virginia i Alexandria, Virginia och är enligt amerikanska justitiedepartementet aktiv och pågående.

Assange riskerar därmed ett mycket långt fängelsestraff om han utlämnas till USA, minst lika långt som Mannings 35 år.

Det är därför som Ecuador har beviljat Assange politisk asyl.

Mot den bakgrunden framstår Massi Fritz (och åklagarens) krav på att Assange frivilligt ska avstå från att använda sig av sin politiska asyl som fullkomligt orimligt. Julian Assange kommer att använda sin politiska asyl så länge det finns en risk för att han utlämnas till USA för att tillbringa större delen av sitt liv i ett amerikanskt fängelse.

Det i sak mest allvarliga är emellertid att Elisabeth Massi Fritz och åklagaren inte förmår erbjuda någon lösning på det dödläge som målet befinner sig i sedan Ecuador beviljade Assange politisk asyl. Det enda de erbjuder är fortsatt dödläge. Deras krav kan sammanfattas så här: Håll Assange instängd på Ecuadors ambassad i London och hindra honom från att använda sin politiska asyl tills han ger upp och kommer ut frivilligt. Under tiden tänker vi inte göra någonting.

Vi menar att detta är orimligt och ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat. Det strider mot internationellt erkända konventioner och mot svensk rätt.

Fortsatt häktning strider mot behovsprincipen eftersom den aldrig kan uppfylla målet (att tvinga Assange till Sverige); på grund av den politiska asylens har Assange tillstånd att tills vidare uppehålla sig på ambassaden. Storbritannien kan inte tränga sig in och gripa honom.

Istället bevakar Storbritannien ambassaden dygnet runt (till en kostnad som för närvarande uppgår till över 6 miljoner pund). Bevakningen är orsakad av häktningsbeslutet. Utan häktningsbeslut ingen bevakning. Den svenska staten tjänar dock inget på denna bevakning eftersom den inte kan uppfylla målet (tvinga Assange till Sverige). Den har emellertid starkt negativa konsekvenser för Assange eftersom den placerar honom i husarrestliknande förhållanden under oöverskådlig tid.

Häktningsbeslutet strider därför även mot proportionalitetsprincipen då de negativa konsekvenserna för Assange inte står i rimlig proportion till vad staten kan tjäna på fortsatt häktning.

Åklagarens syfte med att begära Assange häktad är (enligt hennes egen utsago) att han ska gripas och överlämnas till Sverige. Detta syfte kan som ovan visats inte längre uppnås, på grund av att Ecuador har beviljat Assange politisk asyl. Åklagarens yrkande att tingsrätten trots detta även fortsättningsvis ska hålla Assange häktad i dennes frånvaro synes endast ha som syfte att sätta press på Assange att avstå från sin politiska asyl. Ett personligt tvångsmedel får inte användas till att sätta press på den misstänkte. Det strider mot ändamålsprincipen.

Assange har varit häktad i sin frånvaro i snart fyra år. Han har ännu inte förhört och delgetts någon misstanke om brott mot Fritz klient. Detta trots att vi gång på gång har framfört att Assange vill bli förhörd och därmed rentvådd från de misstankar som åklagaren riktar mot honom.

Att en åklagare håller en förundersökning öppen i fyra år utan att förhöra den misstänkte strider mot skyndsamhetskravet i RB 23:4 och är ett tungt vägande skäl för att upphäva häktningsbeslutet.

Detta är en del av den juridiska argumentation som ligger till grund för vårt yrkande att Stockholms tingsrätt ska upphäva häktningsbeslutet.

Ett upphävande av häktningsbeslutet skulle givetvis inte innebära att den svenska förundersökningen blev omöjlig att driva vidare. Precis som vi yrkat i snart fyra år kvarstår vårt krav på att förundersökningen kompletteras med Assanges version. Vi och vår klient står till förfogande för ett sådant förhör. Allt åklagaren behöver göra är att kontakta oss.

Tingsrätten måste genom att upphäva häktningsbeslutet tvinga åklagaren att driva förundersökningen framåt på det enda sätt som är möjligt: åk till London och förhör Assange.

THOMAS OLSSON o. PER E SAMUELSON  
*Julian Assanges svenska försvarsadvokater*

\* \* \*

*(English translation)*

## **Stalemate unworthy of Sweden, a nation based on the rule of law**

*That a prosecutor can continue a preliminary investigation for four years and not question the suspect violates the demand for expediency. This is a strong reason to rescind the warrant against Julian Assange, write his lawyers.*

*Per E Samuelson and Thomas Olsson  
Svenska Dagbladet  
2014-07-12*

Our client Julian Assange has been arrested in his absence for almost four years. He's spent the past two years at the Ecuador embassy in London, protected by political asylum. The London police guard the building day and night, but they can't enter the building. We have, time and again, demanded that the prosecutor [Marianne Ny] travel to London to question Assange. She refuses.

We've asked the Stockholm district court to rescind the warrant to break the deadlock. That would force the prosecutor to think differently. The matter will be dealt with in court 16 July.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz claims that anything but continued arrest would be a 'slap in the face' for her client and 'all women who are victims of sexual violence'. This is shabby jurisprudence at the cheapest possible level.

Massi Fritz is wrong in the crucial evidentiary matter of the case: no crime has been committed.

In August 2010, Assange had brief encounters with two Swedish women. Both were a question of consensual sex. Nothing else applies.

The women did not know each other beforehand, but they got in touch afterwards, culminating in Fritz' client going to the police accompanied by the other woman. But they did not go to the police to file complaints against Julian Assange.

The SMS traffic shows that Fritz' client only wanted advice on how to get Assange to take a blood test. She wasn't accusing Assange of anything, and she was shocked when she heard Assange was to be arrested in his absence.

So the truth is that neither of the women wanted to accuse Assange of anything, and that matches Assange's own version of events.

But there are other reasons to level serious criticism at Massi Fritz. Her position on political asylum is, to say the least, extraordinary.

Asylum is a fundamental human right cited in the UN Declaration of Human Rights (article 14). Ecuador expressly referred in their decision to the 1951 Geneva Convention.

Ecuador granted political asylum to Julian Assange in order to protect him from extradition to the US. This has nothing to do with the Swedish preliminary investigation. One need only read the asylum decision oneself. Obviously Massi Fritz hasn't done that.

Massi Fritz also makes a colossal blunder when she completely ignores the threat of the US and instead— completely in error— claims that Ecuador, 'a tiny South American country', tried to help Assange evade justice 'by fooling the world into thinking this is somehow all about the US'.

So let's lay out some fundamental facts.

On 5 April 2010, WikiLeaks released the Collateral Murder video showing a US helicopter attack on Baghdad civilians. Later that same year, they published 75,000 secret documents from the Pentagon concerning the US war in Afghanistan, 400,000 documents concerning the US war in Iraq, and over 250,000 US diplomatic cables, as well as 779 journals from the US base in Guantanamo.

One can see the reaction of the political pundits and powers that be in this video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-DIZvcK6Rc>

The clip shows very clearly how disastrously wrong Massi Fritz is. Alongside the Swedish preliminary investigation, there are very serious investigations going on in the US.

Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning was sentenced 20 August 2013 by a military court to 35 years prison, accused of having leaked over 700,000 documents to WikiLeaks.

There's yet another investigation into the 'founders, owners, or managers of WikiLeaks' being conducted in the Eastern District of Virginia, in Alexandria, and according to the US Department of Justice, the investigation is active and ongoing.

So Assange risks a very long prison sentence if extradited to the US, at least as long as the 35 years of Manning.

And that's why Ecuador granted Assange political asylum.

With that in mind, the demands of Massi Fritz (and the prosecutor [Marianne Ny]) that Assange turn up voluntarily and leave the protection of his political asylum are totally unreasonable. Julian Assange will use his political asylum as long as there's a risk he can be surrendered to the US in order to spend most of the rest of his life behind bars.

But the most damning thing about Elisabeth Massi Fritz and the prosecutor [Marianne Ny] is that they don't even try to resolve the stalemate. All they offer is more and more stalemate. Their demands could be summarised as follows:

Let's keep Assange locked away in the Ecuador embassy in London, let's stop him from using his political asylum, until he gives up and exits the building voluntarily. And in the meantime, what do we do? We do absolutely nothing.

It is our opinion that such a position is unreasonable and unworthy of Sweden as a nation of law. Such a position violates internationally recognised conventions. Such a position violates Swedish law.

Continued arrest violates the principle of necessity in that it can't ever achieve the objective (forcing Assange to Sweden); due to the political asylum, Assange has permission to stay there as long as he wants. Great Britain cannot enter and arrest him.

Great Britain can instead guard the embassy round the clock (at a cost of close to 7 million pounds sterling at time of writing). The embassy is guarded because of the arrest warrant. No warrant, no embassy guard. But Sweden gain nothing by this surveillance because they can't ever achieve their objective (forcing Assange to Sweden). The warrant has, however, serious negative consequences for Assange because it puts him in a situation tantamount to house arrest for the foreseeable future.

The warrant therefore also violates the principle of proportionality as the negative effects for Assange are not in proportion with what Sweden wanted to achieve by continued arrest.

The reason the prosecutor wanted Assange under arrest was— as she herself tells it— to apprehend him and have him brought to Sweden. But as we've seen above, that objective can no longer be achieved: Ecuador granted Assange political asylum. The prosecutor's request that the district court, despite this, keep Assange under arrest in his absence has, as its sole purpose, to pressure Assange into forsaking his political asylum. But personal pressure may not be used to coerce a suspect— that's a violation of the principle of purpose.

Assange has soon been under arrest in his absence for four years. He still hasn't been questioned. He still hasn't been notified of any accusations concerning Fritz' client. This despite the fact that we, time and again, have pointed out that Assange wants to be questioned, wants to clear his name from the accusations the prosecutor has been levelling at him.

That a prosecutor keeps a preliminary investigation open for four years without interrogating the suspect violates the demand for expediency in RB 23:4 and is a strong argument for rescinding the warrant.

The above is part of the judicial arguments which are the basis of our request that the Stockholm district court rescind the warrant.

Rescinding the warrant would of course not mean that the Swedish preliminary investigation would not continue. Just as we've pointed out for almost four years, we will still demand that the investigation be complemented with Assange's version of events. We and our client are available for such a questioning. All the prosecutor has ever had to do is contact us.

The Stockholm district court must, by rescinding the warrant, force the prosecutor to expedite the preliminary investigation in the only way possible: get over to London and question Assange.

THOMAS OLSSON  
PER E SAMUELSON

*Source: Assange in Sweden*

<http://assangeinswedenbook.com/2014/07/12/assange-stalemate-unworthy-of-sweden>

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SvD: 16 juli 2014

## Assange kan klandras, inte svenskt rättsväsende

*Julian Assange vill att allt ska ske på hans villkor, och så fungerar det inte i en rättsstat. Att häva häktningsbeslutet i detta ärende skulle vara ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat, skriver Elisabeth Massi Fritz i en slutreplik.*

Julian Assanges försvarsadvokater Per E Samuelson och Thomas Olsson har fel när de skriver att det enda sättet för åklagaren att driva förundersökningen framåt är att förhöra Assange på Ecuadors Ambassad i London (Brännpunkt 12/7). Det är inte en väg framåt, utan en återvändsgränd.

Assange må vara villig att bli förhörd på ambassaden, men där slutar (också) hans samarbetsvilja. Inget frihetsberövande, ingen rättegång och ingen lagföring kommer att kunna genomföras så länge Assange vägrar att lämna ambassaden. Assange vill att allt ska ske på hans villkor, och så fungerar det inte i en rättsstat. Därför har åklagaren, med all rätt, valt att inte gå Assange och hans försvarsadvokaters "krav" om förhör på Ecuadors Ambassad i London till mötes.

Den 16 juli kommer en ny häktningsförhandling att hållas i Stockholms tingsrätt på Olssons och Samuelsons begäran. Försvarsadvokaterna kommer då att försöka få häktningen hävd, så att Assange kan fly till Ecuador och aldrig behöver stå till svars för de brott han är misstänkt för i Sverige.

Ingen skulle väl dock bli förvånad om Assange, efter att ha ställts inför rätta i England för att ha brutit mot sina borgensvillkor, valde att resa till hemlandet Australien i stället för till Ecuador, förutom Ecuadors regering möjligtvis.

Olsson och Samuelson beskriver Svea hovrätts snart fyra år gamla häktningsbeslut som "ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat". Men den långa häktningstiden kan man faktiskt bara klandra Assange för, då orsaken till tidsramen är hans försök att obstruera rättvisan.

Under tiden som Assange har varit häktad i sin frånvaro har han endast varit frihetsberövad i tio dagar. Detta tack vare diverse välbärgade fans och vänner som betalade hans borgen i England. Pengar som de senare förlorade när Assange tog sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London lagom i tid för att slippa överlämnas till Sverige.

Stor del av Olsson och Samuelsons text ägnas föga förvånande åt att beskriva de "yttest allvarliga" rättsprocesser som de hävdar väntar Assange i USA. Detta trots att nämnda försvarsadvokater representerar Assange i det svenska brottmål som rör de mycket allvarliga brott han är misstänkt för att ha begått här, och inte i ett brottmål i USA. Att hänvisa till en Youtube-video från "The Wikileaks Channel" med diverse klipp från amerikansk tv visar inte alls "med all önskvärd tydlighet" att jag skulle ha fel. Det bevisar snarare att Assanges advokater försöker blanda ihop två saker som helt saknar samband.

Den svenska åklagaren ska inte ta någon hänsyn till att Assange säger sig vara rädd för att ha brutit mot fler än ett lands lagar. Åklagaren ska utreda de brott Assange är

misstänkt för i Sverige, inget annat. Om Assange skulle ha brutit mot amerikansk lag genom sitt arbete med Wikileaks så är det enbart hans bekymmer. Hans handlingar är hans ansvar, hur nobla motiv han än säger sig ha när det gäller Wikileaks arbete. Det har dock absolut ingenting med den svenska förundersökningen att göra, och ger inte Assange något frikort att slippa följa de domslut som kräver hans närvaro i Sverige för att den svenska förundersökningen ska kunna fullföljas.

Olsson och Samuelson skriver att Assange "kommer att använda sin politiska asyl så länge det finns en risk för att han utlämnas till USA för att tillbringa större delen av sitt liv i ett amerikanskt fängelse". Försvarsadvokaterna räknar alltså med fällande dom i en rättegång som inte har ägt rum, och förväntar sig att vi ska acceptera det som ett rimligt argument för att gömma sig från en annan brottsutredning som i allra högsta grad äger rum.

Ett krav för att räknas som en politisk flykting enligt FN:s flyktingkonvention är att riskera förföljelse i sitt hemland, alltså Australien i Assanges fall. Samma Australien som Assange hösten 2013 försökte bli vald till senator i, medan han gömde sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London, och har uttryckt stark vilja att återvända till. Att Assange skulle riskera förföljelse på grund av sin ras, nationalitet, religion, politisk uppfattning, kön, sexuell läggning eller tillhörighet till viss samhällsgrupp i Australien, eller att Australien inte skulle kunna skydda honom från sådan förföljelse är ett absurt påstående.

Storbritanniens utrikesminister William Hague har klargjort att den asyl som Assange säger sig åtnjuta inte är av sådan art att den påverkar eller hindrar en överlämning av Assange från England till Sverige:

"The UK does not accept the principle of diplomatic asylum. It is far from a universally accepted concept: the United Kingdom is not a party to any legal instruments which require us to recognise the grant of diplomatic asylum by a foreign embassy in this country. Moreover, it is well established that, even for those countries which do recognise diplomatic asylum, it should not be used for the purposes of escaping the regular processes of the courts. And in this case that is clearly what is happening."

Olsson och Samuelson tycker att det saknas förslag från vår sida på hur dödläget ska lösas. Då orsaken till dödläget är Assange själv, så är lösningen givetvis att han slutar att obstruera rättvisan. Således att Assange lämnar Ecuadors ambassad i London. Ett annat alternativ är att Ecuador förmår honom att lämna ambassaden då de torde värdera sin relation med Storbritannien och Sverige högre än sin relation med Assange.

Olsson och Samuelson skriver att Assange är "helt främmande" för att de gärningar han är misstänkt för att ha begått skulle vara något annat än "frivilligt sex". Detta trots att polisen, åklagarmyndigheten och flera domstolar har fastslagit att gärningarna, om bevisade, är att betrakta som våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång.

Olsson och Samuelson kommer även med en rad felaktiga påståenden om de målsägande, och deras agerande när polisanmälan upprättades, samt konstaterar utan tillgång till förundersökningen att "inget brott har begåtts". Det är upp till en domstol, inte försvarsadvokaterna, att avgöra om brott har begåtts.

Att målsägande i sexualbrottsmål inte kan lita på att rättsväsendet inklusive advokater respekterar förundersökningssekretessen och inte diskuterar bevisningen i medierna så som Olsson och Samuelson gör i sin artikel är om något inte värdigt Sverige som rä 17 July 2014 Last updated at 03:09 GMTtsstat.

Att häva häktningsbeslutet i detta ärende skulle även det vara ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat. I klartext skulle det innebära att en misstänkt som Assange kan diktera sina egna villkor, hålla sig undan domstolsbeslut och samtidigt hävda att upprätthållandet av ett häktningsbeslut anses strida mot behovs- och proportionalitetsprincipen.

Skulle en domstol acceptera det nämnda är det om något ovärdigt Sverige som rättsstat och det skulle innebära att båda offren inte skulle få sin sak prövad. Det försvarsadvokaterna tycks tro är att förundersökningen kommer att läggas ned så snart Assange är förhörd. Det de inte diskuterar är vad som händer om åklagaren väcker åtal här i Sverige. Hur ska båda målsägandena få sin sak prövad om inte Assange är här på plats? Fanns det inte bevis hade åklagaren redan för länge sedan lagt ned förundersökningen med motiveringen att brott kan ej styrkas.

ELISABETH MASSI FRITZ

advokat och målsägandebiträde för ett av offren

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## **Julian Assange's lawyers will appeal against ruling to uphold arrest warrant**

*Decision by Stockholm judge condemns WikiLeaks founder to remain in Ecuador embassy in London*

David Crouch and Robert Booth

*The Guardian*

16 July 2014

Lawyers for Julian Assange said they would appeal after a Stockholm judge rejected their challenge to the warrant for his arrest, condemning the WikiLeaks founder to remain in the Ecuador embassy in London.

"The court believes there is probable cause for the crimes of which he is accused," judge Lena Egelin said in a statement to the court. "He has chosen himself to go into the embassy and ... the court does not believe that the deprivation of his liberty is such as to be disproportionate" to the allegations, she said.

No charges have been brought against Assange in Sweden but he is wanted for questioning by police over allegations of sexual molestation and rape involving two women he met during a visit to the country in 2010.

Prosecutors have declined to question him in London. Prosecutors Marianne Ny and Ingrid Isgren said on Wednesday that interviewing a suspect abroad was not appropriate in crimes of a sexual nature.

Isgren told the court: "You need to have several interviews, you go back to the suspect and confront him, you go to the scene of the crime. Also we cannot take DNA swabs against the suspect's will." *[Totally irrelevant in this case. --A.B.]*

Assange sought refuge in Ecuador's embassy in Britain in June 2012 after having exhausted all legal options in British courts to avoid being extradited to Sweden. This was the first official legal debate in the case since that time.

"We are confident and have strong legal arguments to get the decision overruled in the court of appeal," Assange lawyer Tholmas Olsson told the Guardian, adding that the **judge's statement was formal and gave no indication of the reasoning behind it.**

"It took two hours today for the judge to rule, so it must have been a difficult decision."

He and his colleague, Per Samuelson, had earlier attempted to break the two-year deadlock in the case by attacking the "passivity" of Swedish prosecutors in refusing to interview the WikiLeaks founder in his London hideout.

Samuelson told the court: "The prosecutor has a duty to break the deadlock. If the mountain won't come to Muhammad then Muhammad must go to the mountain.

Ecuador had granted Assange asylum in good faith and in accordance with international law because of threats to his life, Samuelson said— not so he could avoid justice in Sweden. He played a seven-minute YouTube video to the court in which US politicians called Assange a terrorist and demanded that he be assassinated.

Olsson said: "I have been present when the CIA interviewed suspects in Sweden, so if they can come to Sweden then how can the prosecutor say it is tough to go to London."

Elisabeth Massi Fritz, lawyer for one of the women who brought the accusations against Assange, said: "This was a proper and expected decision by the Stockholm district court. Assange cannot dictate the terms of the Swedish investigation. The only reason that the investigation is not progressing is Assange himself. Sooner or later he will be arrested and brought to Sweden."

Assange has acknowledged that even if the Swedish prosecutors decided to drop the case, it is only one part of the legal battle that keeps him marooned at the embassy. During a conference call in June he told reporters: "I still have the larger problem, which is that of the United States and its pending prosecution, and perhaps extradition warrant."

Frustration at the legal deadlock in the case has seen Swedish legal opinion at a senior level swing against the prosecutor's refusal to travel to interview Assange in London, with Anne Ramberg, head of the Bar Association, calling the impasse a circus.

Sven-Erik Alhem, a former chief prosecutor, this week accused his successor of making "thunderous errors" in the case.

A date for the appeal court hearing is likely to be set next week, Assange's lawyers said.

Outside the Ecuador embassy in Knightsbridge a handful of Assange supporters greeted the decision with disappointment.

"Americans are pulling the strings, so this is no surprise to me," said Lance Rolls, 51, holding a placard which read: 'End the witch hunt. Free Assange'. The Americans want him and that's that. They are all in this together."

Jim Curran, 67, who campaigns against extraditions to the US, said: "The British foreign secretary should make a request to the Swedish foreign secretary for the Swedes to come here and interview him."

Earlier there had been suggestions that Assange might try to leave the embassy if he won the case, but that possibility was played down by his New York-based lawyer, Michael Ratner.

"The fear here was not about Sweden but that Sweden was going to be a place that would extradite him to the US," he said. "Until we can get an assurance from the US government of non-prosecution, leaving the Ecuador embassy would be a very high risk move. The US could say it has no plans to arrest him, but unless it does so, I would not recommend him stepping out of the embassy. There has to be some negotiation with the US before he leaves or the British need to recognise his right to asylum and let him get on a plane to Ecuador."

The possibility that he would be arrested should he leave the embassy, which is directly behind Harrods, was made plain by a Metropolitan police sergeant outside the embassy who said: "He's going to get nicked, if he comes out."

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## **Pressmeddelande**

### **Beslut i fråga om häktning i utevaro / Decision concerning a detention order**

*Stockholms tingsrätt*  
2014-07-16

Stockholms tingsrätt har idag beslutat att den i Wikileaks engagerade JA fortfarande ska vara häktad i sin utevaro. Stockholm City District Court has today concluded that the detention order concerning the man involved in Wikileaks, JA, should remain in force.

JA är sedan den 18 november 2010 häktad i sin utevaro. Häktningsbeslutet har inte kunnat verkställas. Tingsrätten har nu på hans begäran omprövat häktningsbeslutet. Tingsrätten anser att JA fortfarande är på sannolika skäl misstänkt för de brott han sedan tidigare är häktad för i sin utevaro (olaga tvång, sexuellt ofredande och våldtäkt, mindre grovt brott) samt att det fortfarande finns risk att han avviker eller på annat sätt undandrar sig lagföring eller straff.

Tingsrätten har vägt betydelsen av häktningen mot det intrång eller men i övrigt som den leder till för JA och funnit att det fortfarande finns skäl att att han ska vara häktad i sin utevaro. Detta för att försöka säkerställa att utredningen kring misstankarna och en eventuell lagföring ska kunna genomföras.

- Det men och den frihetsinskränkning som ägt rum i Storbritannien är inte så omfattande att det är oproportionerligt att han är fortsatt häktad i sin utevaro. Tingsrätten har inte heller några invändningar mot åklagarnas hantering av målet. Julian Assange har fått politisk asyl och befinner sig på en ambassad. Inte heller detta leder till att det finns skäl att häva beslutet om att han ska vara häktad i sin utevaro, säger domaren i tingsrätten.

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*[English summary]*

In November 2010 a detention order was issued for the arrest of JA in his absence. The order has not been executed. Stockholm City District Court has tried JAs request that the detention order should be revoked.

The Court has decided that there is still probable cause concerning the suspicions directed towards JA (unlawful coercion, sexual molestation and rape, less serious incident) and that there is still a risk that he will fail to appear or in some other way avoid participation in the investigation and the following proceedings.

When the Court has weighed the imposition in JAs rights and the importance of the detention order the Court has decided that there are still reasons for the order to remain in force to attempt to ensure that the legal proceedings will be concluded.

- The imposition in JAs rights that was done in Great Britain is not of such kind that it is not proportional to keep the order in force. Neither does the prosecutors handling of the case nor the fact that Julian Assange has been granted a political asylum and is presently residing in an embassy lead to the conclusion that the order should be revoked, says the presiding judge.

<http://www.stockholmstingsratt.se/Om-Sveriges-Domstolar/Sveriges-Domstolars-pessrum/Nyheter-och-pessmeddelanden/Beslut-i-fraga-om-haktning-i-utevaro--Decision-concering-a-detention-order/>

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AB: 2014-07-16

## Häktningen står kvar mot Assange

– Julian Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad i sin utevaro, säger häktningsdomaren Lena Egelin.

*[Om Marianne Nys presskonferens]*

19:22

Niklas Eriksson:

Nu är presskonferensen slut. Mariannen Ny avslutade med att säga att hon inte vill svara på frågan om Julian Assange någonsin kommer att komma till Sverige och ställas inför rätta.

19:13

Niklas Eriksson:

Assange kan vara häktad i sin frånvaro till augusti nästa år, då brotten preskriberas. Efter fem år det vill säga.

19:10

Niklas Eriksson:

Hon svarar också på frågan om varför de inte kan åtala honom innan de förhör honom: Rättegångsbalken lägger hinder i vägen. Den kräver att vi ger den som är misstänkt en chans att lämna sin version och att den misstänkte delges misstanke i ett förhör och insyn i hela utredningsmaterialet. Därefter kan man gå till åtal.

19:09

Niklas Eriksson:

I nuläget finns det inte skäl att försöka sig på den komplicerade processen att förhöra Assange i London enligt Ny.

19:07

Niklas Eriksson:

Marianne Ny säger att det finns en del åtgärdsåtgärder som skulle kräva upprepade förhör. Något som kanske skulle gå att göra i Storbritannien men att frågan kvarstår: "Hur vi skulle få till stånd en eventuell lagföring"

19:06

Niklas Eriksson:

När det gäller själva brottsutredningen drevs den med stor kraft, framförallt under hösten 2010, men del å åtgärder återstår, en del är oerhört väsentliga, säger Ny

19:04

Niklas Eriksson:

"Vi överväger kontinuerligt hur vi ska handlägga målet och har gott samarbete med våra engelska kollegor kring de här väldigt svåra frågor" säger MArianne Ny som svar på frågan om dagens besked går att tolka som att de inte kommer att överväga andra alternativ för att ta utredningen vidare än att Assange befinner sig i Sverige.

19:03

Niklas Eriksson:

Hon säger också att: Verkställigheten av de engelska domstolarnas beslut om utlämning är en fråga för engelsk polis. Och hur de avser att verkställa och vilka bedömningar de gör, det kan jag inte uttala mig om.

19:02

Niklas Eriksson:

Om dödläget som nu kvarstår där det är osannolikt att Assange kommer att komma till Sverige: Detta ärende är unikt i det här avseende, men jag vill poängtera att domstolen gjorde den bedömningen att JA tagit sin tillflykt till en ambassad inte är ett skäl till att häva häktningen.

18:58

Niklas Eriksson:

Svara på kritiken som riktats mot svenska rättsväsendet: Jag kan konstatera att tingsrätten i dag inte hade några invändningar på det sättet målet handlagts på, säger Marianne Ny

18:56

Niklas Eriksson:

Marianne Ny säger att de har utvärderat den säkrade bevisningen och att den står stark. Och att tingsrätten också bedömer det så, eftersom de beslutat att låta häktningen kvarstå.

18:54

Niklas Eriksson:

**Hon säger också att ett förhör i Storbritannien kräver "frivillighet från Assange".**

18:53

Niklas Eriksson:

"Vi har handlagt målet som om det var en svensk som misstänktes för brott" säger Marianne Ny om varför de valt att utfärda en europeisk arresteringsorder.

18:50

Niklas Eriksson:

Åklagare Ny säger att det varit mycket diskussion kring detta och att systemen inte är kompatibla men att det inte är lika viktigt som att hålla förhör.

18:49

Niklas Eriksson:

Hon svarar nu på frågor om Assange blivit åtalad (charged) i enlighet med brittisk rätt.



18:48

Niklas Eriksson:

Överåklagare Marianne Ny säger att Assange undanhållit sig rättvisan genom att ta sig till Ecuadors ambassad:

– Han behöver vara tillgänglig för förhör i Sverige, säger hon.

18:46

Niklas Eriksson:

Vi har tekniska problem och kan för närvarande inte sända live från presskonferensen men jobbar på att få bild därifrån så snart som möjligt. Aftonbladets reporter på plats Christoffer Malm meddelar att Marianne Ny förklara att de fortfarande anser att det finns skäl för häktning.

18:44

Niklas Eriksson:

Överåklagare Marianne Ny och vice chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren står för presskonferensen.

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## **Eva Golinger: "El caso de Assange es una persecución política"**

*actualidad.rt.com*

*16 jul 2014*

La confirmación este miércoles por un tribunal sueco de la orden internacional de detención de Julian Assange demuestra que "no se trata de una investigación policial, sino una persecución política", opina la abogada y escritora Eva Golinger.

"Hay mucha evidencia de que quienes están detrás de esta persecución política no son suecos, sino más bien estadounidenses", enfatiza Eva Golinger, explicando que la justicia estadounidense ha abierto un caso contra el fundador del portal WikiLeaks y que "están esperando que sea extraditado a su territorio para enjuiciarlo".

Según ella, es "realmente injusto" que las personas que hacen denuncias sobre violaciones cometidas por gobiernos, centros de poder o grupos de poder, experimentan este tipo de persecución.

"Denuncian violaciones de derechos humanos y luego tienen sus propios derechos violados", dice, subrayando que "es una muestra de que el sistema judicial dentro de la democracia estadounidense no funciona de igual manera para todas las personas".

"Algunos son tratados de manera diferente cuando el caso es muy político y cuando ha tocado los intereses más poderosos y más profundos del poder estadounidense", concluye.

Este miércoles un tribunal de distrito de Estocolmo ha confirmado la orden internacional de detención del fundador de WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, expedido por las autoridades de Suecia, donde está siendo investigado por presuntos delitos sexuales que él niega. "La Corte considera que existe cierto riesgo de que Assange pueda huir y,

por tanto, considera que la orden debe permanecer en vigor", comentó la decisión la juez Lena Egelin. La Fiscalía también se expresó en esa misma línea durante la vista del caso.

Por su parte, el canciller de Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, escribió en su cuenta de Twitter que su país "no abandonará su compromiso de salvaguardar los derechos humanos de Julian Assange hasta que llegue a lugar seguro". Asimismo, agregó que "Ecuador quiere cooperar con la justicia sueca: tomen declaración a Julian Assange en la embajada o por videoconferencia, no más dilaciones".



El fundador de WikiLeaks se refugió en la Embajada ecuatoriana en Londres el 19 de junio de 2012 para evitar ser extraditado a Suecia, temiendo que pueda ser entregado a EE.UU., donde podría afrontar pena de muerte por supuesto espionaje y por revelar miles de despachos diplomáticos confidenciales.

Pese a recibir asilo, no puede salir de la embajada, ya que sigue a la espera de que Reino Unido le otorgue un salvoconducto que le permita hacer valer el asilo diplomático otorgado por Ecuador.

<http://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/view/134190-eva-golinger-rt-assange-persecucion-politica>

*[Google translation]*

The confirmation Wednesday by a Swedish court of international arrest warrant for Julian Assange demonstrates that "there is a police investigation, but a political persecution," says lawyer and author Eva Golinger.

"There is much evidence that those behind this political persecution are not Swedish, but rather American" emphasizes Eva Golinger, explaining that American justice has opened a case against the founder of the website WikiLeaks and "are waiting to be extradited its territory to prosecute. "

According to her, is "really unfair" that people who make complaints about violations committed by governments, power centers or power groups, experiencing this kind of persecution.

"Denounce human rights violations and then have their rights violated," he says, stressing that "it is a sign that the judiciary in American democracy does not work the same way for all people."

"Some are treated differently when the case is very political and when touched the strongest and deepest interests of American power," he concludes.

On Wednesday, a district court in Stockholm has confirmed the international arrest warrant for the founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, issued by the Swedish authorities, which is being investigated for alleged sex offenses, which he denies. "The Court considers that there is some risk that Assange might flee and therefore considers that the order should remain in force," said the judge's decision Egelin Lena. The prosecution was also expressed in the same line at the hearing of the case.

For his part, Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Ricardo Patiño, wrote in his Twitter account that his country "will not abandon its commitment to safeguard the human rights of Julian Assange until you reach safety." He added that "Ecuador wants to cooperate with the Swedish justice take Julian Assange statement to the embassy or videoconference, no more delay."

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SvD: 17 juli 2014

### **"Assange, var en riktig man och åk till Sverige!"**

Efter beskedet att Julian Assange ska fortsätta vara häktad uppmanas nu Wikileaksgrundaren i Australien att vara "man nog" att åka till Sverige. I Ecuador skriver medier om att landet fortsätter garantera Assanges mänskliga rättigheter.

Medier runt om i världen vände blickarna mot förhandlingen i Stockholms tingsrätt på onsdagen, som slutade med beskedet att Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange ska fortsätta vara häktad. Amerikanska Wired satte rubriken "Svensk domstol till Julian Assange: Du går ingenstans."

I Assanges hemland Australien rapporterade flera medier om statsåklagaren och senatören George Brandis uttalande.

– Jag tycker att Assange borde vara man nog att möta anklagelserna om att han skulle vara en sexförbrytare, sade Brandis till ABC Radio.

Julian Assange svarade med att anklaga Brandis för att ha stulit kommentaren från USA:s utrikesminister John Kerry, som ska ha sagt samma sak om Edward Snowden, som avslöjade amerikanska underrättelsetjänsten NSA:s övervakning. Wikileaksgrundaren vände sig också mot uttrycket om att vara "man nog", och menade att också kvinnor kan visa mod.

"Statsåklagare Brandis borde sluta plagiera sexistiska publikfriare och börja göra sitt jobb: försvara alla australiensares juridiska rättigheter.", meddelade Assange genom sin australiensiska advokat Greg Barns.

I Ecuador, som gett Julian Assange politisk asyl och på vars ambassad i London Assange befinner sig för att undvika överlämning till Sverige, rapporteras om hur Ecuador lovar att fortsätta skydda Assanges mänskliga rättigheter.

Under rubriken "Ecuador beklagar beslutet om att stå fast vid häktningen" skriver tidningen El Universo om hur Ecuadors utrikesminister Ricardo Patino kallar Stockholms tingsrätts beslut "en dålig nyhet för de mänskliga rättigheterna".

Tidningen refererar också till utrikesministerns Twitterkonto, där Patino lovar att Ecuadors regering inte kommer att bryta löftet att skydda Julian Assanges mänskliga rättigheter tills han kommer till en säker plats.

Processen i Sverige uppmärksammas av de flesta stora medier, till exempel amerikanska CNN och Wall Street Journal samt brittiska BBC och Guardian.

Julian Assange är anklagad för bland annat våldtäkt och sexuellt ofredande, brott som ska ha begåtts i augusti 2010. Efter att Sverige häktat Assange i sin frånvaro och utfärdat en europeisk arresteringsorder för att få honom utlämnad från Storbritannien till Sverige gick ärendet upp till högsta instans i Storbritannien, som beslutade att Assange skulle överlämnas till Sverige.

Innan beslutet hann verkställas gick Assange dock in på Ecuadors ambassad i London, där han nu befunnit sig i över två år för att inte gripas av polis och skickas till Sverige.

Assange hävdar att han är rädd att utlämnas till USA, och där anklagas för brott i samband med Wikileaks verksamhet, om han åker till Sverige.

• *Karin Thurffjell*

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## **Assange responds to Australian AG Brandis call to "man up"**

How nice it is to be an Australian in trouble overseas and have the Australian Attorney General attempt to publicly undermine your legal situation. Just weeks ago, US Secretary of State John Kerry faced serious criticism for saying the same thing—that Edward Snowden should "man up" and face decades of imprisonment in the US.

Anytime AG Brandis would like to take my place in a US prison, I'm sure the Australian public would be delighted. Until then, AG Brandis should stop plagiarising sexist claptrap and start doing his job: defending the legal rights of all Australians.

Finally, as someone who has a professional appreciation for courage, let me remind AG Brandis that that courage is not the sole preserve of men. For instance, WikiLeaks' female staff members, who squared off with a super power over our work and brought Edward Snowden to safety during the largest intelligence man-hunt the world has ever seen, clearly have more genuine courage in their little toes than exists in the entire Abbott cabinet.

[http://www.twitlonger.com/show/n\\_1s2gp6v](http://www.twitlonger.com/show/n_1s2gp6v)

AB: 2014-07-16

## Åklagaren kan bryta dödläget om Assange

*Ledarkrönika / Eva Franchell*

Julian Assange blir kvar på ambassaden. Stockholms tingsrätt meddelade sent i dag att han ska vara fortsatt häktad i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för sexbrott i Sverige.

Tingsrättens beslut kommer att överklagas. Ställningskriget kommer att fortgå och det är bara åklagaren som kan bryta dödläget. Det har gått nästan fyra år sedan Julian Assange besökte Sverige och hade sex med två unga kvinnor. Snart har alla glömt vad som hände.

Kvinnorna måste få sin sak prövad. Åklagaren får nu svälja prestige och åka till London. Om Julian Assange är så paranoid får förhören hållas där.

Det hela började med en film som spreds över världen. Collateral murder, hette den. Mord på civila.

Det var i april 2010 och filmen visade hur besättningen på en amerikansk attackhelikopter sköt mot civila på en gata i Bagdad. Två barn skadades och på filmen hör man hur en soldat kommenterar det: "Well, it's their fault for bringing kids into a battle. De får skylla sig själva som tar med ungar i strid.

Wikileaks spred filmen och grundaren Julian Assange blev en hjälte som avslöjade det smutsiga kriget.

Tusentals dokument spreds via Wikileaks. Läckan avslöjades, soldaten Chelsea Manning greps 2010. Hon dömdes senare i amerikansk krigsrätt till 35 års fängelse för spioneri. Med viss rätta blev Julian Assange allt mer paranoid.

För USA inledde en förundersökning även mot Wikileaks, Assange flög över världen, bodde på hemliga adressen och myten om mannen växte.

I augusti 2010 var han i Sverige, inbjuden av de socialdemokratiska broderskaparna. Det var då han vid olika tillfällen hade sex med två kvinnor. De kom senare i kontakt med varandra och gick till polisen. Kvinnorna undrade om de kunde få Julian Assange att hiv-testa sig.

Den 24 augusti anhölls Julian Assange i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för våldtäkt, sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång. Den 25 augusti hävdades anhållandet och brottsrubriceringen ändrades till ofredande. Den 1 september ändrar åklagaren tillbaka till den grövre misstanken och i november 2010 häktades han i sin frånvaro. Julian Assange hade då för länge sedan lämnat landet. Han var i London.

Åklagaren ville att han ska komma till Sverige för förhör, men Julian Assange vägrade. Han menade att Sverige kunde lämna ut honom till USA. När den brittiska Högsta domstolen beslutade att han ändå kunde lämnas ut till Sverige flydde han till Ecuador ambassad och där är han kvar.

Under de två år han suttit där har världen delats upp i två läger. För eller emot Assange.

Men det finns inget för eller mot. När Julian Assange spred Collateral murder var han en hjälte. Om han sedan begick sexbrott under sitt besök i Sverige, det vet vi fortfarande inte. I den uppskruvade stämningen är det viktigt att komma ihåg att han fortfarande inte är någon dömd våldtäktsman. Han är fortfarande häktad för att åklagaren vill förhöra honom.

Nu är det upp till åklagaren att driva frågan om de misstänkta sexbrotten vidare. Inte ens en mytisk man ska komma undan den svenska rättvisan, vad domsluten än blir.

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## **The famous faces visiting Julian Assange at his embassy lock-in**

*Simon Usborne  
The Independent  
17 July 2014*

The well-known and well-heeled are hardly a rare sight in the red-brick wedge of crescents and squares between the Brompton Road and Sloane Street in London's Knightsbridge, with one-percenters regularly stepping out of their Ferraris into the side doors of Harrod's.

But for the past two years, a building next door to the department store has been the site of a most peculiar parade of celebrities. Pamela Anderson is expected to be the latest famous person to sign the visitors book at the Ecuadorian embassy, where Julian Assange, the quixotic WikiLeaks, has avoided extradition to Sweden since June 2012.

Anderson, of Baywatch fame, will pop in for tea, perhaps, at Assange's specially installed kitchenette, with Vivienne Westwood. Westwood, who knows Anderson through their mutual interest in animal rights activism, has visited before, although, as she says in today's edition of New Statesman magazine, "I haven't been for a bit because I'm so busy. And you can't turn up and just knock on the door."

The fashion designer, like Anderson, is sympathetic to Assange's predicament and is likely to remain so after a Swedish court this week upheld an arrest warrant against him for alleged sexual offences against two women (Assange's lawyers wanted the warrant to be cancelled, and claim the charges are a pretext for handing him over to the US, where he faces possible espionage charges over the leak of classified material in 2010 and 2011).

The unlikely pair will follow in the footsteps of Eric Cantona, another attendant at the strange court of Assange. Footage emerged on Tuesday showing the former footballer engaged in an exercise session with Assange on a treadmill inside his embassy bolthole. Last weekend, the film director Romain Gavras had tweeted a photo of the same scene, in which a sweaty Cantona works out while Assange monitors his efforts. A WikiLeaks spokesman revealed only that they were working on some future

collaboration. The treadmill links Cantona and Assange via Ken Loach, the film director, who donated the machine to Assange soon after his confinement so that he could keep fit.

In 2009, Loach, another visitor to this odd patch of Ecuador in London, made *Looking for Eric*, which starred Cantona. Other visitors from film have included John Cusack as well as Maggie Gyllenhaal, who came with her husband and fellow actor, Peter Sarsgaard.

It would be odd, perhaps, if Yoko Ono hadn't popped in (she has, bringing along her son, Sean Lennon) while John Pilger is perhaps chief among the sympathetic journalists to have had an audience with Assange. Assange struck celebrity gold in October 2012 when MIA, the rapper and loyal supporter, sent a speculative, public tweet to Lady Gaga, who was in London at the time. "If ur at harrods today, come visit Assange at the Ecuador embassy across the st. im there. ill bring TEA and CAKE," she said. The activist's magnetism was such that Gaga duly followed, later sharing an awkward photo of herself alongside Assange. It's not clear what they talked about before Gaga was seen emerging at midnight after five hours inside.

Jemima Khan, once among Assange's most loyal supporters, said last year that she was invited to the embassy for a photo opportunity, but was told Assange was "too busy" to respond to her questions about his legal position [*one of her many falsehoods-- A.B.*]. She is among several former supporters who have expressed feelings of alienation towards him, including journalists, activists and lawyers. Celebrities, meanwhile, have tended either to continue their support, or fade away as Assange lost his "leaking" crown to Edward Snowden.

Westwood is resolute and so, too, is her son, who is planning an event strange even by the new standards of this corner of Knightsbridge. Ben Westwood is also a designer and announced last week that he had recruited Assange to model his latest collection during London Fashion Week in September. "I think it was a marketing thing," Vivienne explained. But marketing for whom?

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## Sweden Violates Assange's Human Rights

*Laughable "Decision" Refuses to Dismiss Assange Warrant & Recognize His Asylum*

*The Real News*  
July 21, 14

PRODUCER: Welcome to The Real News Network. I'm Anton Woronczuk in Baltimore. Now joining us is Michael Ratner. He's the president emeritus of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, and he is also a board member of The Real News.... So, Michael, what have you been working on this week?

RATNER: Well, this week has been an important week and a big week for thinking about how we're going to ultimately get Assange's asylum recognized— that's Julian Assange, who's in the Ecuadorian embassy, and I'm one of his lawyers— and how we can get him out of that embassy and safely into Ecuador....

Which brings us to the current efforts that the Swedish lawyers have made in the Swedish courts to get that warrant dropped in Sweden. We should all understand that even if that effort is ultimately successful, that he will still have a problem walking out of that Embassy as long as the U.S. wants to get their hands on him, because the British very well could and I think likely would arrest him and eventually get him off to the United States.

So here's what the Swedish lawyers filed a little while ago. They filed a case, as I said, in Sweden, and they said first of all the warrant should be dropped, because there was no probable cause to arrest Julian Assange, that the allegations— and I want to repeat: only allegations have been made against Julian Assange. He has not been charged. The allegations don't make out a case under Swedish law. That was ground number one.

Ground number two, which I find to be just remarkable, is considering that this case began almost four years ago in Sweden, that the prosecutor has done nothing to push the case forward in four years. The prosecutor claims that she wants to question Julian Assange, but she refuses, despite repeated efforts by Julian Assange and his lawyers to say, come to London, question us here, question us by Skype, refuses to do that. The lawyers in Sweden assert that that's a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, that it violates Julian Assange's a fundamental right to liberty. What you can't do in the world, you can't do under the European conventions, you can't do even under Swedish law, or at least shouldn't be able to, is just make the allegations and not follow up. But that's what has happened so far. It gives you a great reason to believe that something else is afoot here than the allegations against Julian Assange in Sweden.

The third assertion by the lawyers or the third legal claim is that the warrant for his arrest is unnecessary because it cannot be legally executed. Once you have asylum, you can't go execute a warrant— you can't exercise a warrant. You have to recognize the right to asylum.

And the fourth ground was that Julian Assange has a right to the evidence in his case, particularly certain SMS messages between the two women whose allegations are embodied in the complaint against Julian on those SMS messages. The lawyers for Julian believe indicate that the prosecutors were pursuing their own agenda to push the case forward and not the agenda of the women.

It's interesting. The response of the prosecutor— I won't give all them, but one of the interesting ones and one that to me is really so outrageous: **the prosecutor says she won't go to the embassy to question Julian Assange because [in May we?] have to be in Sweden anyway for trial, so there's no point to questioning him.** That makes no sense. They're questioning him to see if the allegations make out a charge, so they don't know before they question him. But she's assuming that if they question him, they're going to charge. Makes no sense at all, but again shows the bias of the Swedish prosecutor in the case.

The hearing was widely covered, Tweeted, etc. I saw part of it where they actually presented a short piece of video about all of the efforts in the United States against Julian, from the grand jury calling him or vice president calling him a high-tech terrorist, people even on some newscasts calling for his assassination, showing that he's under great, great jeopardy of persecution in the United States.

Despite what I considered a very strong case, **within a few hours of the hearing the judge issued a decision in Sweden. It was so short as to be laughable.** It dealt summarily with what I consider to be serious issues in the case. **No reasoning. No legal basis.** The only good thing I can say about it is that the judge didn't even make



any serious effort to grapple with the issues. And therefore on the appeal I think we expect that Julian Assange will do better and that maybe some relief will be had on the case in Sweden.

Now, I should say that even were the worst to happen, or, you know, the worst in Sweden, that there is an appeal to go into a European Court, and hopefully that will prevail even if we can't in Sweden.

Unfortunately— and really unfortunately— the Swedish decision is par for the course. It's consistent, what has been said about the Swedish judicial system for a number of years, that it's an unfair system, but particularly pretrial, which is the phase Julian is in— actually precharge that Julian is in, that it's particularly unfair, doesn't comply with due process. And in June of this year, 59 human rights organizations and jurist organizations worldwide filed papers with the United Nations with their periodic review of Sweden's compliance with international human rights law, complaining about Julian's case and about generally in Sweden the fact that it really is out of compliance with the European Union law as well as the law in the United Nations.

To go back for a second— well, not really back; to really end this segment— the end, of course: the U.S. is the big bear in the room. As late as April of this year, they said they have an ongoing investigation in both the criminal division and the national security division of WikiLeaks and Julian Assange, and that's really, ultimately, the remedy for Julian Assange is to get enough support to get the bear off his back, or, really, the bear in the room, which is the United States. Despite these incredible efforts of Sweden and the U.K. and the U.S. to put Julian Assange and WikiLeaks out of business, it's good to be able to say that WikiLeaks is surviving— not only surviving, but in many ways flourishing.

So I look forward still at some point, hopefully within the next year, to get Julian out of that embassy and safely ensconced in the country of Ecuador....

[http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=12126](http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=12126)

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## Wrath of the Wiki fugitive

*Lack of sun has given him heart defect... He's not allowed to go to hospital... And 'police burn £240k a month on me!' Indignant and unrepentant, an interview with Julian Assange*

*Sarah Oliver  
Mail On Sunday  
16 August 2014*

When Julian Assange was in solitary confinement in HMP Wandsworth, he was permitted one hour daily of fresh air and proper exercise in the outside world. Since he was granted asylum within the Embassy of Ecuador two years ago yesterday, the WikiLeaks chief has known no such luxury.

One hour is the minimum demanded by the United Nations— after visiting Assange last Monday, I can see the toll exacted by its absence.

His usually pale skin is now almost translucent and on his face it is so puffy it looks as if it is lifting off his naturally sharp cheekbones. He has a chronic cough which the installation of a humidifier to moisten the dry, air-conditioned atmosphere has done little to ease. His eyes have navy pools of shadow beneath them, suggesting that he's shifted from nocturnal to sleep-deprived.

He has grown a snowy beard. 'It's a helpful point of reference for people to acknowledge the passing of time,' he says, grinning.

Assange is, according to a WikiLeaks source, suffering from the potentially life-threatening heart condition arrhythmia and has a chronic lung complaint and dangerously high blood pressure. A severe shortage of Vitamin D, the sunshine vitamin, is impacting on his general health—in the long term, it can trigger asthma and diabetes, weaken bones and increase the risk of dementia.

The Ecuadorians have asked permission to take him to hospital— using a diplomatic car as an ambulance if the need arises— but it's a request the Foreign Office has declined to answer. In the meantime, he works out with a former SAS veteran who acts as his personal trainer and plays football alone in the embassy corridor in an effort to keep flexible.

Compared to the last time I saw him (at Christmas), he does not look well. Today he's wearing smart dark jeans, a favourite black and white flannel shirt and— typically Assange— a pair of socks at least one size too small. He's a restless soul, his feet jiggling and his arms windmilling to make one point or another.

And the point he'd like to make is that he's angry. He's angry about the cost of his exile to his health, to his family and to Britain— £7 million and counting. He doesn't like the words 'self-imposed', believing he had no option in his battle to avoid extradition to the US where he faced up to 35 years in prison for his controversial whistleblowing activities.

'Look,' he says, 'the broader geopolitics is that the world is going crazy. Maybe it's time to think that WikiLeaks is not the main problem here for the West, maybe me and my publishing house are a lesser threat than say the Islamic State in Iraq or, closer to home, paedophiles in Westminster.

'Why are they burning £240,000 a month on me which could be better spent on hospital beds, meals for the needy or teachers' salaries? The Metropolitan Police Service has now spent in excess of £7 million on guarding the embassy, which is a ridiculous waste of taxpayers' money.'

I ask him unambiguously what he'd do if the police were removed from their round-the-clock watch. There is officer one guarding the internal front door of the embassy, one on the steps outside and others strategically positioned nearby. It's difficult to imagine he'd not show British officers a clean pair of heels— although it would have to be some kind of diplomatic flit as the formerly nomadic traveller doesn't have a passport.

‘The British authorities have it. Apparently it’s lost in a drawer somewhere. And it’s not like I can go into the Australian Consulate to get a replacement.’

But he hasn’t answered the question. He demurs for a moment and says: ‘I would want an understanding— formal or informal— that I would be given time to leave the UK before the US puts in an extradition bid. And then I’d go to my children, like any father.’ He is visibly upset.

‘One of my children is trapped in a war zone,’ he says unexpectedly. ‘They live in a country in which the elected government has collapsed and violence has broken out. I cannot go there. As with any parent, my instinct is to protect but I can do nothing.’

‘One of the best things about human beings is that they are adaptable and show strength and configure themselves to cope with bad situations. I can do that, not least because I understand the politics of it all. What I don’t accept is the interference with my family. That is not forgivable. I have managed to protect some of my children, but unfortunately not all of them, from being used, swept up into this situation.’

‘I have not seen my mother for two years, nor my grandmother, who is 87. In the time I have been in the embassy, both my stepfather and my grandfather have died.’

‘I am a man in my early 40s and most people will understand that means playing a supportive role in an extended family, being the person others rely on instead of worrying about. I am being denied that, and by extension so are they.’

‘We miss each other but it’s incredibly difficult to have any kind of relationship with those you love because it puts them in danger of surveillance, of attack. I am extremely protective of them and have done everything possible to avoid their exposure because I cannot have them being used as leverage against me.’

To see Assange now and to read his ‘cypher-punk’ CV— he remains one of most gifted computer hackers of all time— you’d be forgiven for thinking he’s a geek. But he’s not.

He grew up on an all-Australian childhood of crab-hunting, fishing, raft-building and ocean swimming. He loves mountains and forests and it’s clear he feels wrenched from the natural world. ‘I can’t even keep a pot plant alive for long in here,’ he says.

All of which underscores the enormity of the decision he made in June 2012 to seek asylum in the embassy, a status that was granted two years ago this weekend.

The United States wants to prosecute him over WikiLeaks’ 2010 publication of an extraordinary cache of classified documents concerning the Pentagon’s activities in Iraq and Afghanistan and US diplomacy elsewhere in the world. Assange is also the subject of a European Arrest Warrant relating to allegations of a sexual misconduct in Sweden four years ago. No charges have been brought in connection with the allegations— which he has steadfastly denied— but prosecutors wish to question him in Stockholm.

What Assange fears is that he could be extradited to America by either the UK or Sweden and that he risks spending most of the rest of his life in jail. He remains optimistic a diplomatic solution will be achieved by the UK and Ecuador which will

enable him to seek safe passage to a friendly country. He still believes that will be Ecuador itself. 'As a nation they have done the hard yards for me and I know it is a safe place.'

Assange describes life in the embassy as 'sometimes lonely and sometimes peaceful'. But it's a life that still attracts a lot of attention. He regularly receives bomb and death threats by post and email but is also targeted by female fans proposing marriage and romance. 'He puts them all in the bin but he gets offered pretty much everything you could imagine— everything,' said an embassy insider.

His small bedroom, to the rear of the embassy, is his sanctuary. He has a private shower room, use of the tiny galley kitchen which serves the embassy staff and office space which shifts from room to room for security reasons.

It is cluttered with computer equipment, tiny cups of South American coffee and correspondence, including a letter from the Select Committee on Extradition Law asking him for a submission as to whether the UK's extradition system breaches fundamental human rights. 'It'll have to be a written one,' he deadpans.

'I cook for myself most days, ordinary things like lasagne and curry. I roast vegetables and long to be able to make a proper Sunday lunch but the kitchen is not quite big enough. When I am alone, when everyone else has gone home except the guard on the front desk, I practise my football skills up and down the long corridor. I don't have much time but also enjoy watching some TV series.'

His current favourite is *The Honourable Woman* which, with its complex plot centred on politics and national security surveillance, he evidently finds familiar.

Its star, Maggie Gyllenhaal, visited him with her husband Peter Sarsgaard while filming it in London last year, but 'I'm watching it one episode a week on BBC2 like everyone else— there are no perks there'.

*The Honourable Woman* and Series 9 of the counter-terrorism cult thriller *24*, starring Kiefer Sutherland, both reference WikiLeaks' work. 'It's a compliment to us to be considered enough of an element in the world that Fox TV, which makes *24*, would use us as a serious plot device... even if it is about insane anarchist ambition which would lead to Armageddon!'

He's making a joke about the reach of WikiLeaks, which remains an organisation that divides public opinion. It's either a force which holds governments and corporations to account or a publishing house guilty of harming the national security of Western nations.

It's this latter belief which is preventing Assange from being permitted to leave the embassy to receive hospital attention. 'He would come round handcuffed to his hospital bed,' one source told me.

He is represented in his fight to retain his freedom by human rights barrister Amal Alamuddin, who recently became engaged to George Clooney. She spent two-and-a-half hours with him last week but she may have to accept that her fiancé's political

ambitions— there is speculation Clooney will run for the governorship of California and perhaps even the White House— will become incompatible with defending a man considered by some US politicians to be an enemy of America.

When I first met Assange, he was just 100 days into his embassy exile and believed it could be as little as three months until the case in Sweden was dropped, solving at least one of his and his glamorous barrister's problems. But amid the timeless marble and mahogany fittings of his surroundings, almost 700 days have gone by.

Assange is not free to so much as step outside, but he is free to work. 'I remain the CEO of a small multinational publishing house which goes toe to toe with the White House, the Pentagon and the national security services,' he says with pride.

'I said when I got out of prison I had enough anger to last me 100 years and 100 years are not passed yet— but that anger also acts as useful fuel to get work done.'

He has refused to let the difficulties of the past two years derail WikiLeaks' continuing publication of secret and controversial material from around the world. He has also written a book about Google which will be in bookshops next month and is working on another about geopolitics for 2015. A documentary he co-produced this year about human rights abuses in El Salvador was nominated for a prize at the HotDocs International Film Festival.

Assange remains inspired by his work but it's clear he is ailing and that the political and media momentum of those early days which kept his spirits soaring, has faltered. The task he set himself of building a manageable new life in the embassy has achieved a suffocating status quo and diplomacy is deadlocked.

'However,' he reflects, 'my stubbornness is my best and my worst quality. I won't give up.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2726803/Wrath-Wiki-fugitive-Lack-sun-given-heart-defect-Hes-not-allowed-hospital-And-police-burn-240k-month-Indignant-unrepentant-interview-Julian-Assange.html#>

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## **America might be waging a war on whistleblowers, but Julian Assange is still a prisoner of his own ego**

*His refusal to go to Sweden is unacceptable — he is not above the law*

Mike Harris  
The Independent  
18 August 2014

There's one lesson Julian Assange has learnt from his years living in the UK and that is when to time a story. As soon as silly season began with the nation's political class off to Tuscany, Assange makes a public statement on rumours of his health (no doubt planted by what is left of team Assange) and his imminent release from the Ecuadorian embassy where he has remained for the last two years.

Assange lives off publicity and mentions of his name in the press. He will no doubt be sore that another whistleblower, Edward Snowden has shadowed his fame.

There is no realistic prospect whatsoever that Julian Assange will be leaving the Ecuadorian embassy in the next few days. If he leaves he faces arrest for breach of bail by the Metropolitan police in the UK and then, as decided after lengthy and thorough legal proceedings, deportation to Sweden to face questioning over two allegations of rape.

Assange knows this, his friends and supporters know this. There is no other option for Julian to head to Sweden to face investigation for rape. It is a pity that friends of Assange do not tell him this truth. He has no strategy except to attempt to beat the heroic record of Hungarian Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty in his 15 year stay in the American embassy in Budapest.

Yet, there is also another dimension to the Assange saga that his critics fail to acknowledge. If he is found innocent in Sweden (or, after exiting prison) what happens next? Assange allies rightly point to the solitary confinement, degradation and 35 year prison sentence given to Wikileaks' source Chelsea Manning.

President Obama's war on whistleblowers knows no end. Patriot Edward Snowden remains in Putin's Russia, a modern open-air gulag, with no prospect of return. It is too easy to suggest the United States is the only actor in this. Sweden is a signatory to the European Convention of Human Rights (as, incredibly, is Russia), but will the Convention prevent further deportation of Assange to the US? It ought to. Yet Europe has been toothless on the rights of whistleblowers. No EU member state even considered granting asylum to Edward Snowden after veiled US threats. Our continent must do better.

Yet, for all this Assange remains a prisoner of his own ego. He cannot accept that our courts have carefully heard the evidence and accepted he must now go to Sweden for investigation. It is not acceptable for him to say to a democracy that their judges and investigators should travel to London to interview him. He is not above the law. The tragedy is that he behaves as if he is a nineteenth-century superhero, in the mould of Byron or D'Annunzio, beyond good and evil and the moral rules of us mere plebeians. His attitude is an elite attitude, he informs us, the deluded masses of what our rulers do behind closed doors.

A hundred years ago, he would have been the toast of Europe. Now, he cuts a lonely figure. The Ecuadorian embassy his one man Fiume. His fine early work alongside traditional journalists exposing some of the worst misdemeanours of our rulers is now overshadowed by this Embassy farce. Friends of Assange should tell him, it is time to go to Sweden. There is no other way out of this prison.

• *Mike Harris is the Campaign Director of Don't Spy On Us*

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## **This Day in WikiLeaks**

2014-08-21

WikiLeaks lawyer Baltasar Garzón stated that, if Julian Assange's legal team is unsuccessful at the Swedish Appeals Court, they will go onto the Swedish Supreme Court, and then to the United Nations.

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### *Google Translate*

## **Baltasar Garzón says Assange suffers "inhumane treatment" after two years in their situation**

*El Mercurio*

August 22, 2014

Guatemala (EFE) - The Spanish jurist Baltasar Garzón, lawyer of Wikileaks founder, Julian Assange, said in Guatemala that his client suffered "inhuman treatment" after two years of living as a political refugee in Ecuador's embassy in London.

Garzón, who visited the Central American country on Tuesday to participate in a regional forum on economic development, said that during the last two days before travel to Guatemala was reunited with his client, who for two years has not been able to leave the Ecuadorian embassy for fear of being arrested.

"The situation is the same: we are working for the freedom of Julian to be recognized by the Court of Appeal, Stockholm," said Garzon.

"If it is not, we will appeal to the Supreme Court (Sweden) and are also demanding the intervention of the United Nations, denouncing the situation of helplessness in which Assange is," he added. "Objectively, two years in that situation is inhuman treatment," the Spanish lawyer....

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## **Baltasar Garzón dice que Assange sufre "trato inhumano" tras dos años en su situación**

*El Mercurio*

22 de Agosto 2014

Guatemala, (EFE) — El jurista español Baltasar Garzón, abogado del fundador de Wikileaks, Julian Assange, aseguró en Guatemala que su defendido sufre un "trato inhumano" tras dos años de vivir como asilado político en la embajada de Ecuador en Londres.

Garzón, quien visitó el país centroamericano este martes para participar en un foro regional sobre desarrollo económico, indicó que durante los últimos dos días previos a viajar a Guatemala estuvo reunido con su cliente, que desde hace dos años no ha podido salir de la embajada ecuatoriana por temor a ser arrestado.

“La situación es la misma: estamos trabajando para que la libertad de Julian sea reconocida por el Tribunal de Apelación de Estocolmo”, explicó Garzón.

“Si no fuera así, vamos a recurrir al Tribunal Supremo (de Suecia) y estamos demandando también la intervención de las Naciones Unidas, denunciando la situación de indefensión en la que se encuentra Assange”, agregó.

“Objetivamente, dos años en esa situación es un trato inhumano”, agregó el abogado español.

Precisamente este lunes, el fundador de WikiLeaks auguró en una comparecencia en la legación de Ecuador en el Reino Unido su “pronta” salida de la embajada sin precisar cómo ni cuándo.

“Voy a dejar la embajada pronto, pero quizá no por las razones que ofrecen los medios de Murdoch”, explicó Assange, en relación a los rumores difundidos por el canal de televisión británico Sky News, del empresario Rupert Murdoch, que le atribuyen problemas coronarios y de pulmón.

El fundador de Wikileaks, de 43 años y nacido en Australia, se refugió en la embajada de Ecuador en Londres en 2012, tras la concesión de asilo político por parte del Gobierno del presidente ecuatoriano, Rafael Correa.

La organización de Assange divulgó millones de documentos secretos, entre ellos, varios cientos de miles del Pentágono estadounidense.

El director de Wikileaks huyó de Suecia en 2010, donde acababa de solicitar permiso de trabajo y residencia, tras iniciar la Fiscalía de ese país un doble proceso contra él por dos denuncias de violación y abuso sexual.

El 7 de diciembre de ese mismo año se entregó a Scotland Yard en Londres y en 2011 un juez londinense aprobó su extradición a Suecia.

El 19 de junio de 2012, después de que la Justicia británica ratificara la autorización de su extradición, Assange solicitó asilo en la embajada ecuatoriana en Londres, donde permanece desde entonces.

[www.elmercurio.com.ec/444605-baltasar-garzon-dice-que-assange-sufre-trato-inhumano-tras-dos-anos-en-su-situacion/#.U\\_ew6Eje3ea](http://www.elmercurio.com.ec/444605-baltasar-garzon-dice-que-assange-sufre-trato-inhumano-tras-dos-anos-en-su-situacion/#.U_ew6Eje3ea)

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## **A Way Out of the Embassy for Julian Assange?**

*Posted by wiseupwales  
Wise Up Action  
August 18, 2014*

There was a buzz of anticipation all over the news channels and social media Monday morning and, apparently, outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London; it went—loosely— like this:

“Reports suggest that Julian Assange is going to leave the Embassy any time.”

“Looks like he’s going to give himself up to police because of his health problems.”



“No statement yet, but the media are outside in force with some gathered inside for a press conference. Watch this space.”

“Extra police are on duty this morning, ready to move in if required, and a van ready to whisk him away to custody and certain extradition.”

“Suitcases are being brought out of the embassy as we speak.”

The idea that Assange might be about to stroll out the door straight into the clutches of the authorities was sending the media crazy with anticipation— after two long years in the embassy, what a scoop! Think of the pages that could be devoted to describing his downfall! All those smug journos ready to put the knife in and twist, to regurgitate every last detail of Assange’s alleged failings and to point out in no uncertain terms how he’s not like the rest of them, the “proper” journos— the ones, don’t you know, with fat salaries and expense accounts, who carefully pitch their writing to avoid ruffling too many feathers too much or too often, who play by the corporate rules and who not only fail to effectively challenge the things that are wrong themselves, but dismiss and ridicule those who do.

True to form, Esther Addley of the Guardian had already written an article outrageously smearing Assange as an “anti-privacy” campaigner— seriously, did she think she could get away with this?— the paper later having to amend it to “anti-secrecy”. In the Independent meanwhile, Mike Harris came up with this dire piece that predictably fails to examine any of the context of Assange’s situation, glibly telling him to go to Sweden, and also accuses Assange of planting rumours about his health, as if there’s no evidence that lack of fresh air and sunlight over a protracted period is problematic. Harris is clearly going to interpret any public appearance or statement by Assange as evidence of his egotism and he clearly either hasn’t listened to the press conference in full or has failed to take on board its central message. What’s worrying is how many people are going to read this stuff and take it at face value.

The scheduled press conference start time of 9 a.m. came and went but a livestream feed duly appeared of the journos chatting amongst themselves as they waited for the two empty places at the table at the front to be filled. Ten minutes later, just as Julian Assange and Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño arrived and seated themselves, the livestream went down. It took a few minutes to get it back, which is presumably why the version now available starts some way into the Minister’s statement and only those who were actually there will know what he said at the outset....

The bit everyone wanted to hear came at the beginning of the question and answer session, when Assange— looking mischievously over to the WikiLeaks spokesperson Kristinn Hrafnsson— announced that Hrafnsson “can confirm that I AM leaving the embassy soon, but perhaps not for the reasons the Murdoch press and Sky News are saying at the moment.”

What came before that, in the opening statements from both Patiño and Assange, gives the context for this remark.

Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño strongly reaffirmed Ecuador’s support for and commitment to protect Assange as a political asylee and was strongly critical of the impasse that means the situation at the embassy is still unresolved after two years.

He referred to the new extradition arrangements that would now preclude anyone not formally charged from being removed to another country and noted that some of the judges in Assange's case at the Supreme Court had opposed the majority judgment against him on these grounds. He made it clear that he sees this change in the law as an opportunity to re-open discussions with the British government around Assange's case but stressed the need for Britain to be willing to engage with the issue from a political as well as a legal perspective.

Moving onto Sweden's position, Patiño noted the continued failure of Swedish prosecutors to take up the offers of legal cooperation offered by Ecuador, resulting in a complete lack of progress in the legal case and thus denying legal protection and justice to all parties. In his closing remarks, Patiño made a strong plea:

"The situation must come to an end. Two years is simply too long... We once again call on the international community, particularly on journalists, to join a much needed international campaign to guarantee freedom and human rights for Julian Assange."

Julian Assange began by pointing out that in nearly four years during which his freedom of movement has been restricted in various ways, he has not been charged in Sweden or Britain with any offence, nor has there been any public indictment in relation to WikiLeaks' work in the US. While Assange has been denied his basic rights here in Europe, the US has been building a case of unprecedented scale against him and his organisation.

Asserting that "the situation is changing", Assange then outlined how he believed Ecuador's stand on his behalf—the fact that it went ahead and granted asylum despite considerable adverse pressure—paved the way for the change of heart that has resulted in a new extradition law here in Britain, one that has regard for due process and now requires that there are formal charges as a prerequisite before extradition will be considered and before any person is deprived of their liberty.

Assange went on to urge journalists to report responsibly on his case, to note that he has not been charged with any offence, that no women have accused him of rape: "In fact the women in Sweden explicitly deny that they have done that and in the submissions to the Supreme Court of this country, in the agreed statement of facts, the Swedish government admits to that fact."

He also urged them to recognise that "the basis under which my asylum was granted here is the ongoing US investigation into me and WikiLeaks, to acknowledge the size and scope of the investigation led by the US Department of Justice, and that this investigation is directly focusing on WikiLeaks with the express purpose of pursuing a prosecution."

Widespread support has come from a whole range of organisations. Assange referred to 59 legal and human rights bodies that made a formal submission against the Swedish government in June, and to 54 organisations that wrote to the US Attorney General demanding that the investigation by the US Department of Justice into WikiLeaks and Assange should be dropped.

Assange gave a stark warning: “This investigation puts all publishers and all journalists at risk, the obvious truth of which, sadly, most journalists can’t or won’t acknowledge.”

During the question and answer session, Julian Assange and the minister expanded on some of the issues they had touched on in their statements.

Having got the question of whether he was about to surrender to the authorities on account of his poor health [No] out of the way, Assange did when pressed, speak at more length about deprivation of fresh air and sunlight:

“As you can imagine, to be detained in various ways in this country without charge for four years and now in this embassy for two years which has no outside area therefore no sunlight as a result of the obstruction that is presently in place by the United Kingdom at an admitted policing cost of more than £6.5 million, it is an environment in which any healthy person would find themselves soon enough with certain difficulties. The UN minimum standards for prisoners is one hour a day of outside exercise, and even when I was in prison, in Wandsworth in solitary confinement, that was respected.”

In response to a question about the strategy planned to secure Assange’s freedom with particular reference to the role of the international community, Patiño responded: “We are hoping for a reaction soon because Julian Assange has been here for a long time, too long, waiting for safe passage. And we believe that the international community should coordinate its efforts to make sure that Julian Assange’s human rights are respected and international legislation is complied with... They are simply too important matters to leave without a decisive, a large scale and a firm response by the international community and journalists.

“We will be continuing our work to find a friendly and diplomatic solution with the governments directly involved and also the international community and international bodies...

“sOver the coming weeks I will be looking to try to set up a meeting with the UK foreign secretary— we believe the recent reforms do create a better climate for us to reach an agreement.”

Both Patiño and Assange had made reference to extradition reforms in their earlier statements, but the Telegraph was soon wilfully misreporting what had clearly been presented as an improved legal climate in which to continue trying to break the deadlock, smugly announcing in an article entitled Home Office shoots down Julian Assange’s claim about extradition law change that the Home Office had “undermined his key claim by confirming the changes would not apply in the case of Mr Assange... because they are not retrospective.”

As far as “a better climate” goes, the cabinet reshuffle that removed William Hague as Foreign Secretary and replaced him with Philip Hammond must also be seen as having possibilities, the potential for progress where none has been forthcoming to date.

Expanding on the question of strategy and whether safe passage would be pursued as a priority over the extradition question, Assange responded that, "In a situation like this which has many different [players]— the United States is involved, Australia is involved, the United Kingdom is involved, Sweden is involved— and multiple different cases, of course you must pursue all these matters simultaneously."

Assange then went on to make reference to criminal complaints made previously and recently against the illegal activities of the FBI in Europe:

We have filed a criminal complaint against the FBI's activities in Europe on European soil, illegal, illegally done, against me, the paying of bribes... cash bribes in relation to this organisation. We filed similar cases earlier on in the year in Sweden and in Germany in relation to illicit intelligence activities conducted there by the US government into trying to stop or monitor our publications or to bring about a prosecution."

A Swedish journalist noted that the case appears to be completely deadlocked and asked "What can you do to change that?"

Assange responded first, followed by blistering closing remarks from Patiño.

Assange: "It is correct there has been no movement at all in the Swedish investigation that is used as the technical excuse to obstruct for now for more than two years Ecuador's sovereign decision to grant political asylum after formal assessment, a right that all countries have.

"I have for four years asked the Swedish government to come to this country as they do in other investigations... The Ecuadorian government has offered its cooperation at this embassy for any questions the Swedish government wants to pursue. I offered that if the Swedish government would guarantee I would not be extradited to the US, then I would go to Sweden. That was rebuffed. Ecuador made similar requests."

Patiño: "Swedish legislation explicitly provides for the prosecutor being able to take statements outside Swedish territory... They can either do this by video conference or by travelling to another country to take these statements... So it is nothing new, it has been done before and there are legal grounds to do so.

"One of the facts is that Julian Assange's defence has asked the Swedish prosecutors to proceed in this matter. And Ecuador's government has also expressly offered... to facilitate such a request either by setting up a video conference or allowing for the physical presence of the authorities here in our embassy, but the end result is that these requests have not been heeded.

"This is not inconsequential... Both international legislation and Swedish law establish that citizens in general must be entitled to effective legal protection. This is a fundamental principle because it enables people to know that any requested process will take place, so they can have some certainty over their future.

"It is a matter of common sense and also a matter of the person who brings an accusation seeing that accusation being tried. And it is also a matter of the accused knowing if a process will take place, how it will take place; it's about having information about any possible sentence that might be handed down. But none of this is being complied with. The question is for how long.

“For how long is the Swedish judiciary going to allow this situation to continue? 5 yrs? 10 yrs? without even initiating legal proceedings by taking initial statements?”

**“How much injustice can the judiciary inflict?”**

Patiño’s reference to “the person who brings an accusation seeing that accusation being tried” is highly relevant here. As Assange noted in his statement earlier, neither of the alleged victims made the accusation themselves and it was an agreed fact between the parties in the Supreme Court case that they did not. We also know that one of the women refused to sign her statement once she realised that prosecution was being considered.

**So, what we actually we have is a case brought by the Swedish state and also brought to a standstill by the same Swedish state.** The two women may very well want the situation resolved but their views and the views of the accused will be dismissed since it is clearly in the interest of the Swedish state, which interest can only plausibly be in connection with its standing with the United States, to keep the case stalemated while ever Julian Assange remains beyond the clutches of the evil empire.

Assange and Patiño are right: the resolution of this case will be greatly assisted by responsible journalism and by journalists realising that it’s a serious matter—journalistic freedom of expression and indeed all freedom of expression is in jeopardy—that should unite them in comradely solidarity with rather than in snide opposition to Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. From this writer’s Britain-based perspective however, this seems like a vain hope on experience to date. Ultimately, the deadlock will be broken when people stop taking ‘no change’ for an answer: when enough of the international community in all its forms—states, organisations and individuals—insist with enough conviction that common sense, not to mention international law, justice and respect for human rights must prevail. And not just in this instance.

<http://wiseupaction.info/2014/08/19/a-way-out-of-the-embassy-for-julian-assange/>

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**From 007 to Donald Sinden in five easy steps:  
making yourself irrelevant, the Julian Assange way**

*We were once mesmerised by him, but now he’s just a half-forgotten curio*

Matthew Norman  
The Independent  
19 August 2014

Trying to fathom what goes on in the brilliantly analytical but peculiar and paranoid mind of Ecuador’s best known London house-guest seems, in the absence of a crack squad of Zurich’s most skilled psychoanalysts working in shifts around the clock, a futile task.

But from the anecdotal accounts of Julian Assange’s acquaintances, and remembering the photograph taken soon after he emerged from Wandsworth prison in 2010, you’d be safe to have a few bob on a very vivid spy movie fantasy.

Jemima Khan, a supporter in words and funds before she became one of many to fall out irreparably with him, described him as “the new Jason Bourne”. Until the lack of sunlight and fresh air in the garden-less Knightbridge embassy he has occupied since seeking sanctuary there in June of 2010 aged him, he had the look of the angelic-faced, white-haired Illya Kuryakin from *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*

Recalling that snap of a tuxedoed Assange posing outside a press club with a martini, meanwhile, he palpably fancied himself as Australia’s second James Bond (in succession to George Lazenby).

Whatever secret-service icon Assange may have taken for his role model, Monday’s baffling press conference established this much beyond doubt. Not since poor Frank Bruno mistook himself for Frankie Dettori has the gulf between a public figure’s self-perception and the reality been so pronounced.

Exactly why the WikiLeaks demi-god summoned the media to the embassy at all remains, on the surface, a mystery. Nominally, he wished to alert a waiting world—albeit one waiting less impatiently for news of him than was once the case—to his medical problems.

He says he has lung problems and an arrhythmic heart, although the only overt sign of physical damage is the yellowing of his teeth. This appears still to be medically verified, but one assumes he is not trying to pull an Ernest Saunders, and that he is genuinely unwell. Yet no one beyond the Ecuadoreans (who have less than altruistic reasons to want rid of this nuisance) appears to care about his health, or his claim that his human rights are being violated.

Assange further announced that he will escape from his self-imposed captivity “soon”, though how? Colditz-style through an underground tunnel? By jetpack? Cunningly disguised as a diplomatic bag to evade the police stationed outside the building?

The means is as opaque as the matter of where he intends to go. On the obvious grounds of arrest, we can probably rule out Sweden (where those allegations of rape and sexual assault await), and the US, and every other country on the planet other perhaps than Cuba and North Korea.

Assange is not merely a nagging pain in the arse to various nations (though the Americans are now much more interested in Edward Snowden). Far from being a real life George Lazenby, Assange has become a pastiche of the Tom Hanks character in the film *The Terminal*—a pitiful, stateless person trapped in an airless, artificially lit stasis that must feel as if it will never end. As indeed it may not. Ecuador’s Foreign Minister raised the prospect that he could still be rotting away in the embassy 10 years from now.

Worse even than that for a world-ranked narcissist, Assange has become a half-forgotten curio; an almost total irrelevance to a global public that was once mesmerised by him and his saint-or-sinner ambiguity. The agony of that probably explains why he bothered holding such a mystifyingly pointless press conference. All he really wanted to do, you suspect, was remind us that he still exists.

Somewhere buried beneath the oddity of Assange— who in adulthood has replicated his childhood, on the run with a mother who feared she would lose him in a custody battle— and this surreal Ecuadorian stand-off is a human tragedy. A man of serious talents and real courage, whose work had genuine geopolitical impact, is rapidly decaying in a hell of his own construction.

Yet the traditional formula holds: Comedy = Tragedy + Time. In the internet era of withered attention spans, the process is accelerated. After two and a bit years in diplomatic limbo, the dramatic treatment that comes to mind is neither a spy movie nor a remake of *The Terminal*. It is a retrograde, laughter-track'n'catchphrases sitcom based on the premise that Ana Alban, the Ecuadorian ambassador to the Court of St James's, compels Assange to earn his keep by serving as her butler.

The template, as mature readers will have guessed, is *Two's Company*, the 1970s ITV show starring Elaine Stritch as a waspy American thriller writer who hires Donald Sinden— hamming it up to the max, for a change, like an end-of-the-pier Reginald Jeeves— to run her Chelsea home.

It would be quite a comedown from *The Fifth Estate*, the turgid WikiLeaks film, and the only nod to his dream role would be that his insubordination when ordered to mix her a martini would vaguely echo 007's ritual impertinence towards Judi Dench's M. But the Julian Assange of today is a shrunken figure, pitifully and indefinitely marooned in an absurdist situation of interest solely for its comic value, and fit to star in nothing more glamorous than ITV's *Oooh, Yer Excellency*!

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## **Why Are Mainstream "Journalists" Attacking Julian Assange?**

*Lexander Magasine*  
August 2014

If you spend a moment or two searching the news for "Julian Assange," you'll soon notice something very strange: lots of reporters, most of them British, lambasting Assange in a ridiculously bizarre fashion. We don't wish to link to their nausea-inducing gibberish, so if you do care to read such drivel to get a sense of what we're talking about, try Google News.

So, where is all this vitriol coming from, and why now, after all this time? After all, you'd think after 1,353 days of Julian Assange being subject to virtual house arrest and confinement within the Embassy of Ecuador in London— having absolutely no access to any outdoor areas or even able to step one foot outside the building without risking immediate arrest— that reporters and columnists of the mainstream media, those overpaid, underinformed representatives of the Fourth Estate, would have, by now, begun to tame their rhetoric and focus on the facts and what is actually happening, as well as the legal issues involved.

Alas, this is not the case, and in fact, various Rupert Murdoch outlets, such as Sky News and *The Times* went a few insane steps further than the rest (as they so often do), insinuating that Ecuador was tiring of the situation and working through back channels with the UK government to force Assange to surrender to the authorities and

other speculative absurdities. Of course, this was complete and utter tabloid nonsense. And, as an aside, this is a very interesting development in that we've been noticing an increasingly tabloid-style approach to coverage regarding Assange over the past couple of years, and Murdoch outlets have consistently been the worst offenders in this regard.

None of this surprising, however. The vitriol, the tabloid innuendo, the disinformation and smearing—it's all about reducing Julian Assange to a sound bite, an eccentric curiosity that can be marketed as a profitable commodity through various media. This culminated in the release of "The Fifth Estate" earlier this year, which completely bombed at the box office and received mostly negative reviews. Most people aren't buying what they're selling. They've tried discrediting Assange and WikiLeaks, and that didn't work. Before that, they tried ignoring him and keeping WikiLeaks out of the mainstream media as much as possible. That worked for a little while, but by 2010 (WikiLeaks was officially initiated in 2006), it was impossible for any media outlet in the mainstream to ignore WikiLeaks.

These latest salvos are more an attempt to influence how people view Assange, and to shift that view from one of Assange being a journalist and activist to that of Assange being just some guy who was in the news for awhile and is costing UK taxpayers a whole lot of money for no good reason. Essentially, they want people to view Assange as someone who set out to get his fifteen minutes and got it, and now it's time to move on to the next big thing, which in media newspeak is anything that distracts people from the daily realities and issues at hand. And that is precisely what the function of the mainstream media is, to entertain and distract.

Fortunately, most people aren't stupid to buy into this garbage and the more such outlets try to smear and defame Assange, the more people will stop reading and listening to them and permanently switching to alternative media sources. That is why they are so deathly afraid of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks, just as they fear the rapidly rising use of blogs and social media as mediums to relay news firsthand.

The work of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks has inspired countless individuals to listen to their consciences and take action in freeing information and stopping the growth of the surveillance state. For political ghouls like Rupert Murdoch and David Cameron, there is a great danger in any individual losing their fear of the State and who then is willing to report on the injustices, abuses, and crimes of the State. When you have huge masses of such individuals cooperating and communicating with each other all around the world, then there are no limits as to what can and will, inevitably, be accomplished, as has been so massively demonstrated by Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden.

Julian Assange sparked a fire that is only growing stronger with each passing year and no one will ever be able to stop it. The mainstream establishment and institutions of State hate that, because soon, they will have absolutely no secrets left to keep secret. Everything will be open, and no individual or entity will be able to maintain a monopoly over the content and flow of information.

When that happens, the likes of Rupert Murdoch will be out of business and put out to pasture, so to speak.

And that's a very good thing.

[www.lex.guru/why-are-mainstream-media-journalists-attacking-assange/](http://www.lex.guru/why-are-mainstream-media-journalists-attacking-assange/)



## **Julian Assange speaks of 'leaving' Ecuador embassy**

*BBC*

*18 August 2014*

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has suggested he will be leaving London's Ecuadorean embassy "soon". He said he understood from Wikileaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson he would be "leaving the embassy" after two years' refuge but gave no more details.

Mr Hrafnsson later said the plan "as always" was for Mr Assange to depart when the UK "calls off the siege".

"The world is not coming to an end," Mr Hrafnsson told reporters inside the embassy. "The plan, as always, is to leave as soon as the UK government decides to honour its obligations in relation to international agreements."

Mr Assange, 43, faces questioning by prosecutors in Stockholm over claims made by two women in 2010. He denies the allegations and sought refuge in the Ecuadorean embassy in June 2012 shortly after the UK's Supreme Court dismissed his efforts to block his extradition.

Since then police have maintained a round-the-clock presence outside the building, in London's Knightsbridge, at a cost of £6.4m.

Clive Coleman, the BBC's legal correspondent, said that nothing had changed since 2012 and Mr Assange would be arrested and extradited if he left the embassy.

Speaking at the news conference, Mr Assange said: "I understand that Kristinn Hrafnsson has said that he can confirm I am leaving the embassy soon". But he added it was not because he needed medical treatment, as had been reported in some of the UK press.

This was certainly a news conference of mixed messages. Expectations of a news-making announcement were high as a group of a dozen journalists filed into the Ecuadorean embassy.

They were further fuelled by the fact that we were asked to hand over our mobile phones before entering the embassy, something which had not been the case during a similar news conference held in June to mark the two-year anniversary since Julian Assange first sought refuge.

Mr Assange used this occasion to dispel "misinformation" and to make the point that he has never been charged with any offence either here or in Sweden.

But challenged by journalists to confirm or deny rumours he would leave the embassy soon, he gave a cryptic answer, quoting Wikileaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson.

Asked by journalists to clarify his answer, he just said: "I think I've said enough".

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino on the other hand seemed to suggest Mr Assange would be in the embassy for a long time. He asked how long the Swedish judiciary could allow this situation to continue: "Five more years? Ten more years?" and lamented that there had been "no movement" since Mr Assange entered the embassy in June 2012....

Sitting next to Mr Patino at a news conference on Monday, Mr Assange said his health had suffered during his time inside the embassy.

Reports in UK newspapers at the weekend said Mr Assange had developed a heart defect and a chronic lung condition during his confinement.

The Australian said the reasons for him leaving were not those "reported by the Murdoch press" — but did not elaborate further.

Our correspondent added that any argument Mr Assange could not be extradited because of his health was "almost certainly bound to fail" because Sweden has a good healthcare system.

Mr Patino said the Ecuadorean government would attempt to meet Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond to discuss the case. He said changes to the UK's extradition laws had created a better climate for reaching a deal over Mr Assange.

"It is time to free Julian Assange. It is time for his human rights to be finally respected," Mr Patino added.

A UK Foreign Office spokesman called on the Ecuadorean government to help "bring this difficult and costly situation to an end. We remain as committed as ever to reaching a diplomatic solution to this situation.

"We are clear that our laws must be followed and Mr Assange should be extradited to Sweden," the spokesman added.

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## **How unhealthy is two years indoors?**

*BBC*

*18 August 2014*

Julian Assange says he will leave the Ecuadorean Embassy in London "soon". There's been speculation he is suffering from illness, so what is the potential health impact of two years indoors, asks Tom de Castella.

The Wikileaks founder took refuge in the embassy in June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden to face questioning over alleged sex assaults. He faces arrest if he leaves the building.

Assange told a press conference that he had no access to outside areas. Even healthy people would have difficulty living inside for so long, he said. Claiming he would be out "soon", he was vague on when or why.

Media reports have suggested he needs treatment for a range of health problems—arrhythmia, high blood pressure and a chronic cough.

The biggest implication for physical health of being inside for so long is vitamin D deficiency, says Sarah Jarvis, doctor for the BBC's One Show. About 85-90% of people's vitamin D comes from sunshine. Dozens of conditions have been associated with low vitamin D levels, from depression and aches and pains to osteoporosis and heart disease.

Vitamin D tablets don't seem to have much effect, says Simon Griffin, professor of general practice at Cambridge University. A sunbed or UV lamp would work but over two years this would be inadvisable—they are linked with melanoma, a form of skin cancer. And Assange has already spoken of a "boiled lobster" moment from a sunlamp.

It's unlikely two years inside would damage the body greatly if someone took action to make sure they were getting some daylight, exercise and eating a healthy diet, says Griffin. Air conditioning is unlikely to harm Assange. The most likely harm would be a flattening of mood, Griffin says. Sunlight makes people feel happier. There is a balcony at the embassy—Assange has occasionally addressed supporters from it. Even just exposing face and forearms to the sun regularly would help avoid feeling down, Griffin says.

One thing that's impossible to gauge is Assange's mental state. Maintaining it is all about how you perceive your situation, says clinical psychologist Linda Blair. When he first arrived Assange had evaded capture. He might have felt euphoric. But two years on, he is still there. "It's about an attitude really. It makes us very aggressive when we are denied our freedom."

Some prisoners of war have managed to play games and celebrate the fact they are still alive in terrible conditions, Blair says. "You don't have to feel trapped. Feeling you have control is critical."

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## **Julian Assange plans to leave Ecuadorian embassy a free man after changes to UK laws**

*Philip Dorling  
Sydney Morning Herald  
August 19, 2014*

Julian Assange plans to walk out of Ecuador's embassy a free man, avoiding arrest and extradition to Sweden to face questioning about sexual assault and rape allegations.

In an exclusive interview with Fairfax Media, Mr Assange said he anticipated legal reforms in Britain would facilitate a resolution of his circumstances and end the prospect of his extradition to Sweden.

The WikiLeaks publisher flummoxed the international media on Monday by telling reporters in London that he will “soon” be leaving his refuge in Ecuador’s London embassy, but not elaborating on how long “soon” might be or the circumstances in which he will end his diplomatic asylum.

“I can confirm I am leaving the Ecuadorian embassy soon,” Mr Assange said at a joint press conference with Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino.

Mr Assange’s remarks were preceded by a flood of speculation by international media and on Twitter that health problems were about to force him to surrender to British police.

Mr Assange acknowledged that his health had “deteriorated” during two years of confinement in Ecuador’s embassy, but said that his eventual departure would be “not for the reason you might think” — an apparent reference to media reports that he has developed a significant heart ailment.

In a subsequent interview with Fairfax Media, however, Mr Assange clarified his remarks by referring to what he described as “a range of important legal developments in the United Kingdom,” especially the British government’s decision to opt out of the European Arrest Warrant system under which Sweden sought his extradition to be questioned about sexual assault and rape allegations first raised in August 2010.

Mr Assange was granted political asylum by Ecuador in June 2012 on the grounds that he is at risk of extradition to the United States to face conspiracy or other charges arising from the leaking of hundreds of thousands of secret US military and diplomatic documents by US soldier Chelsea Manning. British police are on guard outside the embassy 24 hours a day, waiting to arrest Mr Assange so he can be extradited to Sweden.

Mr Assange’s lawyers have advised that his extradition to Sweden could facilitate his extradition to the US. The British and Swedish governments have declined to provide assurances that Mr Assange would not be extradited to the US. The Australian government has indicated that it will not make any representations on Mr Assange’s behalf.

At the joint press conference Mr Assange again called on the US government to end its ongoing investigation of WikiLeaks and himself.

Mr Patino said Mr Assange’s confinement had gone on too long. “The situation must come to an end, two years is too long. It is time to free Julian Assange, time to respect his human rights,” Mr Patino said.

Speaking to Fairfax Media, Mr Assange said he believed that British legal reform and debate in the British Parliament showed that “the mood is shifting, there is now an

understanding that what I have been saying about the injustice of arrest and extradition without charge was right all along".

Mr Assange also noted that Mr Patino had indicated his intention to arrange an early meeting with his new British counterpart, Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, to reopen discussions on Mr Assange's circumstances.

Asked by Fairfax Media whether he expected to leave the embassy in months rather than years, Mr Assange said "there have been many significant developments that are likely to result in a much faster resolution."

Mr Assange highlighted support he has received from human rights groups in Europe and the US and pointed out that Human Rights Watch had called on the US to stop its investigation of him.

Despite Mr Assange's confinement in Ecuador's embassy, WikiLeaks has continued to publish leaked documents including, over the past year, secret draft treaty texts from the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership and Trade in Services Agreement negotiations, as well as a secret suppression order relating to references to south-east Asian politicians and others in a major criminal trial in Victoria's Supreme Court.

[www.smh.com.au/world/julian-assange-plans-to-leave-ecuadorian-embassy-a-free-man-after-changes-to-uk-laws-20140818-105kqu.html](http://www.smh.com.au/world/julian-assange-plans-to-leave-ecuadorian-embassy-a-free-man-after-changes-to-uk-laws-20140818-105kqu.html)

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### **Julian Assange has had human rights violated, says Ecuador foreign minister**

*Ricardo Patino says British government has no will to find a solution to stalemate that has confined WikiLeaks founder to London's Ecuadorean embassy for more than two years*

*Esther Addley  
The Guardian  
17 August 2014*

Ecuador's foreign minister has accused the British government of having no real interest in finding a diplomatic solution to the confinement of Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder who has spent more than two years in the country's embassy in London.

Ricardo Patino told the Guardian that he believes that the UK is violating Assange's human rights by refusing to allow him to leave the building without fear of arrest.

"I do not think there is a will [in Britain] to find a solution," Patino said, acknowledging that without a political or legal breakthrough Assange could spend years living in a handful of tiny rooms at the country's small west London embassy.

"The British government hasn't taken any steps in that direction. We have made proposals, we have submitted documents, and all we have seen on the part of the British government is an increase in security to make sure Julian Assange does not leave the embassy, but there has been no political will or any steps taken towards a diplomatic solution to this.

"Everyone around the world knows that the rights of Julian Assange have been violated."

The foreign minister's comments followed reports on Sunday sourced to WikiLeaks insiders that suggested Assange is suffering from a potentially life-threatening heart condition, has a chronic lung condition and dangerously high blood pressure.

The anonymous comments appeared in a Mail on Sunday interview with Assange in which he made no explicit mention of his health, saying only "I can't even keep a pot plant alive for long in here."

Ecuador has asked Britain to allow Assange, in the event of a medical emergency, to be taken to hospital in a diplomatic car without risk of arrest, but the request was refused, said Patino.

In an interview with the Guardian conducted in London at the residence of the Ecuadorean ambassador Juan Falconi Puig, the foreign minister said he was not at liberty to discuss Assange's health, "but if you ask a doctor what happens to someone who has been locked in a place for two years who has not been allowed to get some fresh air... obviously this will have a physical and psychological impact which we will have to see."

In a separate article written for the Guardian on Monday, Patino writes: "We are concerned about the consequences of an eventual medical emergency without access to hospital facilities or care. The United Kingdom and Sweden should consider whether they are willing to assume such consequences." Patino met the then foreign minister William Hague in June last year, after which the two governments agreed, according to a Foreign Office statement at the time, to "establish a working group to find a diplomatic solution to the issue of Julian Assange".

**But Patino said that "different interpretations of the decisions we had taken with William Hague" had led to the group never being established.** Rather than being frustrated, the foreign minister said he was "disappointed that countries that [claim] to defend freedom, speak up for human rights, who have taken part in many wars and invasions alleging that the reason in freedom and human rights, in this case, when you are talking [about] the freedom of expression of one person, they do the opposite." He would not have time to meet the foreign secretary, Philip Hammond, on this trip, having come to meet Assange and his advisers.

Ecuador has said it may seek to prosecute the UK in the international court of justice, the United Nations court of arbitration between states, if Britain does not agree to grant Assange safe passage to Ecuador, something the foreign minister said was still being considered. "There are international legal instruments which have the agreement of both Ecuador and the British government as well as the Swedish government which would allow the government of Ecuador to take legal action," he said.

The Foreign Office said in a statement: "We remain as committed as ever to reaching a diplomatic solution to this situation. We are clear that our laws must be followed and Mr Assange should be extradited to Sweden. As ever we look to Ecuador to help bring this difficult, and costly, residence to an end."

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## **Julian Assange's Life Was in 'Mortal Danger': Rafael Correa**

*Telesur*

*24 August 2014*

WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, has lived for more than two years in Ecuador's embassy on London.

Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa said on Saturday that he decided to grant political asylum to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange on 2012 because his life was in risk.

During his weekly report, Correa said that Assange "didn't have the basic guarantees for a fair trial. His life was in danger."

Assange has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since June 19th, when he was granted political asylum in the embassy. Assange's political asylum caused a diplomatic crisis between the UK and Ecuador.

Assange was accused of rape in Sweden, but he said that it was just a political play to extradite him to the U.S., where he could have received the death penalty.

"There was the threat that the U.S. judged him under the anti terrorist law, which can lead to death penalty" said Correa.

Last Monday, Ecuador's Foreign Minister, Ricardo Patino, reassured that Assange's would continue to receive asylum, and said that Ecuador is willing to find a solution for this problem along with British and Swedish governments.

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Julian-Assanges-Life-Was-in-Mortal-Danger-Rafael-Correa-20140824-0008.html>

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## **Murdering Language In the Name of the Law**

*Nordic News Network*

*12 September 2014*

The head of the Swedish Bar Association has noted that her country's legal definition of rape "extends to acts which, in normal language usage, would not be called rape, and includes behaviour which has nothing at all to do with threats or violence".

As one consequence, WikiLeaks' editor Julian Assange has been stigmatized throughout the world with a violent crime he has not committed. That is the result of a linguistic folly which was incorporated into Swedish law in 2005...

Read more at: <http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/murder.pdf>

## Julian Assange lawyers lodge appeal against Swedish ruling

*Prosecutors accused of gross breach of law by not travelling to UK to interview WikiLeaks founder in Ecuadorian embassy*

David Crouch  
The Guardian  
12 September 2014

Swedish lawyers for Julian Assange have argued that prosecutors are in "gross breach of Swedish law", as they lodged an appeal in a fresh attempt to break the deadlock that has seen the WikiLeaks founder begin his third year living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

"Julian Assange has been kept under house arrest for two years with no medical treatment, no sunshine, no family, no nothing, and this harm should be taken into account when applying Swedish law," Per Samuelsson, a lawyer for Assange in Stockholm, told the Guardian.

In July, a Stockholm judge ruled that Sweden's prosecutor had sufficient cause to continue to pursue the arrest of Assange in order to question him about the crimes of which he is suspected. On Friday, his lawyers lodged their anticipated appeal against this ruling.

No charges have yet been brought against Assange in Sweden, because he has not been interrogated by police regarding the allegations brought by the second of the two women. The prosecutor insists Assange come to Sweden for questioning over the allegations of sexual molestation and rape [not really — see foregoing item, "Murdering Language..." --A.B.] involving the women whom he met during a visit to the country in 2010.

"We have analysed the decision of the district court and deepened our legal arguments on those points where we think the court is wrong," Samuelsson said.

The lawyers argue that there is a "collision of norms" between Ecuador's decision to grant Assange asylum and Sweden's move to issue an arrest warrant. Neither can be implemented, creating a deadlock.

"Because this can go on for several years, it does the Swedish state no good at all, but harms Julian Assange severely," Samuelsson said.

A spokesperson for Sweden's chief prosecutor, Marianne Ny, said she had not yet received the appeal so could not comment on it. But, the spokesperson added, Ny remained of the view that "Julian Assange has chosen to evade the criminal justice system by seeking asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy... he should make himself available for interview and, if needed, trial for the offences to which he is suspected of in Sweden."



Assange's lawyers argue that Sweden's prosecutor "is in gross breach of Swedish law" by not travelling to London to interrogate Assange.

"This is harming both of the women [plaintiffs], destroys the value of oral evidence, keeps evidence secret from the defence, and makes it impossible for Julian Assange to explain to the prosecutor and to Sweden that he is innocent, because he is forbidden to add his version to the preliminary investigation," Samuelsson said.

The case will now go to the court of appeal. A judge is likely to decide next week whether to hold an oral hearing or to rule on the case based only on the documents available, according to a spokesperson for Stockholm district court.

Oral hearings are rare, but Assange's lawyers said it would be wrong for the judge to deny their request because documents regarding an "important piece of evidence"—text messages sent by the plaintiffs in August 2010—are being withheld by the prosecution and can only be read out to the judge in open court.

The lawyers have also objected over the district court's refusal to take into account the time that has passed since Assange entered the Ecuadorian embassy in June 2012, which the court said he chose to do himself.

At a fevered press conference last month, Assange said cryptically that he intended to leave the embassy soon. But his Swedish lawyers said it would be wrong to see that remark as being connected to the appeal.

"As soon as his right to asylum is respected, Julian Assange will leave the embassy, but he does not have any plans to waive that right," Thomas Olsson, Assange's second lawyer in Stockholm, said.

Sweden is in the final days of a closely fought general election campaign in which feminist demands have had a high profile on the left and the right. A change of government is likely after Sunday's poll.

Samuelson hinted that the decision to file the appeal on Friday may have been connected to the election. "It is not a coincidence," he said.

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## **Assange Appeal (Main Document)**

September 15, 2014

To: Svea Court of Appeals

APPEAL

Appellant

Julian Assange, 1971-07-03

Arrested in his absence

Ecuador's embassy in London  
Flat 3B, 3 Hans Crescent  
SW1X 0NT London  
United Kingdom

Counsel and defenders

Attorney Thomas Olsson  
Fria Advokater KB  
Box 127 06  
112 94 Stockholm

Attorney Per E Samuelson  
Law firm Samuelson, Schönmeyr & Wall HB  
Box 127 04  
112 94 Stockholm

Prosecutors

Chief prosecutor Marianne Ny and vice chief prosecutor Ingrid Isgren  
Development Centre Gothenburg, and  
Southern prosecutors office Stockholm

Appealed decision

Decision announced by Stockholm District Court, dept. 1, 2014-07-16 in B 12885-10

The case

Request to rescind arrest in absence

\* \* \*

As counsel for Julian Assange we hereby appeal the cited decision and put forth the following.

MOTION

Assange moves that the appeals court rescind the decision of the district court that Assange should be arrested in his absence.

Assange also moves that the appeals court conduct oral hearings. It is difficult to convey all our arguments in written form. The detention hearing in the district court took over three hours. The defence would also like to cite a number of SMS messages obtained from the telephones of the complainants, which were brought by the prosecutor to the district court. Inasmuch as the prosecutor did not want to give us copies of these messages, either to the defence or to the court itself, then they must be once again brought to the court. It is also our intention to show the same film as was shown in the district court, see below in chapter 7, a film which i.a. shows the US attitude to Assange and shows that there is an ongoing investigation against him in the US.

Should the appeals court not grant our wishes for an oral hearing, then we reserve the right to further complement our written documents.

## REASON FOR APPEAL

Julian Assange disputes that there is probable cause for the suspicions and disputes the special reasons for detention.

Julian Assange also maintains that the preliminary investigation has not been conducted with the effectiveness and urgency which can be demanded, and that what can be won by maintaining the detention order is not in proportion to the harm and damage the decision causes.

As support for his position, Julian Assange refers to the circumstances and reasons put forth in his appendices to the district court on 24 June 2014 and on 14 July 2014, appendices 39 and 51.

As regards the suspicion of lesser rape, according to chapter 6, § 1, paragraph 2 of the criminal code, it is also put forth that the investigation does not contain circumstances which constitute a criminal act, this for the reasons cited in appendix 1.

In addition: we wish, in light of the decision of the district court, to especially point out the following.

## GENERAL CRITICISM OF THE DISTRICT COURT DECISION

The district court found that the restrictions imposed on Julian Assange for the time the arrest order was deliberated, that is from 7 December 2010 until 14 June 2012, have been intrusive, but not so comprehensive that the arrest decision was disproportionate.

Regarding the circumstances after 19 June 2012 when Julian Assange has resided at the Ecuador embassy in London, the district court did not feel they should be taken into account when assessing proportionality.

According to the defence, this is an incorrect judgement.

The conditions under which Assange lives inside the embassy actually constitute a deprivation of liberty according to the praxis of the European Court. (See the European Court decision 25 June 1996 in *Amuur v France* [case 17/1995/523/609], the European Court's decision 6 November 1980 in *Guzzardi v Italien* [1980 series A number 39] and the European Court's decision 9 April 2013 in *Abdi v Great Britain* [application 27770/08].)

Even if the conditions after 19 July 2012 cannot constitute a formal deprivation of liberty, the circumstances should nevertheless be heeded. The principle of need and proportionality is applicable both for deprivation of liberty and for execution of deprivation of liberty (see G Lindberg, *Straffprocessuella tvångsmedel*, 3rd edition, p 32). This means that even harm and damage not caused by a measure must be taken into consideration.

**Nor has the district court observed in the decision that Julian Assange is exercising a fundamental human right to political asylum by remaining at the Ecuador embassy.**

The defence is also of the opinion that the district court should have noted that the suspicions of crime, as the actual documents were described by the prosecutor, are not of sufficient relevance to the investigation that they can motivate the patently intrusive actions which have been imposed on Julian Assange.

The district court also found that the failure of the prosecutor to conduct an interrogation with Julian Assange in London was not in violation of the requirement for effective investigation. It seems as if the district court in its decision has not observed the fact that the prosecutor has been completely passive for the longest time. Instead the court referred to highly generic statements about Julian Assange being needed in Sweden during the investigation, and for a trial, and possibly for sentencing. **No further explanation as to why this must be done in Sweden was given.**

It is the opinion of the defence that the demand for a speedy and effective investigation trumps both practical issues regarding interrogations and the desire to have Julian Assange present for a possible trial. This is seen from law praxis from both the Supreme Court and the European Court, something which is laid out in previous documents.

Thus it's been the duty of the district court to judge whether the possibility of conducting interrogations in London has been duly tested by the prosecutor, and if this is something that can in fact be carried out, and, should this be the case, what alternative methods of investigation are available. In the event there are no further alternative investigative methods, it has been the duty of the prosecutor to conduct the interrogation in London; her passivity in this regard must be seen to be in violation of the requirement for a speedy and efficient investigation.

This general criticism of the decision of the district court is explained in further detail in the following section.

## SUMMARY OF REASONS TO RESCIND ARREST DECISION

A summary of the reasons the detention decision should be immediately rescinded:

The failure of the prosecutor to conduct an interrogation with Julian Assange has continued for nearly four years. Assange has repeatedly asked to be interrogated. The actions of the prosecutor are in violation of the principles of consideration, urgency, and effectiveness, and they cause Assange, the complainants, and the state great harm.

The detention decision causes Assange intrusion and harm which are not in proportion to the interests of the investigation and what the state can achieve through a continued detention.

For the time 7 December 2010— 14 June 2012, Assange was deprived of liberty for 12 days and afterwards impeded by ankle bracelet, a daily duty to report, and a duty to at nighttime be indoors and at a specific location.

Starting on 19 June 2012 and until further notice, Assange is forced, due to the attempts to execute the detention decision, to live in conditions similar to house arrest at the Ecuador embassy in London. The Swedish state achieves nothing by this, as the detention decision can no longer be executed. As pointed out above, the conditions of Assange's life constitute a deprivation of liberty in accordance with international praxis, whereby it should be particularly noted that this situation has existed for in excess of two years and can continue for several years more.

The principle of need connotes that one must stop using coercive measures (that is, rescind the warrant) if it's shown to not lead to the desired results, as is the case here.

Continued detention violates the principle of goals because the only effect is to pressure Assange to abandon his political asylum.

Because of the arrest in absence, Assange cannot exercise his political asylum, but is instead forced to remain inside the embassy, which constitutes a deprivation of liberty according to international law. Assange can currently use his political asylum only inside the embassy. Assange has only availed himself of a right which is his. The right's effective consideration presumes that he is not, as regards the detention issue, harmed by a disadvantage to his decision to exercise his political asylum, as would be the case if this decision of his were given the significance of a judgement based on the validity of continued detention.

#### THE PROSECUTOR'S FAILURE TO INTERROGATE ASSANGE IN LONDON

Nothing is stopping the prosecutor from interrogating Assange, and that's been the case since 2010. Assange is of course detained in his absence. But it is widely known that since 19 June 2012 has been residing at the Ecuador embassy in London.

Since the autumn of 2010, Assange himself has in numerous ways tried to arrange an interrogation.

This failure of the prosecutor violates applicable law and in itself weighs heavily as a reason to rescind the detention.

This is the background:

The prosecutor has given five allegations of crime in the appendices. Since the Svea Court of Appeals found no probable cause for one of these five points (point 4 in appendix 12) there are but four remaining allegations.

Assange has only been served suspicion and been interrogated with regard to one of these four, point 2 in appendix 12. This took place on 30 August 2010 when Assange appeared voluntarily for interrogation in Sweden.

Assange has not been questioned or served criminal suspicion as regards the remaining points in appendix 12.

A person under suspicion has the right to be served all suspicions and to be questioned as soon as possible. In this way, suspects are given the opportunity to be exonerated by adding their own viewpoints in the matter to the investigation.

That the interrogation has not yet taken place, despite almost four years passing, is solely the doing of the prosecutor.

Assange remained in Sweden after the first interrogation 30 August 2010 in order to sort out the matter once and for all.

But the time passed and no interrogation was forthcoming. Assange had several vital commitments abroad which could not be postponed indefinitely. It was for this reason that his attorney at the time, Björn Hurtig, wrote to the prosecutor on 14 September 2010: 'Julian Assange has urgent business in other countries. I therefore ask if there is any objection to him leaving the country for a short time.'

Prosecutor Marianne Ny rang the following day to attorney Hurtig and told him that there was no such objection to Assange leaving the country, and that interrogation with Assange was not planned for the moment.

Attorney Hurtig passed on the information to Assange.

Assange traveled to Berlin in the afternoon of 27 September 2010 to partake in a business event that had long been planned. He had further commitments in London on 30 September.

Attorney Hurtig was not in touch with Assange from 15 to 27 September 2010. That Assange could only be sporadically contacted by his attorney was because he, under constant threat by the US, was very cautious about his movements, and could only on rare occasions use his mobile phone. This matter has been explained in further detail in our other written statements to the district court.

Assange was therefore not aware that the prosecutor, on 21 September 2010 and on the days immediately afterwards, had contacted Hurtig to try to arrange an interrogation with Assange for 28 September 2010.

Assange departed from Sweden in good faith. The last he'd heard was that there was no objection to him leaving the country and that an interrogation was currently not planned.

As soon as Assange understood that the prosecutor had changed her mind about interrogating Assange, after first giving him the go-ahead to leave, he renewed his efforts to arrange for an interrogation.

**On 30 September, attorney Hurtig reported that Assange was ready to return to Sweden. Hurtig suggested an interrogation on either 10 or 14 October 2010. But interrogation in Sweden didn't happen for various reasons; see our second written statement to the district court.**

Hurtig rang Marianne Ny on 8 October and offered to have Assange interrogated by telephone. He also suggested interrogation by video link at this time.

Marianne Ny rejected these suggestions on 15 November: 'As regards interrogation via telephone or videolink, it is my judgement, as I've said previously, that that would be inappropriate, as this concerns suspicion of a serious crime.'

Once the prosecutor had issued the arrest warrant, Assange reported to the police in Great Britain on 7 December 2010. As explained in our first written statement, the deprivation of liberty 7 December 2010 – 14 June 2012 prevented Assange from traveling to Sweden. The defence had instead asked for interrogation in London with Mutual Legal Assistance.

Even this proposal was rejected by the prosecutor, inter alia in an SMS message 11 February 2011: 'Because of technical investigatory issues, an application for Mutual Legal Assistance for questioning in England cannot be considered.'

Assange has been at the Ecuador embassy in London since the summer of 2012 when he applied for and was granted political asylum in Ecuador.

Assange has even in this period, on repeated occasions, put forth his demand that the investigation move forward (or be closed) by means of interrogations in London.

As an example of such a demand, an email message from 24 July 2012 is attached, appendix 2, as well as protocols from a meeting with the prosecutors on 7 May 2013, appendices 3-4.

Ecuador has also on numerous occasions made clear that the embassy in London is ready to assist in carrying out interrogations.

**In summary, Assange has:**

Reported voluntarily for questioning 30 August 2010

Kept himself available for questioning in Sweden until 27 September 2010

Left Sweden 27 September 2010 in good faith that no interrogations with him were planned

Offered to return to Sweden for questioning in October 2010

Offered to be interrogated via telephone or video link October/November 2010 or by written statement

Offered interrogation in London via Mutual Legal Assistance for the time he was deprived of liberty because of the European Arrest Warrant (7 December 2010 – 14 June 2012)

Offered interrogation in London via Mutual Legal Assistance after applying for and being granted political asylum (19 June 2012 until further notice)

The prosecutor has systematically refused to consider Assange's requests.

From the reply sent to the district court (attachment 42) it is shown (p 4 paragraphs 3-4) that the prosecutor's reasons for not conducting interrogation with Assange in London are that he still has to come to Sweden 'for a trial to be held and possibly for a sentence to be meted out'.

**That it can be difficult to have a trial is not an acceptable reason for discontinuing work with a preliminary investigation.**

The behaviour of the prosecutor violates the demand for urgency and the principle of consideration, both of which are established in the our national code. From the preliminary investigation decree § 5 **it is established that interrogations must expressly be held at a time and place considered to incur the least possible harm for the person interrogated.** See further what we've put forth in our first written statement under the header 'Urgency' with its citations of praxis and doctrine.

**Nowhere in our country's legal framework is it said that a prosecutor has the right to suspend an active preliminary investigation, which otherwise can be completed, using the motivation that 'we have to be able to hold a trial and possibly mete out a sentence'.**

The prosecutor has instead the duty to always move the investigation forward, and as quickly and as effectively as as possible, in every possible situation. The prosecutor has a duty to adapt to situations as they arise in the case.

This prosecutor's actions cause Assange, his family, the complainants, and the public (in both Great Britain and Sweden) great harm.

**If the prosecutor had conducted an interrogation with Assange in London, the preliminary investigation would have ended long ago.**

The 23:18 service would have taken place; **the defence would have then gained access to the complete preliminary investigation,**s and had the opportunity to add with their own views, and been able to request additional information. And a decision would have been made regarding prosecution.

One must also consider the possibility that details might arise in the interrogation with Assange that would lead to the investigation being closed. By not questioning Assange, the prosecutor is disallowing that possibility. For should the preliminary investigation have been closed, the matter would have been over and done with long ago, and Assange would today be a free man.

**Should there have been a prosecution, the responsibility for managing the case would have passed from the prosecutor to the district court, and the work with conducting the main hearing would have already begun.**

A significant part of Assange's oral evidence is his own version of events. But the value of oral statements as evidence deteriorates dramatically over time. The behaviour of the prosecutor **has meant that Assange's own version of significant portions of the sequence of events has not been available to the investigation for almost four years. This dramatically hurts his chances for a fair trial, particularly if one recalls that the complainants have been interrogated five times each, and in close proximity to the time of the events in question.**



By deliberately suspending work with the preliminary investigation, the prosecutor has seriously damaged Assange's chances of exonerating himself.

Because of the prosecutor's failure to complete the preliminary investigation, no 23:18 service has taken place. Significant parts of the preliminary investigation are thus kept secret for Assange. Inter alia can be mentioned the extensive SMS traffic and the numerous interrogations with the complainants. It's first when the 23:18 service takes place that we obtain a full overview of the evidence in the case. Should we discover a need to conduct further investigations, the passing of time will have seriously damaged the value of new evidence.

Further: Assange is forced to live in uncertainty of whether there will be a prosecution. The same applies to the complainants. The position of the prosecutor means this uncertainty has continued for nearly four years, and this harms Assange and is detrimental to his private and professional life. The same must reasonably hold for the complainants as well.

Even the public interest in seeing the preliminary investigation lead to a speedy and correct resolution is affected negatively by the prosecutor's failure to complete the preliminary investigation (see Gunnel Lindberg's comments till RB 23:4 in Karnov, note 678). Even Great Britain is harmed by the failure of this prosecutor—the cost of guarding the embassy now exceeds GBP 7 million.

Given this background, the actions of the prosecutor are wrong.

Assange is critical of how the district court seems to have accepted the behaviour of the prosecutor in spite of this. The district court stated (p 7 final paragraph): 'The district court does not find that what's emerged regarding the prosecutor's handling of the issue of the execution of an interrogation in Sweden or in Great Britain, or the handling otherwise, leads to the judgement that the arrest in absence shall be rescinded.'

The district court should have ruled that that prosecutor's actions are unacceptable and in violation of Swedish law.

The prosecutor's failure to conduct interrogations with Assange in London is in itself a sufficiently strong reason to rescind the arrest warrant.

**If the warrant is rescinded, the prosecutor can no longer excuse her passivity by claiming she is waiting for the warrant to be executed.** Rescinding the warrant would thereby force the prosecutor to complete her preliminary investigation by conducting interrogations with Assange in London.

## LEGAL OBSTACLES TO EXECUTION

### Introduction

There's been a stalemate in the case for over two years, caused by a conflict of norms between Ecuador's decision to grant political asylum and the Swedish arrest in absence. Neither of these decisions can be executed. The following applies:

Assange has applied for and been granted political asylum in Ecuador. British authorities cannot force their way into the embassy. The decision for arrest in

absence can therefore not be executed. Instead, one keeps the embassy surrounded 24/7. Because of this siege, the decision for political asylum cannot be executed either. Because of this siege, Assange is prevented from full use of his political asylum. He can only exercise it by remaining inside the embassy.

The prosecutor has explained that it is not her intention to resume the preliminary investigation until Assange has been surrendered to Sweden. Assange at his end has stated that he must remain inside the embassy until the threat of extradition to the US vanishes. The stalemate can continue for several years.

The question is how this stalemate is to be treated in judging the matter of continued arrest in absence.

The defence hold that Assange, when he visited Ecuador's embassy, was using only a fundamental right to apply for asylum, that Ecuador granted him asylum in accordance with an internationally binding standard, and the fact that Assange is forced to remain inside the embassy in conjunction with the principle of inviolability, constitute a legal obstacle to execution.

The defence claim further that Assange's application for, Ecuador's granting of, and Assange's decision to, forced by external circumstance, exercise his asylum by remaining inside the embassy constitute a deprivation of liberty or in any case an exploitation of a right, which shall not be held against him when judging whether the management of the investigation meets the requirement for effectivity and speed (see NJA 2011 p 518 paragraph 29).

### **Decision of the district court**

The conclusions of the district court in this matter are clearly wrong in several ways.

The district court did not, as regards the principle of proportionality, consider the time Julian Assange has spent at Ecuador's embassy in London (decision p 6 paragraph 3): 'That he chose to remain in the Ecuador embassy in Great Britain is, in the judgement of the district court, not to be seen as deprivation of liberty, and shall therefore not be seen as a notable consequence of the decision to arrest him in his absence.'

One cannot (as the district court did) say that Assange 'chose' to remain at the embassy. He has to stay at the embassy, despite the dire situation this leaves him in, because to leave the embassy would mean he abandoned his right to political asylum. To leave the embassy would expose him to a real risk of being surrendered to the US (from Great Britain or Sweden or other country) and in the US to meet with the same fate as Manning who was sentenced to 35 years prison for being an alleged WikiLeaks source. There is an investigation underway in the US against Assange, more about this below. To stay in or leave the embassy is therefore not a free 'choice' for Assange. It is not the role of the Swedish justice system to force Assange to abandon his right to exercise his asylum.

Even in the case where one sees Assange's decision to remain in the embassy as a 'choice' by him, the decision of the district court is wrong.

First: it's not only 'deprivation of liberty' that's to be considered when judging proportionality. What's to be considered, according to RB 24:1 is instead 'the intrusion or other harm' which the measures mean for the suspect.

Second: the principle of proportionality is applicable even at the execution phase, something the district court doesn't seem to have understood, see section 3 above.

Third: the fact that Assange has so far only been able to exercise his asylum inside the embassy is not to be seen to his detriment in the matter of detention. Compare to the words of the district court: 'That he chose to remain in Ecuador's embassy...' with the statement of the Supreme Court in NJA 2011 p 518 paragraph 29.

A correct analysis of Julian Assange's residence at Ecuador's embassy is instead the following.

### **Obstacle to execution**

British authorities may not, because of the principle of inviolability (article 22 Vienna Convention) force their way into the embassy. The decision on arrest in absence can therefore not be executed, as Ecuador granted Assange political asylum and Assange has chosen to use his right.

**One must especially note that it is not Julian Assange himself who has ruled on political asylum, but the country of Ecuador.** One cannot therefore compare Assange's situation with a situation where someone goes to his country's own embassy to avoid execution of a detention decision. In the latter case, it's the person who exploits a situation which already exists. But in our case, the situation is such that Assange would not have been able to remain at the embassy if Ecuador had not granted him political asylum. Thus it's the decision of the country of Ecuador which gives him a haven, and not something he's done himself.

That the situation given in the last paragraph (going to one's own embassy to avoid execution) is to be regarded as a legal obstacle to execution can be seen by the doctrine G. Lindberg, *Straffprocessuella tvångsmedel*, 3rd edition. p 151 & p 787.

The conclusion is that Ecuador's decision to grant asylum and the fact that Assange has been forced to exercise his right to asylum at the Ecuador embassy, in conjunction with the principle of inviolability, a legal obstacle to execution.

### **Decision on asylum**

From excerpts from Ecuador's decision to grant Julian Assange political asylum, appendix 5, it emerges that the decision is based, inter alia, on the 1951 Refugee Convention. The same holds for the attached letter from 15 July 2014 from Ecuador's embassy in Stockholm to the undersigned, appendix 6. From the decision and the letter it is additionally clear that Ecuador granted Assange protection against surrender to the US. Finally, it is clear from the decision that the judgement was in accordance with the guidelines in article 1 A (2) of the Geneva Convention.

Ecuador, Great Britain, and Sweden have all ratified the Refugee Convention.

From common international principles thereby follows:

It is up to each member state (Ecuador) to itself decide whether an application for political asylum meets the criteria.

**Other member states (Sweden and Great Britain) have the responsibility to accept a decision on political asylum announced by another member state.** The decision may only be questioned if it should later appear that the applicant has submitted fraudulent information or if the applicant's status as a refugee changes according to the rules of the convention.

To interpret the circumstances in any other way, or to appraise the risk for persecution in any other way, is not sufficient grounds for questioning a decision on political asylum.

Neither Sweden nor Great Britain have in this case questioned the judgement of Ecuador, a matter that would in such case have been referred to the International Court, see article 38 of the Geneva Convention.

It is also clearly established that there is a tangible threat against Assange.

On 5 April 2010, WikiLeaks published the Collateral Murder video which shows a helicopter attack carried out by US forces against civilians in Iraq. Later that same year, they published 75,000 secret documents from the Pentagon regarding the war in Afghanistan (Afghan War Diaries), 400,000 documents called the Iraq War Logs, and over 250,000 US diplomatic cables (Cablegate). In 2011 they published 779 prisoner dossiers from Guantanamo (Guantanamo Files).

The reaction in the US can be seen at the following YouTube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-DIZvcK6Rc>

This video was shown at the district court hearing.

Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning was sentenced on 20 August 2013 by a US military court to 35 years prison, accused to having leaked over 700,000 documents to WikiLeaks.

There is even an investigation of the 'founders, owners or managers of WikiLeaks'. That this is the case can be seen from the attached certificate issued by Assange's US attorney Michael Ratner, appendix 7.

Assange thereby risks a long prison sentence if he is surrendered to the US, at least as long as Manning's 35 years.

This is why Ecuador granted Assange political asylum, and why Assange was forced to use his asylum, albeit only inside the embassy.

this in mind, it is established that both the granting and the exercise of the political asylum are serious. The intention is not— neither from Ecuador nor Assange— to avoid or to contribute to avoiding execution in Sweden, but to protect Assange against the much more serious investigation being carried out in the US.

## Asylum is a right

The same holds for Assange's forced decision to exercise his political asylum inside the embassy. This is a legitimate action, a fundamental human right, found in the UN Declaration of Human Rights, article 14, paragraph 1.

Even in article 18 of the EU charter of fundamental freedoms and rights there is a guarantee of the right to asylum. It refers to the Geneva Convention of 1951 and the supplement protocol from 1967. The regulation in article 18 of the EU charter overrules domestic Swedish law. From this it follows that Swedish law may not be applied in such a way as to conflict with article 18, and that laws concerning EU law must be interpreted according to article 18. Inasmuch as article 18 refers to the Geneva Convention and the supplement protocol, even the definition of the concept of refugee in article 1 A (2) is applicable. To attempt to get someone surrendered to Sweden through execution of a detention decision, when the person has been granted political asylum in another state precisely because of the risks of being persecuted, inter alia if that person is surrendered to Sweden (and when Swedish authorities have chosen to not guarantee that Sweden would not surrender Assange to the US) then this can hardly meet the requirements for respect for the international standard cited above.

In summary, we can say that Julian Assange, when he visited Ecuador's embassy, was only exercising a fundamental human right to apply for asylum, that Ecuador granted him asylum in accordance with a binding standard of international law, and the fact that Assange has been forced to exercise his right to asylum inside the embassy in accordance with the principle of inviolability all constitute a legal obstacle to execution.

Further: the application for, the granting of, and the decision to use political asylum all constitute a fundamental human right and may therefore not be seen as detrimental to Assange when judging if the investigation meets the requirements for effectiveness and urgency (see NJA 2011 p 518 paragraph 29).

**That Great Britain has not been able to sort out its inter-state relations with Ecuador even as they support Sweden in the attempts to execute the detention decision is not a circumstance that can be cited by the Swedish prosecution authority to preserve the exceptionally drawn-out execution.**

Exercising political asylum is thus not a means of avoiding execution, but a way to protect oneself with refugee status against persecution, by using a human right. And this should not be held against Assange in the current detention issue.

That Assange exercises his political asylum as long as there is a threat of surrender to the US shall, in summary, be seen as the use of a fundamental human right which cannot be held against Assange in the current detention issue, NJA 2011 p 518 paragraph 29.

## Consequences of the obstacles to execution

The attempts to execute the arrest in absence force Julian Assange to remain in a very small living area 24/7, without the possibility of ever being outdoors, and thereby limit his right to travel and move freely. His contact with his children and other members of

his family, and relatives and friends, is made impossible or seriously limited. He does not obtain adequate medical care.

This constitutes without a doubt an 'intrusion or other form of harm', caused by the decision for arrest in absence, which naturally must observe the principle of proportionality in the execution phase. As pointed out above, Assange's current living conditions meet the criteria for deprivation of liberty according to international praxis.

The conclusion of the district court in this matter is clearly wrong.

A correct judgement of proportionality is instead that one, in addition to the intrusion and harm one caused Assange for the time 7 December 2010 to 14 June 2012, must even heed the conditions, similar to house arrest, under which he has lived since 19 June 2012.

**Sweden has nothing to win by letting this continue, because the decision cannot be executed. But maintaining the decision causes Assange great personal suffering. One must in addition observe the limited significance from an investigatory point of view,** see above in section 3.

When assessing proportionality, one must in addition especially note that no solution is in sight.

The stalemate can continue for several years. The statute of limitations for the claim of [less aggravated] rape is ten years. The ongoing investigation in the US can go on even longer.

The judgement of proportionality must, with particular respect for the fact that no solution is in sight and that the current stalemate cannot provide the state any benefit but does in fact harm Assange, connote that the detention decision must be rescinded.

Rescinding the detention decision for arrest in absence would force the prosecutor to do what Assange has asked for nearly four years: continue the investigation by conducting an interrogation with him in London.

That there's a stalemate in the case with no solution in sight carries consequences in addition to the proportionality judgement.

It namely follows, from the principles of need and goals, that one must rescind a detention decision which cannot be executed, the effect of which is only to pressure the suspect to voluntarily abandon a fundamental human right.

**The conclusion of the district court in this matter is, surprisingly enough, completely unmotivated** (p 6 final paragraph): 'A surrender does not seem possible at this time because Julian Assange, as far as is known, is inside an embassy, but the court does not find that this is sufficient reason to rescind the decision that he be arrested in his absence.'

But this viewpoint of the district court is not only unmotivated, it also happens to be wrong. The obstacles to execution described above must also be applied in the matter of the principles of needs and goals.

The principle of need means that, *inter alia*, the means of coercion must produce the desired results. An intrusion must cease if it is shown to not produce results. **The coercion must be both necessary to achieve the desired effect and really lead to this happening. Further, one must stop using coercion if it's shown to not lead to the desired results** (Bylund, Tvångsmedel I, Gothenburg 1993, p 58 and Ekelöf, Bylund and Edelstam, Rättgång, 3rd brochure, 6th edition p 29).

**The principles of need and proportionality can intersect.** One can say that the principles are closely related in such a way that a decision on coercion which violates the principle of need will normally also be in conflict with the principle of proportionality (Prop. 1988/89:124 p 26; Lindberg aa, p 25 and p 31).

**The case has had a legal obstacle to execution for two years. By all accounts, this obstacle will remain for several years more.** From the principle of need follows thereby that one must stop using the coercion (ie rescind the warrant) because it has been shown to not lead to the desired results.

A decision for detention must also meet the principle of goals. The meaning of this principle is that a coercive measure may only be used for the purpose for which it is given in the law (prop. 1988/89:124 p 27). To use a coercive measure for another purpose than what is given is not permitted.

SOU 1977:50 states (p 80) that the special conditions for detention shall be applied restrictively: 'Detention shall not be used to achieve an objective which lacks relevance to the risks of flight, collusion, or recidivism, even if a detention might in other ways prove beneficial, by for example easing and hastening the preliminary investigation and the hearings in court or by encouraging a suspect to admit guilt.'

The purpose of detaining Assange in his absence is, according to the prosecutor, so he may be apprehended and brought to Sweden for legal process.

But that goal cannot, as has been shown above, be achieved any longer.

**The prosecutor's claim that Assange, despite this, should remain arrested in his absence has as its sole consequence the pressure put on Assange to voluntarily abandon his political asylum.** A personal coercive measure may not be used to pressure a suspect into voluntarily abandoning a fundamental human right. That Assange was forced to exercise his political asylum shall not, as noted above, be held against him, NJA 2011 p 518 paragraph 29. This applies even if one chooses to see things as if Assange himself chose to opt for asylum.

And so it follows, even from the principles of need and goals, that the detention decision must be rescinded, whereby it should be particularly noted that the stalemate can be expected to continue for several years.

#### TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH

Assange has not been given English translations of the detention decision or the prosecutor's written reply. He's had to finance this himself, and that's not the way it's

supposed to work. He therefore requests that all court and other documents in the future be translated into English and sent to us for forwarding to our client.

Stockholm 12 September 2014

Thomas Olsson

#### APPENDICES

Probable cause

Email 24 July 2012

Prosecutor's protocol from meeting 7 May 2013

Defence protocol from meeting 7 May 2013

Excerpts from Ecuador's decision 16 Aug. 2012 to grant Assange political asylum

Letter 15 July 2014 from Ecuador's embassy in Stockholm

to Thomas Olsson and Per E Samuelson

Affidavit from Michael Ratner

#### SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH MARIANNE NY 6 MAY 2013

LOCATION: Development Centre, Kungsbron 21, Stockholm

DATE: 7 May 2013

TIME: 16:40— 17:30

#### PARTICIPANTS:

Marianne Ny and Ingrid Isgren, Thomas Olsson and Per E Samuelson

MN began: Long time no contact. Wants to know how we see the situation and to introduce IS. Erika Lejnefors has a leave of absence (union representative for JUSEK). Due to information in the media in Australia, MN wants to make clear that she has not left the investigation. No news. She wants to know what we think about the situation. Nothing has happened since December 2011. Some things have been written in the MSM. That's the situation.

TO and PES put forth the proposal that one travels to Ecuador's embassy and interrogates JA.

MN: sees no practical possibilities to move the investigation forward through Mutual Legal Assistance.

Long discussion about the practical difficulties of conducting an interrogation.

MN: one interrogation isn't enough. We want to introduce new materials. Several interrogations with investigative measures between them are necessary.

MN: We have assessed the state of the investigation continually. It's not a consideration to close the case on the grounds that it cannot be shown no crime has been committed. Prosecution is a realistic possibility. There may be parts of the case that will be closed.



**MN: There are no remaining measures in the investigation remaining, only to interrogate JA.**

Long discussion that MN cannot know if and in such case what remains before she's interrogated JA.

PES and TO demanded to be given continuous access to written materials in the investigation. In particular we demanded to get Sofia's SMS messages in printed form and the contents of Anna Ardin's mobile phone as well as all other printed materials that we have not yet been given.

MN: There are reasons to not share any more materials with us. Therefore no continuous access will occur.

TO: So what's your proposal?

MN: Is it true that JA still doesn't want to come? Is he prepared to come here? If we conduct an interrogation and then go to prosecution, will he come then?

TO and PES clarified that JA is not trying to evade a trial in Sweden and that we otherwise for now do not have a mandate to present such positions.

TO and PES asked MN: How do you view the situation?

MN: for now there are no alternatives. I wanted to know if you had anything new to add?

PES and TO repeatedly asked MN about her views on the stalemate.

MS [???]: Only travels to London 'if it resolves the situation'.

A long discussion erupts as to what that statement meant. MN went on about a long list of practical difficulties. TO and PES asked what happens if one can solve all the practical difficulties. MN then replied that even if one solves all the practical difficulties, she wants a 'guarantee he'll come to a trial'.

**TO and PES summarised that we in such case interpret the meeting as an inquiry into whether we could help MN get JA out of the embassy and to Sweden.**

### **Concluding discussion**

Ingrid Isgren spoke somewhat but took a clearly subordinate role. All decisions came from MN personally.

TO's and PES' summary of the meeting: MN's purpose was to ask us if we in any way could help her get JA out of the embassy. She was not at all prepared to change her own position, not in the slightest.

## Minutes from meeting with Julian Assange's defence attorneys

As taken down by Ingrid Isgren of the prosecution authority for southern Stockholm

Present: chief prosecutor Marianne Ny, vice chief prosecutor Ingrid Isgren, as well as attorneys Thomas Olsson and Per E Samuelson

Location: Development Centre, Stockholm Kungsbron 21, Stockholm

Time: Tuesday 7 May 2013 16:35-17:15

Marianne Ny introduces Ingrid Isgren as the new assistant chief investigator.

Marianne Ny informs that nothing new has happened in the preliminary investigation or regarding the extradition of Julian Assange from Great Britain and that she's requested this meeting foremost to hear comments from the attorneys on the current situation.

Thomas Olsson and Per E Samuelson state that they see two possible alternatives which in their opinion could move the case forward: the prosecutor, police, and defence attorneys travel to London and interrogate Julian Assange inside Ecuador's embassy; or they share all—or in any case large parts—of the investigative materials.

Marianne Ny states that the judgement is still that Julian Assange, for investigative reasons, needs to be available in Sweden for the preliminary investigation and also for trial if things lead to prosecution. The matter of making an application for Mutual Legal Assistance to Great Britain and to request permission of Ecuador to conduct an interrogation at Ecuador's embassy is therefore hypothetical. Amongst other things it can be established that it would involve great practical difficulties to carry out the investigative measures as planned, given those circumstances.

Thomas Olsson and Per E Samuelson state that Julian Assange *per se* does not want to evade a possible trial in Sweden for this case, but that they cannot comment on whether Julian Assange would report for a possible trial in Sweden should matters lead to prosecution.

Ingrid Isgren

\* \* \*

From: Per E Samuelsson  
Sent: 24 July 2012 20:55  
To: Marianne.Ny@aklagare.se  
Cc: Thomas Olsson  
Subject: Interrogation with Assange

To avoid possible misunderstanding, Thomas Olsson and I want to clarify that our client Julian Assange is prepared to be interrogated at Ecuador's embassy in London.

Best regards,  
Per E Samuelson

## Assange Appeal Appendix 1

### Probable Cause

The district court remanded Julian Assange on suspicion of, inter alia, lesser rape per chap 6 § 1 para 2 of the criminal code (as worded prior to 1 July 2013). The prosecutor explained the grounds for suspicion as Julian Assange wrongfully exploiting complainant S being asleep by initiating unprotected sex with her.

The sequence of events has been described by S as follows in an interrogation 26 August 2010 (detention memo p 10):

*“They fell asleep [She told a friend that she was “half asleep”. --A.B.] and she woke by feeling him penetrate her. She immediately asked ‘are you wearing anything’ and he answered ‘you’. She told him ‘you better not have HIV’ and he replied ‘of course not’. She felt it was too late. He was already inside her and she let him continue.”*

From the interrogation with S it is clear that she and Julian Assange had had sexual relations on at least two earlier occasions during the evening/night, and that she and Julian Assange after the unprotected sex joked about what would happen if she were pregnant (p 10 f).

To establish criminal responsibility under the relevant provision, the suspect must have wrongfully exploited someone’s helplessness. **The assessment of whether there exists a state of helplessness shall be based on the situation in its entirety** (prop 2004/05:45 p 138). From this follows that the situations described in the legal code, including sleep, cannot, on their own and without consideration taken for other circumstances, be regarded as constituting a state of helplessness (compare with NJA 1988 p 279 as regards mental illness).

A case where sleep cannot be seen to constitute a state of helplessness must be where the partners have a sexual relationship and where neither of them can remember initiating sex with the other partner sleeping. The purpose of the penal code is to protect sexual integrity, and under what forms people have sex (prop 2004/05:45 p 136).

The criminal area is bordered by the requirement ‘wrongfully exploit’ which can be perceived as a demand for causality between the state of helplessness and partaking in sexual activity (prop 2004/05:45 p 138). As follows from the penal code, it’s a question of sex or a sexual act comparable to intercourse.

**Already by the testimony of complainant S it is clear she did not oppose the sex per se. Even if there not be clarity about her condition, that is to say if she really was asleep or had just woken when the sex began, she evidently saw it as a natural part of the sexual relationship she and Julian Assange had begun earlier.**

What S initially reacted to was that Julian Assange, **according to her testimony**, was not using a condom. Whether intercourse is protected or not has of course no bearing on how the act is defined, nor can it be regarded as meeting the requirement for

wrongful activity. Intercourse per se cannot be regarded as more wrongful if it is unprotected rather than with use of contraceptives.

In addition, S apparently consented to the continued unprotected sex. Even if consent, in principle, does not exonerate, what's being discussed here is only the consent given when in a state of helplessness (see comments to penal code 6:1 p 7 and prop 2004/05 p 136). In the case sex is begun with someone who is sleeping, and that person when he or she wakes consents to continuing sex, the sexual activity cannot be regarded as wrongful.

This follows from the example of when unprotected sex is begun, but the one partner asks for contraceptives, whereby the sex is interrupted to arrange for the contraceptives, and then sex resumes as protected. Or when the one part has opted for protected sex, but accepts a continuation unprotected. **And it gets stranger still if consensual sex were claimed to have begun as an act of rape.**

In summary, the defence move that the requirement for wrongdoing targets the sexual act itself and not the way it is conducted. If the sex per se is not regarded as wrongful with consideration taken for the circumstances in the case in question, then judgement is not affected by it being carried out one way or another.

Thus it can be said that the prosecutor's case does not provide such conditions, legal facts, that can be regarded as constituting a criminal act according to chap 6 § 1 para 2 of the criminal code.

**Further, there is significant lack of clarity regarding the condition of S, particularly in light of S having, in an SMS message to a friend, expressed herself in a way that speaks for her being awake when the sex began.** We request that the prosecutor turn over the SMS message in question to the appeals court.

Source: <http:// AssangeinSwedenBook.com>

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## **Information regarding the appeal of Julian Assange concerning his detention**

*Svea Court of Appeal*

2014-09-12

Today Julian Assange has appealed the ruling of the District Court regarding the detention in his absence. The Court of Appeal will at the beginning of next week give information about the continuing process. The case will be handled by department 1 and the case number is Ö 8290-14.

2014-09-15

Today the Court of Appeal has given the prosecutor time to submit their comments over the appeal until Friday the 19th of September at 11.00 am. After this the Court of Appeal will inform further about the continuing process.

Contact persons:

Hovrättsrådet (Senior Judge of Appeal) Monica Kämpe  
+46 8 561 670 31

Hovrättsrådet (Senior Judge of Appeal) Niklas Wågnert  
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Målnummer / Case number:  
Ö 8290-14

[www.svea.se/Avgoranden-och-pagaende-mal/Pagaende-langmal/Information-om-overklagandet-av-Julian-Assange-betraffande-haktning/](http://www.svea.se/Avgoranden-och-pagaende-mal/Pagaende-langmal/Information-om-overklagandet-av-Julian-Assange-betraffande-haktning/)

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## **Assange Appeal: Prosecutor Response**

Svea court of appeals  
Box 2290  
103 17 STOCKHOLM

**Case Ö 8290-14, dept 0102 Julian Assange ./.**  
**public prosecutor re rape *et al*; now the matter of detention**

### **Statement**

We dispute the motion that the court of appeals should rescind the decision for detention of Julian Assange in his absence.

We have been especially asked to give our opinions in four matters. Our replies are explained below.

1. In our opinion, there is no reason to have oral hearings. The defence has in writing explained their position in detail, and the protocol from the district court hearing is adequately representative of how both parties explain their positions orally.
2. We object to Julian Assange's request to have a transcript of the SMS message of complainant B submitted to the appeals court. The defence have seen the materials on repeated occasions, during the detention hearings, and at times agreed upon with the police. The contents are well described in the protocol from the district court protocols from 16 July 2014.
3. For appendix 1 in the appeal in its entirety and for the names of the complainants in appendix 4, there is a need for confidentiality per chap 18 § 1 and chap 35 §§ 1 and 12 of the Secrecy Act (2009:460). We are however forced to admit that several posts in a

well known Internet forum on Saturday 13 September 2014 link to a web page where the appeal with its appendices has been published in its entirety. In the thread where these posts were made, several theories about conspiracies against Julian Assange are discussed.

4. We hold to our opinion that interrogation of Julian Assange and conducting a body inspection, a so-called 'swabbing', in England would not effectively move the case and the legal process forward.

## Grounds

The decision of the district court is correct and should be upheld.

### 1. Probable cause

We wish to make the following additions to our accounting for probable cause found in our memo dated 5 November 2010, the appendix to the district court protocol from 18 November 2010, and our statement 1 July 2014, as well as in the district court protocol 16 July 2014.

#### *Objective conditions*

Julian Assange claims that there are no objective conditions for the act of lesser rape. Nothing in this part has changed since Svea court first judged the matter 22-24 November 2010 (Ö 9363-10). This decision was appealed by Julian Assange, and the supreme court ruled on 2 December 2010 that he would not be granted further appeal (Ö 5474-10).

The description of the act that was judged by the Svea appeals court is still valid. The behaviour of which Julian Assange is suspected is, in our opinion, to be seen as lesser rape.

#### *The importance of the SMS message for assessment of probable cause*

In the above mentioned appendices we account for the contents of the SMS messages which can be relevant for judging probable cause. The intent of the complainants with the SMS messages and Julian Assange's position on how these messages are to be interpreted and judged is explained in the appendix to our statement to the district court and in the appendix to the protocols from the district court.

In summary, we believe that there is probable cause for the acts for which Julian Assange is detained.

### 2. Special reasons for detention – flight risk

The defence have reiterated an account, submitted to the district court and incorrect in several ways, of how the investigation was conducted and what measures were taken to arrange for an interrogation of Julian Assange in Sweden in the autumn of 2010. These allegations were met in our statement to the district court 2014-07-01. We wish to cite the account submitted in our statement pp 2-3. We wish to especially point out that through contact with the defence, it was made clear that there were investigative measures which would be taken commensurate to the preliminary investigation being

reopened 1 September 2010, and that these measures were necessary before conducting an interrogation with Julian Assange. We would further refer to the account of the actual conditions submitted in the prosecutor statement 22 November 2010, appeals case Ö 9363-19.

That Julian Assange does not intend to obey the ruling of the supreme court on his surrender to Sweden is also made clear by what is included in the appeal. The flight risk remains undiminished.

### 3. The principles of goals and needs and the matter of proportionality

The principle of goals means that a coercive measure may only be used for the purposes sanctioned in legislation. The detention of Julian Assange in his absence intends to hinder Julian Assange from evading or hiding from due process or for sentencing for the above mentioned crimes. The goal is within the framework for the applicability domain of the cited coercive measures.

The principle of needs means that a coercive measure may only be used if there is a tangible need for the measure and if the desired result cannot be achieved with less intrusive means. When the decision was taken on 27 September 2010, it was apparent that there was a flight risk. Even earlier it was unknown where he was. Our attempts to ascertain his location failed, as did the attempts to summon him to an interrogation. It was not possible to achieve our results with less intrusive measures, such as arresting him for questioning or forbidding he travel or a duty to report. Even the subsequent attempts in the autumn of 2010 to ascertain his location failed, as did our attempts to get him to voluntarily return to Sweden. It was not clear at the time Julian Assange was remanded in his absence that he was still in the country. Therefore there was a tangible need for the coercive measure in order to conduct the investigation and to assure possible legal process. The judgement stands that there is a tangible need for detaining Julian Assange in his absence in order to achieve the desired result.

The principle of proportionality means that the nature, force, scope, and duration of the intrusion shall be in reasonable proportion to the desired goal. This is detailed in criminal code chap 24 § 1, so the reasons for detention must outweigh the intrusion and other harm which the measure means for the suspect or other opposing interest. The principle of proportionality becomes more important the longer the deprivation of liberty. In this case, the detention order has not been executed. The question instead is in which way and to what extent the time passed is to be taken into consideration and to what extent the deprivations of liberty for Julian Assange are to be considered during the process whereby his surrender in accordance with the European Arrest Warrant has continued.

We share the opinion of the district court as regards proportionality and refer to the protocol of the district court pp 5-7. We wish to also refer to our statement 1 July 2014 pp 5-6.

We will however especially comment on the following matters.

*Is Julian Assange's residence in the embassy to be regarded as a deprivation of liberty?*

Julian Assange has claimed that the conditions under which he lives in Ecuador's embassy constitute a deprivation of liberty per European court praxis. Supporting this claim, he has cited three cases from the European court (see p 3 in the appeal 12

September 2014). Common for these cited cases is that they describe different types of deprivation of liberty exacted by a state against an individual. Julian Assange has chosen to visit Ecuador's embassy and remain there. He has the opportunity to himself choose if and when he shall leave the embassy. His residence at the embassy can therefore not be said to constitute a deprivation of liberty, and the cited legal cases are, in our opinion, not relevant here.

*Ecuador's decision on asylum*

Ecuador has, according to the documents included with the appeal, made the judgement that Julian Assange meets the criteria in the UN convention on refugees and granted him asylum to protect him from political persecution. But he has not been granted asylum by Ecuador in order to evade investigation and legal process for the crimes for which he is suspected in Sweden. Political asylum does not mean immunity for other types of crimes the refugee can have committed or may commit, even in the country where it was granted.

The defence have cited certain materials to show that Julian Assange risks such a political persecution in the US as a consequence of his work with WikiLeaks for which he has been granted asylum, and claimed that he risks being surrendered to the US if the surrender to Sweden is executed.

It can seem a far-fetched thought that the US already in 2010 should have waited to take judicial measures to enable a surrender with the intention of directing the request to Sweden instead of to Great Britain. Particularly as a decision on surrender to the US from Sweden, all under the presumption it was allowed by Swedish law, would also require approval from Great Britain.

*The question of obstacles to execution?*

As a consequence of Julian Assange residing at Ecuador's embassy in London, Great Britain cannot execute the legally enacted decision for his surrender to Sweden. The defence have explained that Julian Assange does not intend to leave the embassy if he risks surrender to Sweden, and he claims that this is an obstacle to execution. That Julian Assange has sought refuge in Ecuador's embassy and there enjoys protection constitutes a temporary obstacle to execution. But this is not, in our opinion, a sufficient reason to rescind the arrest warrant.

The question instead is, in our opinion, a question of if it can still be considered proportional to maintain a detention order and thereby the issued European Arrest Warrant. As follows from our statement to the district court, we think that the reasons for detention, against the background of the gravity of the crimes for which Julian Assange is suspected and for the limited deprivation of liberty he has already been subjected to, outweigh the intrusion and other harm which the measure mean for him or for other opposing interest.

The purpose of the coercive measure to request Julian Assange be detained in his absence is to investigate the crimes Julian Assange is suspected of and to assure a possible legal process can be conducted. There aren't any deviances here from either the principle of needs or the principle of goals.



#### 4. The question of interrogating Julian Assange in Great Britain

We have in our statement 1 July 2014 accounted for our considerations and positions in this matter. We wish to add the following.

When the request was made to detain Julian Assange in his absence, we didn't know where Julian Assange was. Under such circumstances there was only the European Arrest Warrant with an international search to consider, all pursuant to the gravity of the crime being sufficiently great to motivate our action. It should however be pointed out that not even if his location had been known, would Mutual Legal Assistance, keeping in mind the crimes for which he is suspected, have been appropriate. In addition to achieving the applicable investigative measures, there was also the need to assure a possible legal process. The sentencing scale for the crimes in question clearly were in excess of the requirements.

First when a European Arrest Warrant had been issued, with the request for his surrender to Sweden and with the international search also begun, was it known that Julian Assange was in London. During the time of the court hearings in Great Britain, it wasn't appropriate to pursue other legal processes in parallel. The matter of Mutual Legal Assistance became interesting first after Julian Assange in June 2012 evaded the execution of the decision of the supreme court regarding his surrender to Sweden.

Mutual Legal Assistance in Great Britain can only be conducted voluntarily, that is to say the entire procedure is based on the suspect cooperating and approving of the measures to be taken, a consent that can be withdrawn. It is not possible to, with coercive measures, execute a decision of body inspection (for example DNA swabbing for comparison with traces found at a crime scene) or conducting interrogations. A suspect would also be able to refuse to be served according to chap 23 § 18 of the criminal code. The same difficulties can apply with attempts to serve a summons to a hearing. It's uncertain to what extent a voluntary cooperation can be relied on in this case.

The nature of the investigative materials and the requirements for quality in investigations of sex crimes make this type of crime less suitable for a process with Mutual Legal Assistance and interrogation at a remote location, especially in cases such as this where it's a question of interrogations and other investigative measures meant for the suspect. Against this background, we have made the judgement that body inspection and interrogation with Julian Assange in Great Britain would not lead the preliminary investigation forward in an effective way. A circumstance which also weighs heavily is that Mutual Legal Assistance in criminal cases cannot assure that a trial can be conducted in the case there is a prosecution.

We have continually, over the past two years, tested the conditions and the practical possibility for conducting the interrogations and other necessary investigative measures in Great Britain. We have not however, in addition to investigating these direct conditions, found reason to go further and take the practical measures needed to carry out such interrogations or body inspection.

#### 5. Procedural matters

*Shall there be oral hearings in the appeals court?*

As we have put forth above, we are of the opinion that both parties have thoroughly detailed their positions both in written form and also orally in the district court. The

protocol of the district court for the detention hearing shows how both parties elaborated their positions. The only reason that we as the prosecutors could find to hold oral hearings in the appeals court is that it gives the appeals court the opportunity to inspect all the SMS messages which the district court could inspect at the hearing on 16 July 2014. But we are of the opinion (see second paragraph p 2) that the written materials the appeals court has access to give sufficient materials with which to judge whether there is probable cause. We therefore dispute that there are reasons for holding an oral hearing.

*Reasons to not give the SMS message to the appeals court*

The SMS messages constitute a part of the preliminary investigation for which Julian Assange has not yet been interrogated. In addition, they contain sensitive information about the complainants. This case has brought significant attention from the media and all the documents which have been given to Julian Assange and/or the courts have, in a way not known by us, been published on the Internet. The complainants have throughout this preliminary investigation been subjected to harassment. The one referred to here has recently been the victim of someone else incorrectly obtaining personal data from an agency and thereafter published this on the Internet. There are therefore very grave reasons to protect the SMS messages in accordance with chap 18 § 1 and chap 35 §§ 1 and 12 of the Secrecy Act (2009:460).

We therefore object to the request of Julian Assange to have the SMS messages submitted to the appeals court.

*English translations*

The grounds for requesting that all documents be translated into English have not been given. The arrest protocol 24 November 2010 has been translated into English because of the process in England and this can be shared with the defence. The duty to have our statements to the district court and appeals court translated into English should not rest on the prosecutors.

**Evidence**

No evidence is cited as regards the detention.

**Hearings**

We submit that there be only written hearings.

Marianne Ny

Ingrid Isgren

*Source of translation: Assange in Sweden*

*Original på svenska:*

[http://www.aklagare.se/PageFiles/13851/AM-131226-10\\_%C3%96YT\\_40116460\\_20140923090131.pdf](http://www.aklagare.se/PageFiles/13851/AM-131226-10_%C3%96YT_40116460_20140923090131.pdf)

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2014-09-25

Hovrätten har i beslut i dag avslagit Julian Assanges begäran att hålla sammanträde i målet. I beslutet anges också att Julian Assange bereds tillfälle att senast den 1 oktober

2014 kl. 11.00 yttra sig över åklagarnas skrivelse och att åklagarna därefter kommer att beredas tillfälle att yttra sig innan hovrätten prövar överklagandet i sak.

\* \* \*

SVEA HOVRÄTT  
Avdelning 01  
Rotel 0102

PROTOKOLL  
2014-09-23  
Föredragning i Stockholm

Aktbilaga 13  
Mål nr Ö 8290-14

Dok.Id 1169193

RÄTTEN  
Hovrättsråden Niklas Wågner, Monica Kämpe, referent, och Torbjörn Widemar

FÖREDRAGANDE OCH PROTOKOLLFÖRARE  
Hovrättsfiskalen Gustaf Almkvist

KLAGANDE  
Julian Assange, 19710703  
Frihetsberövande: Häktad i sin utevaro  
Ecuadors ambassad i London  
Flat 3B, 3 Hans Crescent  
London SW1X 0NT  
Storbritannien

Ombud: Advokaten Thomas Olsson  
Box 12706  
112 94 Stockholm

Ombud: Advokaten Per E Samuelson  
Box 12704  
112 94 Stockholm

MOTPART  
Överåklagaren Marianne Ny och vice chefsåklagaren Ingrid Isgren  
Utvecklingscentrum i Göteborg respektive Söderorts åklagarkammare i Stockholm

SAKEN  
Häktning; nu fråga om sammanträde m.m.

ÖVERKLAGAT AVGÖRANDE  
Stockholms tingsrätts beslut 2014-07-16 i mål nr B 12885-10

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Julian Assange har i samband med att han överklagat tingsrättens beslut att han ska vara fortsatt häktad i sin utevaro begärt att hovrätten ska hålla ett sammanträde i målet, att åklagarna ska ge in en utskrift av ett visst sms och att hovrätten ska besluta om översättning av de handlingar i målet som inte kommer från försvararna.

Åklagarna har anfört att det inte finns behov av ett sammanträde och motsatt sig att ge in det nyssnämnda meddelandet.

Saken föredras. Hovrätten fattar därefter följande

BESLUT (att meddelas 2014-09-25)

1. Hovrätten avslår begäran att hålla sammanträde i målet.
2. Hovrätten avslår begäran att åklagarna ska föreläggas att ge in en utskrift av ett visst sms.
3. Hovrätten beslutar att översättning ska ske av de handlingar som åklagarna ger in och av rättsens beslut.

### *Skäl*

Julian Assange har som skäl för att hovrätten bör hålla ett sammanträde anfört dels att det är svårt att i skriftlig form ange all den argumentation som han vill framföra, dels att vissa sms som presenterades av åklagarna vid häktningsförhandlingen i tingsrätten — men inte gavs in — måste presenteras på nytt i hovrätten, dels att han vill spela upp en film om den amerikanska attityden mot honom.

I hovrätten är utgångspunkten att ett överklagat beslut om häktning prövas efter skriftlig handläggning. Enligt 52 kap. 11 § rättegångsbalken får hovrätten besluta att förhör ska hållas med en part eller någon annan, om det är nödvändigt för utredningen i målet. Därutöver kan hovrätten hålla sammanträde för att tillgodose rätten till muntlig förhandling i åtminstone en instans eller om det i övrigt framstår som ändamålsenligt.

Det framgår av handlingarna i målet att åklagarna under den del av häktningsförhandlingen som skedde inom stängda dörrar läste upp utdrag ur sms som hämtats in från målsägandenas telefoner och lät försvararna läsa dessa utdrag. Enligt vad som kommit fram beskrivs innehållet i berörda sms i protokoll och inlagor.

Enligt hovrättens mening finns det mot den bakgrunden inte skäl att med hänsyn till sms:en hålla sammanträde i hovrätten. Inte heller i övrigt har det kommit fram något skäl att göra avsteg från huvudregeln om skriftlig handläggning. Julian Assanges begäran om sammanträde ska därför avslås.

Hovrätten har uppfattat att Julian Assange, om åklagarna motsätter sig hans begäran att ge in en utskrift av ett visst sms, begär att hovrätten ska förelägga åklagarna att ge in meddelandet.

Julian Assange har, genom sina försvarare, tagit del av innehållet i sms:et i fråga. Han har inte anfört något skäl för sin begäran att åklagarna dessutom ska ge in en utskrift av det efterfrågade sms:et. Hovrätten anser sammantaget att det inte finns förutsättningar att förelägga åklagarna att ge in en sådan utskrift. Julian Assanges begäran om det ska därför avslås.

Det finns skäl att låta översätta åklagarnas yttranden och hovrättens beslut i målet. Beslutet får inte överklagas särskilt (54 kap. 4 § rättegångsbalken).

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Julian Assange bereds tillfälle att senast den 1 oktober 2014 kl. 11.00 yttra sig över åklagarnas skrivelse (aktbilaga 10). Åklagarna kommer därefter att beredas tillfälle att yttra sig innan hovrätten prövar överklagandet i sak.

Gustaf Almkvist  
Protokollet uppvisat

[http://www.svea.se/Domstolar/sveahovratt/Nyheter/Svea HR Ö 8290-14 Ej slutligt beslut 2014-09-25.pdf](http://www.svea.se/Domstolar/sveahovratt/Nyheter/Svea%20HR%20Ö%208290-14%20Ej%20slutligt%20beslut%202014-09-25.pdf)

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## **Spying and storing: Assange says 'Google works like NSA'**

*RT  
September 20, 2014*

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange equated Google with the National Security Agency and GCHQ, saying the tech giant has become “a privatized version of the NSA,” as it collects, stores, and indexes people’s data. He made his remarks to BBC and Sky News.

**“Google’s business model is the spy. It makes more than 80 percent of its money by collecting information about people, pooling it together, storing it, indexing it, building profiles of people to predict their interests and behavior, and then selling those profiles principally to advertisers, but also others,”** Assange told BBC.

“So the result is that Google, in terms of how it works, its actual practice, is almost identical to the National Security Agency or GCHQ,” the whistleblower argued.

Google has been working with the NSA “in terms of contracts since at least 2002,” Assange told Sky News.

**“They are formally listed as part of the defense industrial base since 2009. They have been engaged with the Prism system, where nearly all information collected by Google is available to the NSA,”** Assange said. **“At the institutional level, Google is deeply involved in US foreign policy.”**

Google has tricked people into believing that it is “a playful, humane organization” and not a “big, bad US corporation,” Assange told BBC. “But in fact it has become just that... it is now arguably the most influential commercial organization.”

“Google has now spread to every country, every single person, who has access to the internet,” he reminded.

During his interviews, Assange also touched on his own situation at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he has been trapped since June 2012, after being offered asylum.

The embassy is watched around the clock by British police who are ready to place Assange under arrest should he attempt to leave.

Assange said that his stay there has impacted his work, as surveillance makes certain tasks very difficult.

“The 7.3 million pounds (US\$12 million) of police surveillance admitted outside this embassy. It is a difficult situation. It is not a situation that is easy for a national security reporter. You can’t read sources. It is difficult to meet some of my staff because of that surveillance,” he said.

“On the other hand, there are no subpoenas, there are no door knocks in the night, unlike for other national security reporters. So in some ways there are benefits to the situation,” Assange noted. “Other people are in more difficult situations. Chelsea Manning for example, who was sentenced last year to 35 years in prison, my alleged co-conspirator.”

Assange spoke optimistically about recent changes made to Britain's extradition laws.

“Early this year, the UK passed modifications to ban extradition without charge, to insist on if you want to speak with someone you have to come to the UK or charge them. You can’t just say, ‘I want to speak to that person and I am not willing to use any standard mechanisms.’”

Meanwhile, the situation has also been changing in Sweden, with general elections taking place over the weekend. According to Assange, there is a shift in attitude there, which could mean a significant change for him as early as next year.

“The Swedish election was on Sunday. We don’t know yet what the formation of the government will be. It will probably be a center-left government. And there is attitude changes there. We have appeal in Sweden in just two weeks’ time.”

Assange filed an appeal against a Swedish warrant for his arrest earlier in September. His lawyers are arguing that the prosecutors are acting “in gross breach of Swedish law.”

“We argue against the district court’s decision and believe they do not properly take account of the situation,” said Assange's Swedish attorney, Thomas Olsson, according to Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet.

The WikiLeaks founder is wanted for questioning in Sweden, for allegedly sexually assaulting two women in Stockholm in 2010.

Assange denies the allegations, but will not travel to Sweden to be questioned because he says the charges are politically motivated for his work with WikiLeaks and he will be extradited to the US. WikiLeaks enraged Washington by publishing thousands of leaked diplomatic cables in 2010.

Meanwhile, Assange has released a new book titled 'When Google Met WikiLeaks.' In the book, the WikiLeaks founder describes his vision for the future of the internet and recounts a meeting with Google chairman Eric Schmidt in 2011.

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## **Assange BBC Interview**

*Interview with John Simpson*

*BBC*

*18 September 2014*

JA: Google's business model is to spy. That is its business model. It makes more than 80 percent of its money by collecting information about people, pooling it together, storing it, indexing it, building profiles of people to predict their interests and behaviours, and then selling those profiles principally to advertisers, but also others. So the result is that Google, in terms of how it works, its actual practice, is almost identical to the National Security Agency or GCHQ.

JS: Why single out Google when most big, really big, US organisations in one way or another have to live alongside the government and work with it?

JA: Google has through its marketing power and through its colourful logo imprinted on people that it is a playful, humane organisation, that it is not a big bad US corporation. But in fact it has become just that. Google is also unlike, say, Coca-Cola. An organisation that does collect the world's information, it is now arguably the world's most influential commercial organisation.

JS: You can't stay here like this for much longer, can you? This is an absolutely crazy existence, you've got to get out, haven't you?

JA: There is a £7.3 million of police surveillance admitted outside this embassy. It is a difficult situation. It is not a situation that is easy for national security reporter. You can't read sources. It is difficult to meet some of my staff etc because of that surveillance. On the other hand, there are no subpoenas, there are no door knocks in the night, unlike other national security reporters. So in some ways there are benefits to the situation.

JS: But that must be bad for you though, isn't it? Physically and mentally to be here?

JA: It's a difficult situation, other people are in more difficult situations. Chelsea Manning for example, was sentenced last year, my alleged co-conspirator, to 35 years in US prison. Here in the UK there is a lot of optimism. Finally, there is a significant section of the UK judiciary, and parliament has seen that this cannot occur again. Early this year the UK passed modifications to ban extradition without charge, to insist on if you want to speak with someone you have to come to the UK or charge them, you can't just say, 'Well I want to speak to that person and I am not willing to use any standard mechanisms'.

JS: You are talking about the Swedish government?

JA: Yes the Swedish government.

JS: But the Swedish government has changed now, I mean it's a left wing government, they're never going to send you back to America, are they? *[The government has yet to be formed and, when it is, it will certainly not be "left-wing" or defiantly independent of the U.S. -A.B.]*

JA: Well, it is a very interesting situation. The Swedish election was on Sunday. We don't know yet what the formation of the government will be. It will probably be a centre-left government, and there are attitude changes there. We have an appeal in Sweden in just two weeks time. But also here in the UK, the change in law and the recognition that the situation here should never have occurred, I think it means that within say the next year we're going to see a significant change.

25-minute video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?list=UUpwvZwUam-URkxB7g4USKpg&v=aMYqzGwwof8>

*Transcript supplied by greekemmy at <http://greekemmy.com>*

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## **Swedish officials weigh up option to question Assange ahead of court ruling**

*Foreign Office happy for Marianne Ny to question Wikileaks founder in Ecuadorian embassy over allegations made in 2010*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
October 2014*

Sweden's chief prosecutor said on Tuesday she was seriously considering an invitation by the British government to question Julian Assange in London, before a court ruling in Sweden on whether to lift the warrant for his arrest.

The Foreign Office said on Tuesday it would welcome a request by the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny to question Assange inside the Ecuadorian embassy and would be happy to facilitate such a move, which is seen by Assange's lawyers as an important step towards breaking the deadlock surrounding the case.



The appeal court in Sweden is due to rule as soon as next week on a request by Assange's lawyers that the warrant against him be rescinded, but the timing of the Foreign Office's remarks appeared to be accidental.

Assange has sought political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy, where he has lived for more than two years to avoid a perceived threat of extradition to the US for publishing military secrets. Since 2010 Swedish prosecutors have been trying to question him about allegations of rape and sexual molestation, although he has not yet been charged.

**"These are matters for the [Swedish] prosecutor to decide on, but if she wished to travel here to question Mr Assange in the embassy in London, we would do absolutely everything to facilitate that. Indeed, we would actively welcome it," foreign minister Hugo Swire said on Tuesday in the House of Commons.**

Ny said through a spokeswoman that the remarks were "all news to her", and she would probably respond to them publicly within the next couple of days. *[She did, and rejected the proposal. --A.B:]*

The argument that the prosecutor should interrogate Assange in London is a central element of his lawyers' appeal, because, they say, it demonstrates that the prosecutor has not conducted the case with sufficient "urgency or effectiveness", thereby condemning Assange to indefinite "deprivation of liberty".

However, in documents submitted to the Appeal Court, the prosecutor states she has "continually, over the past two years, tested the conditions and the practical possibility for conducting the interrogations and other necessary investigative measures in Great Britain". Responding to a question from Anne McIntosh, Conservative MP for Thirsk and Malton, Swire said Ny was "quite rightly, a fiercely independent lady, and independent of the executive".

**McIntosh said she and other Tory backbenchers saw the failure to question Assange in London as one of the barriers to justice in the case.**

She had been moved to ask the question by concern from her constituents over the case of footballer Ched Evans, who is challenging his conviction for rape after serving two years in jail. "I believe if [Assange] is innocent he should submit himself to the law," she said.

Commenting on the response to her question, McIntosh added: "Presumably the prosecutor would have the time to pop over and speak to [Assange] before the Appeal Court ruling."

Swedish legal opinion at a senior level has this year swung against the prosecutor's decision not to travel to London to interview Assange, with Anne Ramberg, head of the Bar Association, calling the current impasse a "circus".

**Ramberg told the Guardian on Tuesday: "Many voices in Sweden take a view along the same lines [as the Foreign Office]. It is time for this longstanding matter to be brought to a fair and proportionate end."**

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said its willingness to help Swedish officials to question Assange was not a change of policy but it was “likely” that the message had not been made clear amid all the other questions about the case. Details of any questioning “should be agreed between the Swedish Prosecutor, Mr Assange and the Ecuadorian Embassy”, she said.

A spokeswoman for Sweden’s new justice minister Morgan Johansson declined to comment until the Appeal Court rules in the case.

[www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/28/assange-sweden-prosecutor-marianne-ny-uk-embassy-ruling](http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/oct/28/assange-sweden-prosecutor-marianne-ny-uk-embassy-ruling)

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## **Julian Assange: Swedish court rejects appeal to lift arrest warrant**

*Ruling means WikiLeaks founder still faces extradition to Sweden if he leaves Ecuador embassy in London*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
20 November 2014*

Stockholm’s appeal court has rejected a demand by Julian Assange’s lawyers to lift the arrest warrant against him, leaving the WikiLeaks founder still facing extradition to Sweden should he renounce his asylum in Ecuador’s London embassy.

“In making this assessment, account must be taken of the fact that Julian Assange is suspected of crimes of a relatively serious nature [???],” the court said in a statement on Thursday. A Swedish prosecutor first sought Assange’s arrest four years ago following sexual assault and rape allegations, which he denies.

“There is a great risk that he will flee and thereby evade legal proceedings if the detention order is set aside. In the view of the court of appeal, these circumstances mean that the reasons for detention still outweigh the intrusion or other detriment entailed by the detention order.”

**But the court also noted that Sweden’s investigation into Assange had come to a halt and prosecutors’ failure to examine alternative avenues of investigation “is not in line with their obligation— in the interests of everyone concerned— to move the preliminary investigation forward”.** The ruling is expected to put pressure on prosecutors to find new ways to break the deadlock.

Per Samuelsson, one of Assange’s lawyers in Stockholm, said the court’s criticism of the prosecutor was aimed at her refusal to come to London to question Assange.

“This is crucial because the court said we were right in the wording, but not in the court’s actual decision,” he said.

After the ruling he had spoken to Assange, who was disappointed but confident that they would prevail in the long run.

**“Swedish and international law is on our side,” Samuelsson said. “The ruling shows we are on the right track, but unfortunately the court of appeal did not have the courage to overturn the arrest warrant.”**

Asked what he meant by the need to pursue “alternative avenues” of investigation, Niclas Wågnert, the appeal court judge in the case, told the TT news agency: “That’s a matter for the prosecutor. **One way would be to interrogate him in London.**”

Following a rejection of their demands by a lower court in July, Assange’s lawyers argued in submissions to the appeal court that a European arrest warrant issued in November 2010 was being employed as a “coercive measure” against him because it could not be carried out, thereby condemning him to “deprivation of liberty” in order to exercise his right to asylum.

**The submission said that, rather than explore possible avenues to break the deadlock, the prosecutor had “violated the principles of consideration urgency, and effectiveness” by refusing to interview Assange in the Ecuadorian embassy and “hiding behind the arrest warrant” as an excuse.**

Britain’s Foreign Office said last month it would “actively welcome” a request by the prosecutor to question Assange inside the embassy and would “do absolutely everything to facilitate” such a move.

**The appeal court also rejected a demand from Assange’s lawyers for the prosecutor to hand over 200 text messages sent by the WikiLeaks founder’s accusers around the time of his alleged crimes.**

Assange has always claimed he is innocent and that he would be prepared to face a Swedish court were it not for a threat that he would be extradited to the US for political crimes. Neither the US nor Swedish governments have responded to his requests for guarantees. Assange has not been charged with any crime, but is being investigated over allegations of rape and sexual molestation.

In response to the appeal, the Swedish prosecutors in the case, Marianne Ny and Ingrid Isgren, said they accepted there was “a temporary obstacle” to executing the arrest warrant, but that it was nonetheless essential to prevent Assange from evading justice. His presence in the Ecuadorian embassy was voluntary and so did not constitute a deprivation of liberty, they said, thereby nullifying defence arguments about disproportionality.

The text messages contained sensitive information about the two women in the case, they said, and information had previously leaked on to the internet and led to the women being harassed. There were, therefore, “grave reasons” to protect the messages, the prosecutors said.

Legal opinion in Sweden is sharply divided on the case, with some arguing that the deadlock must be broken, principally by the prosecutors travelling to London to

interview Assange. Politicians are reluctant to be seen to put pressure on prosecutors, while public opinion has wearied of the case. *[There is no reliable knowledge of public opinion. --A.B.]*

Mats Larsson, a columnist for Expressen, Sweden's largest [??] tabloid, argued last month: "Everyone is tired of the Assange circus ... it is high time it was resolved." *[Expressen is an utterly disreputable reference. --A.B.]*

[www.theguardian.com/media/2014/nov/20/julian-assange-appeal-arrest-warrant-swedish-court](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2014/nov/20/julian-assange-appeal-arrest-warrant-swedish-court)

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**Pressmeddelande**  
**2014-11-20**

## **Decision on the detention of Julian Assange**

Today the Court of Appeal issued a decision in the case regarding the detention of Julian Assange. The Court of Appeal refuses his claim to have the detention set aside.

The Court of Appeal considers, like the City Court, that Julian Assange is suspected on probable cause of crimes including rape (less serious crime) and that there is a great risk that he will evade legal proceedings or punishment.

In the view of the Court of Appeal there is no reason to set aside the detention solely because Julian Assange is in an embassy and the detention order cannot be enforced at present for that reason.

When it comes to the reasons for and against detention, i.e. the assessment of proportionality that is always made when use is made of a coercive measure such as detention, the Court of Appeal considers that Julian Assange's stay at the embassy shall not count in his favour since he can himself choose to bring his stay there to an end.

The Court of Appeal notes, however, that the investigation into the suspected crimes has come to a halt and considers that the failure of the prosecutors to examine alternative avenues is not in line with their obligation— in the interests of everyone concerned— to move the preliminary investigation forward.

However, in the view of the Court of Appeal the reasons for detention still outweigh the reasons to the contrary since Julian Assange is suspected of crimes of a relatively serious nature and there is a great risk that he will evade legal proceedings or punishment if the detention order is set aside.

[www.svea.se/Om-Svea-hovratt/Nyheter-fran-Svea-hovratt/Decision-on-the-detention-of-Julian-Assange/](http://www.svea.se/Om-Svea-hovratt/Nyheter-fran-Svea-hovratt/Decision-on-the-detention-of-Julian-Assange/)

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*Julian Assange of WikiLeaks makes a balcony appearance with Noam Chomsky at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London (AP Photo/Yui Mok, PA Wire)*

## Chomsky Visits Assange

*Telesur*

*25 November 2014*

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has received a visit from one of his most prominent supporters. U.S. academic and political dissident Noam Chomsky visited Wikileaks founder Julian Assange Tuesday, despite an ongoing police presence outside the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

The two made a brief appearance on the embassy balcony. According to Wikileaks, Assange and Chomsky went on the balcony to “take in the view of the police operation against the Ecuadorian embassy.”

The embassy has been encircled by a 24-hour police presence for two years. Assange has been trapped in the embassy since 2012, when he applied for asylum.

Ecuador subsequently granted him asylum. However, the U.K. government has refused to allow him safe passage to Ecuador, arguing British authorities are obliged to extradite him to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning in relation to allegations of sexual misconduct.

Assange claims if he is sent to Sweden, he would face a serious risk of extradition to the United States, where he fears he would face charges in relation to the disclosure of classified government documents.

Chomsky, a world renowned linguist and analyst of global affairs, has previously expressed support for Assange. “Someone who courageously carries out actions in

defense of democratic rights deserves applause, not hysterical denunciation and punishment,” Chomsky once stated regarding Assange.

For more on Assange, check out teleSUR English’s interview with the Wikileaks founder.

[www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Julian-Assange-Speaks-with-teleSUR-English-20140929-0041.html](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Julian-Assange-Speaks-with-teleSUR-English-20140929-0041.html)

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## **Swedish prosecutors keep up arrest warrant against Assange**

*RT*

*October 28, 2014*

The chances that WikiLeaks’ co-founder Julian Assange might have had his legal battle with Sweden ended on Monday appear to have faded away, as the court is unwilling to drop the arrest warrant over sexual assault allegations.

The Swedish court was due to announce an official ruling on Assange’s appeal to drop his arrest warrant. It was issued after he failed to meet the Monday deadline to come to Sweden for questioning over rape accusations. While no news on the decision immediately emerged, the Chief Prosecutor’s Office told RT that its position hasn’t changed.

In response to Assange’s appeal earlier in September, the prosecution argued that “the purpose behind the remand into custody of Julian Assange in his absence is to prevent Julian Assange from absconding or avoiding criminal proceedings or punishments for named crimes.”

The WikiLeaks co-founder and editor-in-chief says the case has been trumped up to hand him over to the US, where he is being investigated for espionage.

**“There are two reasons [for the prosecution not lifting the warrant]: one is the prestige on account of the prosecutor, the second one is almost certainly that the US administration is making it known to Swedish authorities that they would like it very much if they kept Mr Assange where he is and leave it as it is,” Swedish activist and politician Lars Christian Engstrom told RT.**

In July, a Swedish court upheld an arrest warrant for Julian Assange. At the time, Assange’s defense team said the European arrest warrant should be lifted on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to act in a timely manner by not interviewing their client at the embassy.

The prosecution argued it was impossible to collect evidence and carry out investigation outside Sweden. After Assange’s appeal, it stayed true to its arguments, saying “we maintain our view that examination of Julian Assange and the performance of a body search in England would not be an effective way.”

The Swedish prosecutors have also opposed the whistleblower's request to submit a transcript of SMSs to the court of appeal, on which the investigation against him is based. Stating that the defense has received this material before on police premises [*far from entirely true --A.B.*], it would not present it to Assange, because the documents that "contain sensitive information" could be published online. This has happened with other related materials in the case.

The whistleblower has recently announced plans to leave the Ecuadorian Embassy in the near future.

The reasoning behind Assange's announcement at the time was a change to the European arrest warrant, director of the Center for Investigative Journalism, Gavin MacFadyen, told RT.

"The law has changed in a sense that no one now in Britain can be extradited against their will to a country without being charged. And of course as everybody knows what is significant about Julian Assange's difficulties is that he's never been charged," MacFadyen said.

Prosecutors have once again argued that Assange's life at the embassy could not be considered a deprivation of his liberty, as "he himself made the choice of visiting the Embassy of Ecuador and remaining there."

**But even if the court accepted Assange's appeal to cancel the arrest warrant hanging over him, it would not necessarily mean the whistleblower could safely leave his hideout in the British capital.**

"Authorities in London were quick to point out recently, when there was a possibility that his arrest warrant could be revoked, there was still the issue of him jumping bail, so they would arrest him if he leaves the embassy— but practically speaking there would be no more foundation to keep him inside the embassy anymore," WikiLeaks spokesperson Kristinn Hrafnsson told RT.

In the lead-up to the ruling, Assange had been critical of Swedish prosecutors for pursuing the case against him. Last week, he stated via video link: "We will win because the law is very clear. My only hope is that the court is following the law and is not pressured politically to do anything outside of the law."

Assange has been living in the Ecuadorian Embassy since August 2012 to escape an international arrest warrant to extradite him to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning about the allegations. He was later granted asylum by the South American country.

The Embassy is under constant surveillance by London's Metropolitan Police, who are under orders to arrest the 43-year-old if he leaves its confines. The security operation is reported to have cost over £7.7 million pounds (\$12.4 million), according to govwaste.co.uk.

Lawyers for the WikiLeaks founder filed eavesdropping claims to the Swedish Court of Appeal on October 17, as Assange fears that he was being bugged. His legal team said

that he “is most likely under auditory surveillance,” which was reported by the Daily Mail.

In the summer of 2013, a recording device was found beneath a desk in the office of Ana Alban, the Ecuadorean Ambassador to the United Kingdom, according to Reuters. Ricardo Patino, the country’s foreign minister said the microphone was discovered on June 16 before he visited the embassy to meet with Assange, who lives and works in a different room of the office.

In July, a Swedish court upheld its detention order against Assange. In June, the 43-year-old’s lawyers sought to get the ruling by the Stockholm court in 2010 overturned on the basis that it could not be enforced while he is at the embassy, and because it is restricting Assange’s civil rights.

The Australian fears that if he is sent to Sweden for investigation into alleged rape, he will be transferred to the United States, where he could face a possible trial for his part in WikiLeaks publishing numerous sensitive documents in 2010. These papers contained both secret military and diplomatic correspondences.

If found guilty in the US, Assange could face a 35-year prison sentence for revealing classified documents concerning the country’s military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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*This Day in WikiLeaks*  
2014-12-11

Thom Phipps, writer on the upcoming BBC comedy ‘Asylum’ inspired by Julian Assange, has tweeted “if the met [London police] want to regain my trust they should drag Assange out the embassy + shoot him in the back of th head in the middle of traf square” as well as multiple other smears and attacks against Assange.

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## **“Google spionerar på oss och informerar USA:s regering”**

*Flamman*  
20 december 2014

Kommentar från ansvarig utgivare.

Flamman beslutade att publicera vår stående krönikör Ignacio Ramonets intervju med Julian Assange trots att vi förstod att det med anledning av den pågående utredningen mot Assange om våldtäkt skulle vara kontroversiellt. Vi ansåg, och anser, att det trots detta är ett intressant och unikt material och att Assange trots anklagelserna ska kunna höras i media.

Men i inledningen av texten blev det fel. Den beskrivning av Assanges brott som Ignacio Ramonet gör— där han slår fast Julian Assange “förföljs” av Sverige och att



hans "brott är att med Wikileaks ha uppdagat Irak- och Afghanistankrigens dolda verklighet och USA-diplomatins ränker och intriger" — borde vi ha varit mer uppmärksamma på. I sitt publicistiska sammanhang borde det naturligtvis ha nämnts att Julian Assange i Sverige utreds **för våldtäkt** och att Flamman självklart inte tagit ställning i skuldfrågan till detta brott.

Flamman ber om ursäkt för det inträffade och väljer att med detta tillägg låta texten vara kvar på internet.

Jonas Thunberg  
Ansvarig utgivare

\* \* \*

Sedan trettio månader har Julian Assange sin tillflykt på Ecuadors ambassad i London, förföljd och inringad av USA och bundsförvanter (Storbritannien, Sverige). Hans brott är att med Wikileaks ha uppdagat Irak- och Afghanistankrigens dolda verklighet och USA-diplomatins ränker och intriger.

Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning, Glenn Greenwald och Julian Assange är en ny grupp oliktankande som avslöjar maktens hemligheter. De spåras upp, förföljs och trakasseras - inte av auktoritära regimer utan av stater som gör anspråk på att vara demokratiska föredömen.

I sin nya bok "När Google mötte Wikileaks"(1) gör Assange nya avslöjanden. Det började med ett långt samtal med Googles verkställande president Eric Schmidt i juni 2011 för hans bok "The New Digital Era". När den publicerades 2013 fann Assange att Schmidt hade förvrängt hans uttalanden och att Schmidts framställning var virrig av storhetsvansinne. Assanges bok är hans svar.

Han avslöjar hur Google— och Facebook och Amazon med flera— övervakar och spionerar på oss och överför informationen till USA:s säkerhetstjänst. Och deras nära, nästan strukturella förbindelse med USA:s utrikesdepartement. Och att den digitala galaxens storföretag övervakar och kontrollerar oss mer än staterna.

"När Google mötte Wikileaks" öppnar ögonen för hur vi dagligen bekymmerslöst använder vår smartmobil, platta och dator och surfar på Internet. "Se upp!" varnar Assange, för du lämnar spår efter dig och ditt privatliv, spår som företag som Google samlar in och arkiverar för att en vacker dag använda dem mot dig.

Vi [d.v.s. Ignacio Ramonet] stämde träff med Assange i London, den 24 oktober, i ett litet ombonat rum på Ecuadors ambassad. Vi hade planerat en och en halv timme, men det blev två och en halv.

*Varför menar du att Google är världens mest inflytelserika företag?*

Världen genomlever en djupgående förändring och Google har störst inflytande över dess karaktär och kanske även snabbheten. Jag är inte säker på att Google är det mest inflytelserika företaget i absoluta termer. Men åtminstone bland It-företagen är Google

det mest inflytelserika, totalt sett. Electric, Raytheon, Booz Allen Hamilton, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, finansbolagen med flera bolagsjättar har inte Googles närvaro i det globala samhället, i samspelet med folk.

*Du skriver också att "Informationsteknologins frammarsch, förkroppsligad i Google, förebådar privatlivets slut som sådant för de allra flesta människor och växlar in världen på spår till auktoritära samhällen" och att Silicon Valleys teknologi är ett redskap för USA:s utrikespolitik.*

Samarbete mellan USAs militärindustriella komplex och Silicon Valley har en lång historia. Noam Chomsky avslöjade den på 70- och 80-talen (2). Då var det militären som styrde utvecklingen av datorerna, jättestora maskiner för deras utvecklingsprojekt: månfärder, kärnvapen, ICBM-raketer (3), kärnvapenbärande ubåtar som de uppdrog åt USA:s storbolag att tillverka.

Det förändrades på 90-talet när Silicon Valley började sikta på informationsteknik för masskonsumtion. Det var då Apple, Google, Amazon och lite senare Facebook började framträda som våra "vänner", en drömbild som utplånade de flesta akademikers tidigare negativa uppfattning om Silicon Valley på grund av den militära kopplingen.

Och dessa nya megabolag, som Google, upprättade ett nära förhållande med statsapparaten i Washington, särskilt utrikesdepartementet. Det gäller Googles högsta chefer, Eric Schmidt (4) och Jared Cohen (5).

*På vilken grund hävdar du att Eric Schmidts besök i Kina, Nordkorea och Burma 2013 också handlade om "hemlig diplomati" på Washingtons uppdrag?*

Jag utgår från egen erfarenhet. Vi kunde visa att när jag delgav Eric Schmidt information hamnade den omedelbart hos utrikesdepartementets högsta ledning. Och när Eric Schmidt använde Lisa Shields (6) som kontakt till mig, så föregicks det av ett informationsflöde andra vägen, från utrikesdepartementet till Eric Schmidt. Jag tror att detsamma också gäller hans besök nyligen på Kuba.

*Var det ett naivt av dig att ta emot Eric Schmidt och hans vänner?*

Jag är van att träffa alla slags människor, även journalister med tvivelaktig bakgrund. Så jag tog emot honom och hans tre följeslagare (Jared Cohen, Lisa Shields, Scott Malcomson) men var så klart försiktig och noga med att inte avslöja några detaljer. När han ville veta med vilken teknik Wikileaks försvarade sig beskrev jag hur vi gjort tidigare.

Samtalet varade över fem timmar. På den tiden lär man sig mycket om en persons humör, intresseinriktning, humor etc. Men det är klart att jag hade varit lite försiktigare om jag vetat att allt skulle vidare till utrikesdepartementet. Men jag kunde också dra slutsatser om honom och följeslagarna.

Jag blev besviken på hans bok, men förstod också hans syfte. Jag hade så klart bandat vårt samtal och kunde jämföra vad jag sagt med vad han tagit med, utelämnat och förvrängt, och förstå vad han ville uppnå. Det var egentligen inte att angripa mig utan att framställa Google som den geopolitiska visionär USA behöver, som Washington skulle vända sig till och lyssna på.

*Du säger att de privata företagens övervakning av oss är lika farlig som staternas?*

**Åtskillnaden mellan staten och storbolagen är på väg att försvinna i de flesta västländer.** Men samförståndet är tydligast i USA där till exempel 80 procent av de nationella säkerhetstjänsternas (7) budget går till privata företag. Det gäller till och med den allra hemligaste, NSA. Att statens spionage har utsatts för mer intresse än den privata sektorns tror jag för det första beror på en allmän lag: när komplikationsgraden ökar, minskar antalet personer som förstår problemet. Som när USA anlitar privata Blackwater (8) för uppdrag i Irak och Afghanistan. Hur stor uppmärksamhet ägnas de övergrepp Blackwaters legoknektar begår, jämfört med medias uppmärksamhet när det begås av en statlig militär? I båda fallen är det USA:s regering som ger order och betalar. **Det är bara olika namn, det räcker för att dölja innebörden.**

För det andra, särskilt när det gäller USA, har vi den politiska aspekten. Nästan hela liberala vänstern finns i demokratiska partiet, i ett klientsystem. Därför ägnar de inte vederbörlig uppmärksamhet åt regeringens övergrepp och den allomfattande privatiseringen. Och den libertarianska sidan av republikanska partiet ser bara regeringen som enda problemet, aldrig den privata sektorn. Men det är den privata sektorn som i stor utsträckning styr regeringen. **Några megaföretag som exempelvis Google eller Goldman Sachs, med deras enorma storlek och monopol, styr statens centrala verksamhet som om de vore själva regeringen.**

Dessa privata megaföretags årliga omsättning är större än många staters bruttonationalinkomst. Ta Ecuador och konflikten med oljebolaget Chevron som fakturerar omkring 300 miljarder US dollar årligen (9). Skillnaden är avgrundsdeep. Chevron framställer Ecuador som "mäktiga staten" som använder sin tvångsmakt för att förnedra och hota ett privat företag. Men om vi jämför deras ekonomiska tillgångar så råder ju ingen tvekan om att Chevron är mäktigast. Så mäktigt att de också kan räkna med USAs tvångsmakt för att hota Ecuador, om nödvändigt genom att mobilisera "civilsamhället".

*Menar du att ordet civilsamhälle är vilseledande?*

De flesta organisationer som räknas in i "civilsamhället" finansieras för att tjäna statens eller de mäktigaste företagens intressen. Ta New American Foundation, NAF (10), till exempel, i Washington. Vem finansierar dem? Jo, bland andra Eric Schmidt personligen och Google som företag samt utrikesdepartementet. Detsamma gäller många fler NGOer, och nyckelpersoner som tjänar båda sidor. NAFs generalsekreterare Anne-Mari Slaughter arbetade tidigare som Hillary Clintons rådgivare och fortsätter på utrikesdepartementet. Och som lärare på Princeton, samtidigt. Så här har vi dem allihop: personen Eric Schmidt, bolagen Google, regeringens utrikesdepartement.

Fastän det kan verka som om Google och Facebook är konkurrenter, så samarbetar de med varandra och staten i NGO-styrelser. NAF är den politiskt mest betydelsefulla och Eric Schmidts "politiska hemvist" i Washington. Men både han och andra direktörer sitter också i andra stiftelser som gör anspråk på att förkroppsliga "civilsamhället".

*Du menar att det vi kallar "representativ demokrati" döljer en mäktig vilja att kontrollera folken.*

Du känner ju till Noam Chomskys berömda påstående: "Massmedia är för demokratin detsamma som propagandan för diktaturen". Det är två olika sätt att manipulera, nödvändiga för kontrollsystemen.

*Vad säger du om "Total Information Awareness" (11), tror du att projektet har övergivits?*

Nej, absolut inte. Wikileaks har dokument som vi ännu inte publicerat om hur projektet uppstod. Omedelbart efter den 11 september 2001 ville USAs samlade säkerhetstjänster öka sin redan stora makt. Massövervakning förekom ju före 11 september, Nationella Säkerhetstjänsten, NSA, var redan ett jättemonster som samlade in väldiga informationsmängder. Men omedelbart efter 11 september ville armén beröva NSA denna godbit. Så de lade fram "Total Information Awareness" med något de kallade MOAD, Mother of all databases (12) som skulle innefatta alla data som samlas i USA: CIAs, övriga underrättelsetjänsters, satelliternas mm. Projektet godkändes till att börja med. Men NSA såg arméns förslag som ett hot och bekämpade— inledningsvis utan framgång— TIA och det cyberkommando som inrättades. Så tillsammans med demokraternas främst ansvariga inom området angrep NSA projektet som ett hot mot de medborgerliga rättigheterna, och började ta över delar av TIA. **Så projektet som sådant har försvunnit, men alla dess syften gäller och ingår nu i NSA:s uppdrag.**

*Du brukar säga till dina läsare: "Lär dig hur världen fungerar". Men hur ska det gå till?*

Internetrevolutionen har kopplat ihop alla samhällen och alla deras spioner, innefattande de främsta. Detta har förstärkt globaliseringens negativa aspekter, den superaggressiva ekonomiska konkurrensen, finanstransaktioner i ljusets hastighet. NSA och Google med flera samlar in privat information från och om de maktlösa för att använda den till egen fördel. De redan mäktiga kan mångfaldiga sin makt och utsträcka den till alla länder.

Men å andra sidan har denna revolution gjort det möjligt för människor runt om i världen att lära sig av och med varandra, dela med sig, ge och få mer information och bättre förstå hur världen fungerar. Så växer miljoner människors kunskap, och därmed makt. Och organisationer har vuxit upp som Wikileaks, som samlar in de supermäktiga organisationernas hemligheter och ställer dem till hela världens förfogande, för att balansera den ojämlika maktfördelningen.

Ben Alis ministrar erkänner att några av Wikileaks explosiva avslöjanden knäckte ryggraden på Ben Alis system. Det är uppenbart att avslöjandena spelade en viktig roll. De gjordes vid rätt tidpunkt då det rådde stort missnöje. Men det som verkligen fick Ben Ali på fall var han själv.

Nu finns så många sätt att lära sig. **De senaste fem åren har den mest omfattande politiska utbildningen i världen ägt rum, någonsin. Inte i alla länder, men på ett sätt som aldrig skett tidigare.** Samtidigt försöker storbolagen och staterna kontrollera detta genom att samla in ännu mer uppgifter om folk.

Men det ska inte vara staten som ska veta allt om medborgarna, det är medborgarna som ska veta allt om staten. Det är den öppenhet som behövs för att skapa rättvisa. Folk vill bli behandlade med rättvisa. Och de vill ha sitt privatliv i fred.

*Vad säger du om att en före detta fransk utrikesminister har anklagat Wikileaks för att "kränka staternas privatliv"?*

Vad stater behöver hålla hemligt kan man ha olika uppfattningar om. Men utan insyn och folklig kontroll är risken stor att institutioner går till överdrift och/eller korrumpas.

*Du har också sagt att när de arabiska vårarna uppstod och ungdomsrevolterna runt om i världen, de indignerade i Spanien och Occupy Wall Street blev Internet "demos", ett folk, en kultur med värderingar och strävanden, en plats som skrev historia, är det inte att ta i?*

Jo, för internet som helhet. Men miljoner människor finns på internet— ingen vet exakt hur många— och många uppfattar sig som del av detta folk. Det händer att när jag frågar några om varifrån de kommer får jag svaret: Jag kommer från internet. De säger det på allvar. De upplever verkligen att Internet är den plats där deras personliga kultur har uppstått.

Informationsdelning behövs för att befria världen. Det finns inget annat hopp. Det har aldrig funnits något annat hopp. Detta är vad kampen hela tiden handlat om. Information, kunskap. Ta de gamla grekerna, upplysningstiden, konflikterna i Kina, självständighetskrigen i Latinamerika, den postkoloniala kampen: det har alltid i första hand gällt att förstå läget, förutsättningarna, hur makten fungerar, hur människorna fungerar, vad som är möjligt och vad som inte är det.

Folk har alltid hämmats av bristande kunskap. Men om vi tänker oss ett läge där utbildningen är mycket bättre och Internet har bättre kvalitet och att sökandet efter kunskap är det högsta. Då har vi kommit längre än våra föregångare. Men ännu återstår mycket för att få den bättre bildning och kunskap vi behöver för att mänskligheten ska nå ett högre stadium.

*Du har sagt att Wikileaks har givit världen en "lektion i journalistisk", och att massmedia "måste förstöras" och ersättas, är inte också det att ta i lite väl mycket?*

Jag har arbetat som journalist, som redaktör, i konkurrens med andra publikationer. Och som alla andra är jag konsument och läsare. Men jag har också erfarenheter som få andra har haft, framför allt mycket få journalister: att drabbas av medierna, att själv var ämnet. Så jag har välutvecklad näsa för bristen på professionalism, för de många fördomarna, **för underdånigheten inför den makt journalisterna tjänar**. Visst finns bra journalister även inom förhärskande medier, men de institutionella begränsningarna är mycket hårda och nästan omöjliga att bryta. Det korrumpas. Ledande journalister bjuds in till mäktiga grupper, som jämlikar, affärspartner, för informationsutbyte. Eller utestängs. Det är en förförelseprocess, en rekryteringsprocess som är svår att värja sig mot. Det är sällsynt att en inflytelserik mediekoncern att informerar hederligt.

*Vad har du för kontakter med Edward Snowden för närvarande, om det inte är hemligt?*

Det är ingen hemlighet att vi i Wikileaks lyckades föra ut Edward Snowden från Hongkong till en säker plats. Han har nu asyl i Ryssland och bygger upp en organisation för att försvara journalisters källor, det heter Courage Foundation. En stor specialjury i USA utreder nu Snowdens fall och de FBI-agenter som är knutna till juryn har ställt frågor om vilken roll jag och Sarah Harrison och andra i Wikileaks-gruppen har haft. Vi är nöjda och stolta över att Snowden fått asyl, har resedokument och kan röra sig fritt i världens största land. Fortfarande måste han vara mycket försiktig om han ska resa utanför Ryssland, eftersom USA:s försöker fånga honom. Men så länge han är försiktig så har han det bra nu. Det ger andra visseblåsare mod.

*Du delar samma öde som Snowden att tillhöra USA:s mest eftersökta och samtidigt för många vara "vår tids hjältar".*

Ingen god gärning sker ostraffat. Vi, mina advokater, har jag försökt förhandla med Washington men justitiedepartementet vägrar tala med oss. Utredningen pågår, men de vägrar informera oss. Ecuadors regering har också försökt men USA vägrar också tala med dem.

*I juni uppgav du offentligt att du räknade med att snabbt kunna lämna ambassaden.*

Jag är fortfarande säker på att kunna göra det, vi har lagt in dussintals inlagor till olika juridiska instanser. Vi fortsätter offensiven, vi har anmält USA-ambassadens undersökningar om min vistelse i Sverige, och USA-militärens aktioner mot oss i Tyskland, och i Danmark mot danska säkerhetstjänsten olagliga samarbete med FBI mot oss. Och i Island, där har vi haft framgång och uppnått att en av FBIs samarbetsmän som informerade om Wikileaks arresterades.

Men jag har också överklagat i Sverige och vi hoppas på något mått av positiv handläggning. Ur juridisk synpunkt är läget helt klart sedan länge. Och allteftersom tiden går börjar USA och Storbritannien att dra sig undan Wikileakstemat. Nu är det ISIS de fokuserar på. I Storbritannien har de också val nästa år.

Och Sverige har ny regering, socialdemokratisk. Men vi får inte glömma att det var en socialdemokratisk regering som beslöt att samarbeta med CIA 2001. Det råder ingen större skillnad där mellan centerhöger och centervänster. Men det är ändå en förändring. Och under en övergångstid har den nya regeringen annat att göra.

I Storbritannien har vi flera parlamentsgrupper som stöder min sak och det har lett till lagändring. Den internationella häktningsordern mot mig saknar åtalspunkter. Och som tur är har högsta domstolen i Storbritannien slagit fast att det skulle vara ett övergrepp att utlämna mig utan åtalspunkter. Och så har parlamentet förtydligat lagen. Nu kan ingen utlämnas på sådan grund.

*Men den har gjort ett undantag för dig. Lagen är inte retroaktiv.*

En sådan paragraf tillfördes efter att en artikel i London Independent visade att om lagen antogs som den var skriven skulle jag gå fri. Antagligen är det inte lagligt att föra in en klausul enbart för att komma åt en särskild person. Men de är luriga, de angav inte mitt namn, bara beskriver exakt mitt läge. Men jag är optimist.

## Noter

1. Clave Intellectual, Madrid 2013

2. Jean Vincent de Pauls intervju med Noam Chomsky 20120815: « Noam Chomsky on Government, Silicon Valley and the Internet ».
3. Vapenbestyckade interkontinentala raketer
4. Efter att mellan 2001 och 2011 ha varit verkställande direktör för Google är Eric Schmidt sedan 4 april 2011, verkställande styrelseordförande.
5. Jared Cohen är chef för Google Ideas, en tankesmedja stödd av Google med uppgift att "identifiera de globala utmaningarna och finna de tekniska lösningar som kan tillämpas". Han var rådgivare till båda utrikesministrarna Condoleeza Rice och Hilary Clinton, och presidenterna George W. Bush och Barack Obama.
6. Lisa Shields är informationschef för Council of Foreign Relations, den viktigaste utrikespolitiska tankesmedjan i USA, knuten till demokraterna. Hon är också fästmo till Eric Schmidt.
7. USAs samlade säkerhetstjänst består av 17 olika organ, bland den CIA, NSA, FBI, DEA.
8. Blackwater USA (som sedan ändrade namn till Blackwater Worldwide, och som nu kallar sig Academi) är ett privat militärföretag som anses vara "världens mäktigaste privatarmé". Har sats in som stöd till USAs väpnade styrkor i Irak och Afghanistan.
9. Se "Ecuador och Chevrons smutsiga händer", Flamman, december 2013.
10. NAF, en ideell, nyliberal NGO (icke regeringsanknuten organisation) som fokuserar på nationell säkerhet, teknologi, ekonomi mm och de utmaningar USA står inför i 2000-talets globala informationssamhälle. Säte i Washington, styrelseordförande Eric Schmidt, över ett hundratal anställda. Källa Wikipedia.
11. Fullständig överblick över all information.
12. Alla databasers moder

\* \* \*

Subject: Grovt missvisande om "våldtäkt"  
Date: Wed, 07 Jan 2015 19:45:26 +0100  
From: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>  
To: red@flamman.se

Redaktör Jonas Thunberg  
Flamman

Sent omsider har jag läst din ursäktande ingress till Ignacio Ramonets intervju med Julian Assange, daterad 2014-12-20, där du bl.a. skriver att "I sitt publicistiska sammanhang borde det naturligtvis ha nämnts att Julian Assange i Sverige utreds för våldtäkt...."

Det stämmer faktiskt inte. Han utreds för "våldtäkt, mindre grov" som är väsenskilld från riktig våldtäkt. Skillnaden är så stor och tydlig att mig veterligen finns det inget annat land än Sverige som använder ordet "våldtäkt" i sammanhanget.

Detta har jag förklarat i den artikel som refereras här nedan. Vore passande om Flamman — vars rapportering i denna fråga länge varit missvisande — skulle publicera en ordentlig rättelse och förklaring.

Med vänlig hälsning,  
Al Burke

### **Murdering Language In the Name of the Law**

The head of the Swedish Bar Association has noted that her country's legal definition of rape "extends to acts which, in normal language usage, would not be called rape, and includes behaviour which has nothing at all to do with threats or violence".

As one consequence, WikiLeaks' editor Julian Assange has been stigmatized throughout the world with a violent crime he has not committed. That is the result of a linguistic folly which was incorporated into Swedish law in 2005...

*Read more at:* <http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/murder.pdf>

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### **Letter to [Australian] Senate crossbenchers re: Julian Assange**

Kellie Tranter  
2015-01-13

Dear Senator:

Today marks 1500 days since Julian Assange, an Australian citizen, has been detained in the United Kingdom without charge.

The concerns surrounding Mr Assange's case are well known but rarely reported on either accurately or in detail in mainstream media. For an accurate background you may care to review the following:

'Brief to Canberra' by Jennifer Robinson, Human Rights Lawyer, dated 4 March 2011;  
Letter from Gareth Peirce, Human Rights Lawyer, to The Hon Kevin Rudd dated 15 September 2011;

Affidavit of Julian Paul Assange; and

Article by John Pilger 'The siege of Julian Assange is a farce— a special investigation' dated 16 November 2014.

Unfolding circumstances in the case of Mr Peter Greste, another Australian citizen and journalist, and the aftermath of the recent Charlie Hebdo attacks in France, reminds us all of the importance of, and need for the protection of, journalists, free speech and freedom of the press.



The comparison is not gratuitous: you may be aware that WikiLeaks won the Walkley Award for contribution to journalism in 2011 and the Amnesty International UK Media Award (New Media) in 2009, and in a personal capacity Mr Assange was also awarded the Martha Gellhorn prize for journalism in 2011.

Yet the Australian Government— both current and former— have offered no tangible assistance to Mr Assange notwithstanding protestations that the “cornerstone of progress is free speech” and that “freedom of expression... is the lifeblood of free societies”.

Even more disturbing is the 2013 revelation by the former Foreign Minister Bob Carr that the government would make no more representations to the US on Assange’s circumstances because his case “doesn’t affect Australian interests”. There is no evidence to suggest that the current government— self-proclaimed champions of free speech— is willing to take a different position.

Please do not be distracted by the array of reputational attacks— including that he is everything from a rapist, megalomaniac and a traitor— that have been made on Mr Assange. The claims are entirely irrelevant and have no bearing on his fundamental human rights or the right to the presumption of innocence. Indeed Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone 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.

And please also bear in mind— despite repeated unsupported assertions to the contrary— that former security and intelligence officers have said that the WikiLeaks’ disclosures in 2010 and 2011 were embarrassing to the government but that “no great harm was done”, and that the Pentagon’s special assessment team looking over the WikiLeaks Afghanistan war logs found nothing that could damage national security.

History illustrates the important role the Senate, and you as a Senator, can play in situations like this. The 1970s great bottom of the harbour tax avoidance scandal is one clear example of an issue where the Senate used everything at its disposal to move the government of the day to act. If all rights that citizens have flow from freedom of thought and speech— as the global response to the tragedy in France confirms — it is hard to think of a more important issue for which the Senate should again go to the barricades than the plight of Mr Assange.

Would you please indicate your position in relation to Mr Assange’s case and confirm whether you would be prepared to either move a motion to refer his case to a committee and/or to raise Questions on Notice in the chamber in relation to his case.

Yours faithfully

Kellie Tranter  
Maitland NSW  
Australia

[kellietranter.com/2015/01/letter-senate-crossbenchers-relation-julian-assange](http://kellietranter.com/2015/01/letter-senate-crossbenchers-relation-julian-assange)

## **Ecuador involved in review of Human Rights in Sweden with Julian Assange's case in between**

*Government of Ecuador  
26 de Enero de 2015*

Today, during the course of the Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Human Rights of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Ecuadorian government made several recommendations to the Swedish government progress in the defense and protection of human rights. In particular, the Ecuadorian delegation referred to the difficulties within the justice system in Sweden, which have negatively impacted the enjoyment of fundamental rights of the Australian citizen Julian Assange, who enjoys the status of asylum in the Embassy of Ecuador in London .

After congratulating Sweden by advances in Human rights since its last UPR, Ambassador Maria Fernanda Espinosa, in her first speech as Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva, conveyed in Council session Human rights, the recommendation of the Ecuadorian government to Sweden to limit the time of detention or equivalent deprived of liberty without charges; and also streamline mechanisms for international cooperation in judicial and prosecutorial bodies to ensure due process, particularly if the victim is protected by a decision of asylum or refugee status.

With these recommendations, the Ecuadorian government promotes full respect for Human rights of Julian Assange, who faces a judicial process initiated by the Swedish prosecutor and an order of remand, two and a half years ago, although it has not been formally accused of committing any crime and has not had access to the evidence used against him.

Like Ecuador, the delegation of Argentina stressed the need to take concrete measures to provide non-refundable guarantees to whom is considered a refugee by another State. The delegation of Cuba stressed the need to ensure access to evidence in any regime of detention, while the Delegation of Uruguay stressed the need to ensure the right to fair proceedings. The delegation of Nicaragua recommended that Sweden granted without discrimination guarantees of judicial protection of detainees in accordance with international commitments. On the same subject, the Slovak delegation recommended that Sweden to all necessary individuals deprived of liberty safeguards are met.

<http://www.cancilleria.gob.ec/ecuador-involved-in-review-of-human-rights-in-sweden-with-julian-assanges-case-in-between/?lang=en>

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## **Hutton Fury over BBC writer's 'kill Assange' tweet**

*Controversy hits new comedy based on the Wikileaks founder*

*Chortle  
2015-01-30*

The writer of the BBC's new comedy inspired by Julian Assange once called for the police to publicly shoot the Wikileaks founder in the head.

Supporters of Assange say tweets Thom Phipps posted about him were 'shocking' and 'dangerous'— and make him unfit to write about the issue.

BBC Four's new three-part sitcom *Asylum* is inspired by controversial figure's enforced stay in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. He took refuge there in June 2012 to escape extradition to Sweden on sexual assault charges, which he fears will pave the way for him to be sent to the US to face an espionage trial.

**Two months after Assange was given political asylum, Phipps posted: 'If the met [police] want to regain my trust they should drag Assange out the embassy + shoot him in the back of th head in the middle of traf square.'**

**Phipps now says: 'It was something I tweeted over two years ago and it was clearly a joke.'**

However, backers of Assange took the issue more seriously, and have complained to the BBC over its 'shameful' decision to employ Phipps.

One of them, Emmy Butlin, said Phipps 'advocated for the public extrajudicial assassination' of the Wikileaks founder and queried why the corporation would 'employ someone with extreme views' to write the comedy.

She is also angry that the show is to air as part of the BBC's *Taking Liberties* season to mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, saying: 'Mr Phipps has called for Mr Assange's assassination, going against the most fundamental principals.'

On her blog she also highlighted **another tweet Phipps made in 2012, saying: 'its cool to imagine assange as a spartacus figure cuz that means he's going to be forcibly nailed to a piece of wood at one point.'**

Another blog, *Domestic Empire*, complained that the 'writer chosen to write Assange-inspired comedy advocates murder over democratic free speech'.

Butlin complained to the Corporation saying: 'I find it offensive that Mr Phipps who has publicly incited violence and propagated the murder of Mr Assange, has been employed by the BBC' and calling for action.

The BBC complaints department wrote back saying: 'Unfortunately Mr Philip's [sic] is not a BBC member of staff and is not representing the BBC. Therefore we will not be commenting on Twitter posts made by third parties.'

Phipps is a new writer to TV and co-wrote *Asylum* with Peter Bowden, based on an idea by Kayvan Novak, who also appears in it, and his *Fonejacker* producer Tom Throstrup.

In the comedy, which will air on February 9, Ben Miller plays an Assange-type character **described as a 'serious, self-important egotist** who is accused of leaking important documents'. He is forced to share his quarters in the London embassy of fictional Latin American country El Rico with Ludo Backslash, played by Cardinal Burns's Dustin Demri-Burns, 'a larger than life, childish hacker who set up a file

sharing website and became public enemy number one'. Producers 2LE Media say he was inspired by Kim Dotcom, the founder of file-sharing site MegaUpload.

When Chortle asked about Phipps' tweets and his role writing *Asylum*, a BBC spokesperson replied only: 'Asylum is a completely fictitious comedy based on the whistleblower culture and we are pleased to have the show as part of the BBC's Taking Liberties democracy season.'

His tweets have since been deleted, but were captured by pro-Wikileaks websites.

[www.chortle.co.uk/news/2015/01/30/21744/fury\\_over\\_bbc\\_writers\\_kill\\_assange\\_tweet](http://www.chortle.co.uk/news/2015/01/30/21744/fury_over_bbc_writers_kill_assange_tweet)

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## **Glimmer of Hope for Assange**

*Gustavo Capdevila  
Inter Press Service  
January 31, 2015*

There is a window of hope, thanks to a U.N. human rights body, for a solution to the diplomatic asylum of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, holed up in the embassy of Ecuador in London for the past two and a half years.

Authorities in Sweden, which is seeking the Australian journalist's extradition to face allegations of sexual assault, admitted there is a possibility that measures could be taken to jumpstart the stalled legal proceedings against Assange.

The head of Assange's legal defence team, former Spanish judge Baltasar Garzón, told IPS that in relation to this case "we have expressed satisfaction that the Swedish state" has accepted the proposals of several countries.

The prominent Spanish lawyer and international jurist was referring to proposals set forth by Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, Slovakia and Uruguay.

The final report by the U.N. Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), adopted Thursday Jan. 28 in Geneva, Switzerland, contains indications that a possible understanding among the different countries concerned might be on the horizon.

The UPR is a mechanism of the Geneva-based Human Rights Council to examine the human rights performance of all U.N. member states.

The situation of Assange, a journalist, computer programmer and activist born in Australia in 1971, was introduced in Sweden's UPR by Ecuador, the country that granted him diplomatic asylum in its embassy in London, and by several European and Latin American nations.

The head of the Swedish delegation to the UPR, Annika Söder, state secretary for political affairs at Sweden's foreign ministry, told IPS that "This is a very complex matter in which the government can only do a few things."

Söder said that in Sweden, Assange is “suspected of crimes, rape, sexual molestation in accordance with Swedish law. And that’s why the prosecutor in Sweden wants to conduct the primary investigation.

“We are aware of Mr. Assange’s being in the embassy of Ecuador and we hope that there will be ways to deal with the legal process in one way or the other. But it is up to the legal authorities to respond,” she said.

Assange’s legal defence team complains that Sweden’s public prosecutor’s office is delaying the legal proceedings and refuses to question him by telephone, email, video link or in writing.

Garzón noted that parallel to the lack of action by the Swedish prosecutor’s office, there is a secret U.S. legal process against Assange and other members of Wikileaks, the organisation he created in 2006.

“The origin of the U.S. legal proceedings against Assange was the mass publication by Wikileaks of documents, in many cases sensitive ones, which affected the United States,” said Garzón.

Wikileaks’ publication of hundreds of thousands of diplomatic cables and other classified U.S. documents revealed practices by Washington that put it in an awkward position with other governments.

Assange sought refuge in the embassy after exhausting options in British courts to avoid extradition to Sweden to face questioning related to allegations of rape and sexual molestation, of which he says he is innocent. He has not been charged with a crime in Sweden and is worried that if he is extradited to that country he will be sent to the United States, where he is under investigation for releasing secret government documents. [Also he is not suspected of having committed “rape”, as that term is used just about everywhere in the world except Sweden. See PDF document at <http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/murder.pdf>]

If the legal process in Sweden begins to move forward, there would be a possibility for him to be able to leave the Ecuadorean embassy, where he took refuge on Jun. 19, 2012, and give up the diplomatic asylum he was granted by the government of Rafael Correa on Aug. 16, 2012.

In the UPR report, Sweden promised to examine recommendations made by other countries and to provide a response before the next U.N. Human Rights Council session, which starts Jun. 15.

Garzón has urged the Swedish government to specify a timeframe for the legal action against Assange, as the delegation from Ecuador recommended in the UPR.

“The Human Rights Committee, another specialised U.N. body, stipulates that precise timeframes must be established for putting a detained person at the disposal of a judge,” he pointed out.

Söder told IPS that Sweden's legal system does not set any deadline for the prosecutor to complete the pretrial examination phase, as reflected in the Assange case.

**Garzón is also asking Sweden to introduce, as soon as possible, "measures to ensure that the legal proceedings are carried out in accordance with standards that guarantee the rights of individuals, concretely the right to effective judicial recourse and legal proceedings without undue delays."**

He also called for the adoption of administrative and judicial measures to make investigations before the courts more effective. With respect to this, he mentioned "the practice of measures of inquiry abroad, in line with international cooperation mechanisms."

In addition, the international jurist demanded measures to ensure that people deprived of their freedom are provided with legal guarantees in accordance with international standards.

**The Swedish delegation agreed to study a recommendation by Argentina to "take concrete measures to ensure that guarantees of non-extradition will be given to any person under the control of the Swedish authorities while they are considered refugees by a third country,"** in this case Ecuador. These should include legislative measures, if necessary.

This is important because Assange is facing the threat that the Swedish or British authorities could accept an extradition request from the United States for charges of espionage, which carry heavy penalties.

In his comments to IPS, Garzón said he was "disappointed" that the Swedish state has not accepted one of Ecuador's recommendations. He was referring to the request that Sweden streamline international cooperation mechanisms on the part of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office in order to ensure the right to effective legal remedy, specifically in cases where the person is protected by the decision to grant asylum or refuge.

It was stressed in the UPR that the right to asylum or refuge is considered a fundamental right, and must be respected and taken into account, making it compatible with the right to legal defence.

The director-general of legal affairs in Sweden's foreign ministry, Anders Rönquist, argued that there is no international convention on diplomatic asylum.

The only one referring to that issue is the inter-American convention, he said, adding that the International Court of Justice in The Hague does not require recognition of diplomatic asylum *[which in no way prevents Sweden from doing so --A.B.]*.

## **Julian Assange has cost taxpayer £10 million by avoiding extradition**

*Heavy policing for Wikileaks founder has resulted in a hefty bill*

*Helen Nianias  
The Independent  
5 February 2015*

Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks, is thought to have cost the UK taxpayer £10 million pounds as he avoids extradition in the Ecuadorian Embassy, London.

Scotland Yard has confirmed that the expense of policing Assange as he stays at the embassy had added up to £9 million by October 2014. The current bill is calculated to stand at around £10 million.

Assange has been staying in the embassy since June 2012. He is avoiding extradition to Sweden over claims he assaulted two women in Stockholm. He believes if he is extradited to Sweden that he will then be forced to go to the United States for publishing secret files revealing sensitive informational about national security.

Assange's tenure at the Knightsbridge embassy means that police are required *[there is no such requirement; it is a choice by the U.K. government --A.B.]* 24 hours a day, ready to apprehend him should he emerge.

The bulk of the £9million price tag was for policing, with £1.7million of that in "indirect" costs, LBC radio reported. The station calculated that Assange has been guest of the embassy for 959 days, or nearly 1,381,000 minutes.

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## **UK Spent More Money 'Guarding' Assange than on Iraq War Probe**

*Telesur  
5 February 2015*

U.K. taxpayers have now forked out US\$15 million on a two-year-old siege of the Ecuadorean embassy. The price tag for the United Kingdom's siege of the Ecuadorean embassy in London hit £10 million (US\$15 million) Thursday.

A WikiLeaks spokesperson pointed out the cost of the controversial police operation has now exceeded the budget of the country's Iraq War inquiry. The inquiry was established in 2009 to critique the U.K.'s role in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The broad public inquiry is expected to have a final cost of roughly £10 million.

Pro-WikiLeaks website govwaste.co.uk says the amount of "U.K. taxpayer money wasted 'guarding' Assange" could have been used to provide people in need with over 8 million meals, or cover the costs of sending nearly 18,000 children to school for a year.

British police have surrounded the embassy since June 2012, when WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange claimed asylum there. Assange is wanted for questioning in Sweden in relation to allegations of sexual offenses.

The high profile hacktivist says he fears Sweden may hand him over to U.S. authorities, who he has accused of plotting to prosecute him for his role at WikiLeaks. Although Ecuador has granted Assange asylum, U.K. authorities have refused to allow the WikiLeaks founder safe passage to the South American nation. Instead, authorities deployed police to surround the embassy, with orders to arrest Assange if he tries to leave.

U.K. authorities have previously threatened to forcibly enter the embassy to capture Assange, but backed down after the Ecuadorian government slammed the proposal as a violation of international norms.

Australian-British journalist and Assange supporter John Pilger has described the U.K.'s response to the asylum standoff as a "farce."

"For two years, an exaggerated, costly police presence around the Ecuadorean embassy in London has served no purpose other than to flaunt the power of the state," Pilger argued in November 2014.

**"Their quarry is an Australian charged with no crime, a refugee from gross injustice whose only security is the room given him by a brave South American country. His true crime is to have initiated a wave of truth-telling in an era of lies, cynicism and war,"** he stated.

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## **Assange appeals to Sweden's supreme court over arrest warrant**

*Lawyers will press for ruling that limitations on WikiLeaks founder's freedoms since seeking asylum in Ecuadorian embassy are unreasonable*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
25 February 2015*

Julian Assange is taking his appeal to Sweden's highest court in a final attempt to persuade a Swedish judge that the arrest warrant against him should be lifted. His lawyers will ask Sweden's supreme court on Wednesday to agree that the "severe limitations" on Assange's freedoms since he claimed asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2012 to escape extradition to Sweden are unreasonable and disproportionate to the case.

In August 2010, the WikiLeaks founder and campaigning journalist was accused by two women of rape and sexual molestation, *[It was the police and prosecutors that made the original accusations in loco parentis. --A.B.]* but he has not been charged because the prosecutor insists she is unable to interview him about the allegations. *[She already has once, in Stockholm. --A.B.]*



Prosecutor Marianne Ny has declined invitations by Assange to do so in London, where he has taken refuge in the embassy to avoid a perceived threat of extradition to the US for publishing military secrets. Assange denies all the charges.

In November, Stockholm's appeal court rejected Assange's case, saying there was a risk he would evade legal proceedings should the detention order be lifted. The court also ruled that his confinement to the embassy was voluntary.

However, in the ruling, senior appeal court judge Nicklas Wågner noted the deadlock in the case and criticised the prosecution for failing to move the investigation forward. "That is a heavy obligation on the prosecutor," Judge Wågner told the Guardian after the ruling. "If Assange challenges the detention order again [in the supreme court], I believe the court will consider what measures the prosecutor has taken to move the preliminary investigation forward in between now and the next challenge."

A spokesperson for the prosecutor said she would "not give details" about the investigation, and Per Samuelson, one of Assange's Stockholm lawyers, said he had heard nothing about any movement.

Swedish legal opinion at a senior level has swung against the prosecutor's decision not to travel to London to interview Assange, with Anne Ramberg, head of the Bar Association, calling the current impasse a "circus".

"It would of course after such a long time be sensible for the prosecutor to determine whether to prosecute," she said. "The Assange story has become a less than flattering adventure not only for the English courts' handling of the case, but also for the Swedish prosecutor."

Stefan Lindskog, the president of the supreme court, told the Guardian he had faced criticism for being "too outspoken" when in 2013 he described the case as "a mess" and called for it to be "solved practically".

"Two courts have held that there is a probable cause [for prosecution] as regards sexual molestation, but probable cause is a lower standard than beyond reasonable doubt," Lindskog said in a speech in Adelaide, Australia, in April 2013. Judge Lindskog said he had left the case behind him and declined to comment further.

In October, the British Foreign Office said it would welcome a request by the Swedish prosecutor to question Assange inside the Ecuadorian embassy and would be happy to facilitate such a move.

Claes Borgström, a lawyer for one of the women in the case, told the Guardian he believed the prosecutor had "some material in the investigation that so far nobody knows about except for her", which might explain her refusal to interview Assange in London.

**Samuelson said these were "empty words.... I know there is no hard evidence against Julian Assange."**

After the supreme court later on Wednesday receives the arguments from Assange's lawyers, it must decide whether to grant their request for the appeal to be heard. While it is not essential for the court to request a response from the prosecutor, it has the powers to do so, said Charlotte Edvardsson, a registrar at the supreme court. It has not yet been decided which judges will decide on the appeal, Edvardsson said. It is likely that the court will find it sufficient to issue a written ruling rather than hold a public hearing.

Samuelson said defence lawyers had widened and deepened their arguments against the arrest warrant. "We have gone into greater detail on judgments and protocols of the European court of human rights, deepening our investigation beyond the boundaries of Swedish law and taken it much more into European law," he said.

**If they lose the case in Sweden, Assange's lawyers are looking to appeal to the European court, where they say legal thinking on detention "speaks strongly" in their favour.** Sweden's interpretation that Assange is not deprived of his liberty appears to be at odds with ECHR jurisprudence, said Jennifer Robinson, an Australian lawyer for Assange.

In January, Sweden agreed at the United Nations to a request by Ecuador to consider taking "measures to limit the time of pretrial detention or the equivalent situation of deprivation of liberty without charges and for investigation purposes". Assange says that his asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy amounts to deprivation of liberty under Article 5 of the European convention on human rights.

Sweden also agreed to a request by Argentina to consider measures to ensure that a guarantee forbidding the rendering of a victim of persecution to their persecutor can be given to "any person under the control of the Swedish authorities while considered a refugee by a third country". Assange has requested a guarantee from the Swedish state that he would not be extradited to the US should he agree to be questioned in Sweden.

Anders Rönquist, Sweden's director-general for legal affairs, said he believed that these requests were inspired by the Assange case, and noted that Sweden had until 15 June "to think about it". However, there was "no general obligation under international law to recognise diplomatic asylum", he added.

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## **Fair Trials intervenes over access to case file**

*February 26, 2015*

Lawyers acting in the criminal prosecution against Julian Assange in Sweden have today submitted an independent opinion prepared by Fair Trials, highlighting the lack of clarity surrounding the provision of EU law at issue and the need for guidance from the Court of Justice of the EU.

**The Right to Information Directive**, which was adopted in May 2012, and whose implementation date passed in June 2014, is a key piece of EU legislation that has the potential to be an effective tool for protecting basic fair trial rights. It essentially

requires that all suspects and accused persons receive basic information about their rights, information about reasons for arrest and charges, **and, importantly, access to the case materials in order to prepare a defence.**

This is the second of three directives adopted further to the 2009 Roadmap for strengthening procedural rights, the EU's ambitious project to strengthen mutual trust between Member States' judicial authorities by protecting criminal defence rights through EU law.

**Under Article 7(1) of the Directive, Member States are required to 'make available' to a person deprived of liberty those documents which are essential for contesting the lawfulness of detention.** This provision (though it may do other things too) is primarily intended to tackle the long-standing problem of courts detaining people presumed innocent on the grounds of there being a strong case against them, without making available the evidence need to challenge that finding. This is contrary to well-established European Convention on Human Rights principles, but these have not always been respected in practice....

But it's one thing for a law to be passed, and another to see how the law is implemented. In practice, as our opinion discussed, **different Member States have read this provision very differently, allowing different levels of access to the file with a range of practical rules** about making paper and electronic copies, taking notes etc., raising a question as to what exactly is required by the provision. As they concern the right to liberty of thousands across the EU, the question marks are important.

It is hoped that this current case will help to clarify the reach of Article 7(1) of the Directive. This is only a 'minimum rule', which respects the different approaches to criminal justice in the EU. But we believe that it must, at least, require that the person concerned and their lawyer should have an effective opportunity to consider and discuss the relevant documents and make submissions to the court on that basis in order to challenge detention effectively. Ultimately, it falls to the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) to give the needed interpretation.

Fair Trials, along with LEAP (a network of 130 criminal justice experts from all 28 Member States of the European Union), has long been focused on protection of defence rights within the European Union, and actively supported the EU institutions in delivering the defence rights measures adopted under the EU Roadmap. But, as this case shows, the key lies in the way the provisions are applied at the national level and the questions arise only if lawyers make use of them in national cases.

At Fair Trials, we are committed to making sure these new laws are used in practice. LEAP members are helping us to make sure that lawyers across Europe know about this new EU law. They are helping us to provide training, both in person and online, and are working with us to develop tools that lawyers can use to persuade local judges to take notice and refer questions to the CJEU when needed. This is a key part of LEAP's strategy, discussed at its Annual Conference on 6-7 February 2015. With more and more focus being placed on the Roadmap Directives, and this specific provision in particular, more questions like the one in this case are sure to arise before long.

[www.fairtrials.org/press/fair-trials-intervenes-over-access-to-case-file/](http://www.fairtrials.org/press/fair-trials-intervenes-over-access-to-case-file/)

## TRANSCRIPT OF MY INTERVIEW WITH WIKILEAKS SPOKESPERSON, KRISTINN HRAFNSSON

*Jamie Thomas*  
*March 1, 2015*

*JT: ... So my study is looking at a selection of American, British and Australian national newspapers in particular — what do you remember, if anything because obviously you're immersed in this world every day, of the media portrayal towards Assange and WikiLeaks at the time he was granted asylum in the embassy? Do any of those three countries stick out for you as being particularly negative towards him or positive at that time?*

KH: Well I would have to revisit what was written at that time to make a proper answer but in general my impression was that the press was very negative at that time towards Mr Assange and his claiming of asylum. The way he was portrayed as evading justice in some manner, the British Press have been particularly guilty of this, always looking away from the matter at hand— generally just negative towards Assange and WikiLeaks in general.

*JT: How important would you say it is that people analyse these media portrayals, especially of companies as important as WikiLeaks and Assange?*

KH: Well in general it is very important that people do realise that there is quite often a very strong bias or a hidden agenda in the mainstream media and when it comes to WikiLeaks there are other elements there that come to mind. I have quite often said that one of the most important revelations of WikiLeaks in the past few years has been, on top of the documents we have published, is the revelation of how shallow the mainstream media have been in their reporting on the work they have not done themselves, especially on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. WikiLeaks and Assange have been on the receiving end of quite a lot of hostility from the mainstream media; they see WikiLeaks as a competitor and also **they realise that in many ways what WikiLeaks have revealed is quite shaming to the role of the mainstream media and I think that is reflected in the atmosphere towards WikiLeaks.** When it comes to Julian Assange it is also the element of attacking individuals who go against the mainstream.

*JT: A lot of examples I found were publications using sources who said Assange claimed certain things or framed things in such a way that made him out to be some sort of paranoid individual who was on his own in his suspicions. Is this something you have found in your experience and what does this type of portrayal suggest to you?*

KH: **It has been appalling how the media has portrayed Julian Assange.** It is quite shameful and above all else is a betrayal to the consumers and readers of mainstream media, it is totally incorrect. We have had to fight against hostile elements in the media who for years, and still very strong tendencies ongoing, want to twist things. Not a week goes by where I don't have to correct those who are claiming that Julian Assange has been charged with crimes in Sweden— this is something that even now is written almost daily in the media which is simply factually incorrect.

*JT: I wonder if you don't mind me asking, what is your experience of Assange and how does your experience with him over the many years you've worked together contradict the negative assertions made about his character in the media?*

KH: In general the media portrayal of Assange is quite different to what he is actually like. We met five years ago and we have had a great working relationship with WikiLeaks since then and what is being portrayed is totally contradictory to my experience. If you are asking how the general public can see through this distortion, it is not easy and there are individuals who are honest and critical of the media. John Pilger is one such great person who is not seen very favourably in the mainstream media because of his views, Russell Brand is another and it is quite interesting to see how the reaction is building in a similar manner to what it was with us and Julian Assange. He [Brand] has been ridiculed by many and marginalised as this insane voice instead of this man who is telling the truth about the great flaws of journalism and the mainstream media today.

*JT: Also most of the articles I analysed were loaded with direct quotations from the British Government who of course were, and still are, trying to justify their almost illegal methods to extradite Assange to Sweden, saying that he was using the embassy's diplomatic immunity to hide from justice. How would you respond to that?*

KH: The Ecuadorian Embassy took great care in looking over Julian's application and did not grant him asylum until after weeks of careful analysis of his request. What I remember from William Hague in particular was his threat to storm the embassy which was quite remarkable in the sense that he said these words and made these outrageous threats. It totally united many countries in supporting the Ecuadorian Embassy, particularly Latin American countries where many of the political leaders there have great respect for the sanctuary of embassies. Quite a remarkable comment made by William Hague.

*JT: Even in the limited amount of time I have had to analyse these articles, The New York Times and The Guardian appear to be among the most inflammatory in their comments regarding Assange and his character. Does this surprise you and why do you think they have taken this stance on Assange?*

KH: Well it is well known that we had a very troubling relationship with these two media organisations, particularly with a couple of individuals who work with The Guardian and The New York Times. Back in those days they were quite dishonest to not honour their obligation and their word with regards to the publishing of some material so it created quite a lot of negative tension between WikiLeaks and these organisations and we would not tolerate this kind of behaviour and so that has in some way obviously coloured the way they paint the picture of the organisation and Julian Assange.

*JT: I was reading Andrew O'Hagan's article recently about him ghost-writing Assange's book and how he naturally ended up spending a lot of time with Assange. He described Assange as being obsessively against NYT and The Guardian, even though in his opinion the NYT saved Assange from being imprisoned because the US couldn't conceivably have convicted Assange for leaking those cables without convicting Keller and Rusbridger too. Do you agree with that assessment?*

KH: I don't agree with the assessment that The New York Times saved Julian Assange or WikiLeaks in any way. We could have worked with any other media organisation in that country that would have worked and behaved more honourably than Bill Keller I am sure, so I don't agree with that. I don't agree with the fact that there is any obsession there either— we have a good relationship with a lot of people at The Guardian and a lot of people at the New York Times and there are a lot of good people there— the simple truth is that there were a few individuals who didn't behave with honour when we asked them too.

*JT: Although WikiLeaks has an enormous amount of loyal followers who are behind the organisation in everything they do, there are a lot of detractors and a lot of those detractors seem to focus on Assange and these perceived character flaws he has. Why do you think that is and do you think it takes away from all of the amazing work WikiLeaks does?*

KH: Well that is quite an interesting question and it probably touches on a much bigger one which is basically about our relationship as a society with the mainstream media. When I first started working with Julian in 2010 prior to the release of the Collateral Murder video I was still a journalist working for another media organisation and it surprised me tremendously, and this still bothers me today, that the main focus was not on what I expected it to be. When the Collateral Murder video was released I saw the main focus, naturally, as being a very strong indication of a very serious war-crime being revealed in that horrendous video but **mainstream media appeared to be focussed on two things: (a) who leaked the video and (b) who is this personality, Julian Assange.** I think that says more about the nature of the mainstream media than anything about WikiLeaks, or Julian Assange for that matter. Journalism today is obsessively focussed on individuals or personalities and journalists spend more time idolising or tearing down individuals and less time on analysing the truth and trying to bring that to the public.

*JT: Can I ask you about the Spy Cables that were released yesterday? I was just wondering if you could give a bit of background into the significance of them, what sort of conversation you're hoping they're going to start and where do they rank among other leaks you've made over the years? Is it the biggest yet?*

KH: Well it is just starting to come out so we should give it a moment for the revelations to come to the fore but obviously it is of great importance and I believe it is something we are going to see more of. What started in 2010 with WikiLeaks was basically a watershed, there was a crack in that wall of secrecy and more and more has come out. Of course the most important leak since then was the Snowden Leaks and the Spy Cables now are an important insight into the inner working of the intelligence community and is quite an interesting and important contribution to our understanding of the world. This is the beginning of a new era where we will gradually see the tearing down of the curtains that have led us astray.

*JT: We saw the waves caused by that first leak last night, is there more to come and are the following leaks going to cause a bigger impact in your opinion?*

KH: Let's see what happens — this is just starting!

<https://jamiet1993.wordpress.com/2015/03/01/full-transcript-of-my-interview-with-wikileaks-spokesperson-kristinn-hrafnsson/>

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RTS published a video interview with Julian Assange in which he discusses events over the past four years, including his life inside the Ecuadorian Embassy. *[Questions in French, answers in English.]*

<http://www.rts.ch/play/tv/videos-en-bref/video/julian-assange-fears-death-or-being-incommunicado-in-the-us?id=6582416>

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## U.S. government still hunting WikiLeaks as Obama targets whistleblowers

*The Department of Justice and the FBI are pursuing a 'multi-subject long-term' investigation of the open-information website, court documents reveal*

Ed Pilkington  
The Guardian  
5 March 2015

The US government is conducting an active, long-term criminal investigation into WikiLeaks, a federal judge has confirmed in court documents.

Five years after Julian Assange and his team began publishing the massive dump of US state secrets leaked by an army intelligence analyst, two wings of the Department of Justice and the FBI remain engaged in a criminal investigation of the open-information website that is of a **"long-term duration", "multi-subject" in nature and that "remains in the investigative state"**.

The disclosure was made in the course of a ruling from the US district court for the District of Columbia, the jurisdiction of which covers federal agencies, and underlines the Obama administration's dogged pursuit of WikiLeaks and its unprecedentedly aggressive legal campaign against official whistleblowers.

Judge Barbara Rothstein records that she had considered evidence from both the Justice Department's criminal and national security divisions, as well as from the FBI— and that the government included seven declarations, three of them delivered to her in secret. At the end of her deliberations, the judge reached the conclusion that "this court is persuaded that there is an ongoing criminal investigation".

Rothstein added that federal agencies had told the court that their inquiry into WikiLeaks was "separate and distinct" from the prosecution of the army soldier who leaked the vast database of secrets, Chelsea Manning. She was convicted under the Espionage Act and sentenced in August 2013 to 35 years in military custody.

WikiLeaks's lawyer, Michael Ratner, said the disclosure was significant because, coming from such a high court, it left no doubt about the US government's intentions. "We are talking about a serious, multi-subject long-term investigation of WikiLeaks and its people," Ratner said. **"This confirms in spades that the US authorities are coming after WikiLeaks and want to close it down."**

The court ruling arrived in response to a freedom of information request from the Electronic Privacy Information Center (Epic). About a year after the Manning leaks, Epic requested from the DoJ and FBI all records regarding any individuals who had been targeted for surveillance “for support for or interest in WikiLeaks”.

In her ruling, the judge ordered the national security division of the DoJ to redouble its search of its files for documents that might fit the freedom of information request. But she sided with the federal agencies in granting them an exemption to the rules, so that they did not have to hand over any material to Epic— on grounds that doing so might interfere with their law enforcement activities.

The FBI and criminal division argued before the court that the release of their files “would allow targets of the investigation to evade law enforcement”. Rothstein agreed that “the government’s declarations, especially when viewed in light of the appropriate deference to the executive on issues of national security, may satisfy this burden.”

Assange, the WikiLeaks editor-in-chief who is currently living in the embassy of Ecuador in London after being granted asylum there, poured scorn on the judge’s reference to “appropriate deference to the executive”.

“My God, I know I am an Australian, but that doesn’t mean that WikiLeaks deserves a kangaroo court,” Assange told the Guardian.

Some aspects of the FBI’s investigation into WikiLeaks have already become public. In January 2011 it was revealed that the US government had ordered Twitter to hand over private messages from a then WikiLeaks volunteer, the Icelandic member of parliament Birgitta Jónsdóttir.

Earlier this year, it emerged that a similar demand for information had been imposed on Google relating to three WikiLeaks staffers, including the British citizen Sarah Harrison.

The Obama administration has launched eight prosecutions under the 1917 Espionage Act— more than under all previous US presidencies combined. John Kiriakou, a former CIA officer, was released from federal prison last month after almost two years behind bars for disclosing the identity of another covert operative; in January, Jeffrey Sterling was convicted under the act of leaking information to a New York Times journalist relating to a secret CIA operation in Iran.

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## **Swedish Prosecutors Drop Refusal to Interview Assange in UK**

*‘This is something we’ve demanded for over four years,’ says lawyer; ‘Ridiculous’ it took so long, says Wikileaks spokesperson*

*Jon Queally, staff writer  
Common Dreams  
March 13, 2015*

Both a lawyer and spokesperson for WikiLeaks expressed relief on Friday that Swedish prosecutors are now willing travel to London to interview founder and editor-in-chief



Julian Assange, even as they characterized as ridiculous that fact that it took well over four years to accept such an arrangement.

Assange has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for more than three years under asylum protection after allegations over sexual misconduct in Sweden sparked a legal battle over extradition. Assange has denied wrongdoing but repeatedly said he would be willing to answer all questions regarding the accusations and details of the case. However, he refused to return to Sweden stating fears of being extradited to the United States over a sealed indictment in that country related to his work with WikiLeaks exposing government and military secrets contained in leaked documents provided by U.S. Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning.

Swedish prosecutors of the case consistently refused Assange's offer to meet at the embassy in London to conduct the interview, but have now reversed that decision citing the approaching statute of limitations on the alleged offenses in the case.

"My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorean embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview, and that he would need to be present in Sweden in any case should there be a trial in the future," said lead prosecutor Marianne Ny in a statement. "Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies in the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward."

Ny said a request by her office was made to Assange's legal team on Friday for an in-person interview inside the Ecuador embassy in London. In addition, the prosecutors have requested to take a DNA swab of Assange.

Speaking with the Associated Press, WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said the Swedish decision was "a victory for Julian," even as he criticized the delay.

"I think it's absolutely outrageous that it took the Swedish prosecutor 4 1/2 years to come to this conclusion after maintaining that she couldn't come to London because it would be illegal to do so," he said. "Obviously that was a bogus argument."

One of Assange's lawyers, Per Samuelson, said he had spoken with his client and that they were likely to accept the offer. "This is something we've demanded for over four years," Samuelson told AP. "Julian Assange wants to be interviewed so he can be exonerated."

In response to the developments on Friday, independent journalist and filmmaker **John Pilger, speaking on behalf of the Julian Assange Legal Defense Fund, released the following statement:**

"I have closely followed the Julian Assange case from the beginning. The Swedish prosecutor's move is demonstrably cynical. In finally agreeing to come to London to interview Assange — something Assange and his legal team have been asking her to do for more than four years— she has waited until just before Sweden's statute of limitations nullifies her patently threadbare case against him and kept Assange trapped in the UK while the US continues to pursue its unprecedented espionage case against Assange and WikiLeaks. She has wasted four and a half years of Assange's life— against whom she has never produced a shred of evidence with which to formally charge him with any crime. Moreover, she is directly responsible for wasting millions of pounds of British taxpayers' money that have been spent on the policing of the Ecuadorean embassy in London. Her behaviour is scandalous."

## Julian Assange case: Sweden U-turn on questioning

*BBC News*  
13 March 2015

Swedish prosecutors have offered to travel to London to question Wikileaks founder Julian Assange over sex assault allegations. Prosecutors had previously insisted on questioning Mr Assange in Sweden, after seeking his arrest in 2010.

Mr Assange denies the assault claims and has been living at the Ecuadorean embassy in London since 2012. He fears that if he is sent to Sweden he could then be extradited to the US to face charges over leaking material.

A lawyer for Mr Assange, Per Samuelson, welcomed the move. "He is willing to co-operate fully now in conducting this interrogation— this is a great victory for him," he told the BBC World Service. "We've been waiting for this for over four years."

The lead Swedish prosecutor explained the change of strategy by saying some potential charges against Mr Assange would expire under the statute of limitations in August.

"My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorean embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview," Marianne Ny said in a statement. **"Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies in the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward."**

Mr Assange— an Australian journalist and activist— has not been formally charged, but prosecutors want to question him over allegations of rape and sexual misconduct made by two women he met during a trip to Sweden in August 2010.

Ms Ny said she had made a request to Mr Assange's legal team to take a DNA sample from him in London, as well as conducting questioning.

**Mr Samuelson said that request would need to be discussed, since his client had already left a DNA sample with UK police in 2010.**

Ecuador offered Mr Assange asylum in August 2012, shortly after he sought refuge at the country's embassy in London.

In November a Swedish appeals court upheld the warrant for his arrest, but criticised prosecutors for not making enough effort to explore "alternative avenues" for interrogating Mr Assange. If he was extradited, he would be detained upon arrival in Sweden.

Mr Samuelson said leaving the embassy and travelling to Sweden still presented a risk for Mr Assange. "If he leaves he loses his political immunity... he stands to end up in an American prison for 35, 40 years," he said.

However, legal experts have pointed out several obstacles any extradition and subsequent prosecution in the US would have to overcome....

### **Analysis: Maddy Savage, Stockholm**

Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny has long resisted questioning Julian Assange in London, arguing that it would lower the quality of her interviews and insisting that he should be flown to Stockholm instead.

But the clock is ticking because under Swedish law there is a time limit for investigating some offences. In Mr Assange's case, prosecutors only have until August 2015 to question him about some of the allegations, although they have until 2020 to investigate the most serious alleged rape offence.

It remains unclear how Friday's move affects Julian Assange's battle in Sweden's Supreme Court, which earlier this week agreed to hear the Wikileaks founder's appeal to have the European arrest warrant against him lifted, as he continues to fight extradition to Sweden.

**This case has had a relatively low profile in the Swedish press. Sweden has a strong emphasis on privacy and journalists rarely name criminal suspects. [Preposterous. The reality has been just the opposite. --A.B.]** But news of his possible questioning in London is now dominating headlines here.

- *Maddy Savage is editor of The Local Sweden*

[www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31867829](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31867829)

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### **Borgström: Bra att man gör ett försök att förhöra Assange**

*Mathias Gerdfeldter*  
SVT  
13 mars 2015

Den svenska överåklagaren har nu begärt att få förhöra Julian Assange på plats i London, angående de misstänkta sexbrotten i Stockholm. En av de målsägande kvinnornas advokat, Claes Borgström, välkomnar beskedet.

— Jag tycker att det är bra att man ändå gör ett försök såhär innan det blir preskriberat när det gäller min klient, säger Claes Borgström.

Julian Assange har sedan sommaren 2012 suttit i frivillig isolering på Ecuadors ambassad i London, häktad i sin frånvaro för sexbrott som ska ha begåtts i Stockholm 2010. Efter många turer har nu överåklagare Marianne Ny bestämt sig för att begära ett förhör med Assange på plats i London. Anledningen ska vara att några av brotten Assange misstänks för inom kort kommer att preskriberas.

Beskedet välkomnas av advokat Claes Borgström, som företräder en av de målsägande kvinnorna i fallet.

– Jag tycker att det är bra att man ändå gör ett försök såhär innan det blir preskriberat när det gäller min klient. Att det inte har skett tidigare hänger ihop med en förhoppning från åklagarsidan att Assange ändå skulle komma till Sverige och låta sig förhöras, men när det nu inte sker är det ju värt ett försök, säger Claes Borgström till SVT Nyheter.

Han poängterar dock att det just är ett försök som görs, och är skeptisk till att förhör verkligen kommer att kunna genomföras på ett korrekt sätt, eller överhuvudtaget.

– Det är inte så okomplicerat. Först ska han själv, enligt brittisk rätt, medge att han ska höras av polisen. Sedan ska Storbritannien säga ok och även Ecuador, säger Borgström.

– Sedan är det viktigt att när han väl hörs, om det nu blir av, så måste målsägande få kommentera hans uppgifter. Sedan kan det hända att man vill att han ska kommentera deras kommentar, och då måste man göra om hela proceduren i London. Det är egentligen en ganska orimlig situation.

Claes Borgström har tidigare varit negativt inställd till att svenska åklagare ska göra ett undantag från praxis för Assanges skull och utföra förhöret i London, men anser nu ändå att det är det enda lösningen.

– Ja, det är sista chansen nu. Jag tycker ju att han ska behandlas som alla andra, men han håller sig undan [*med undantag av bl.a. rätten till asyl --A.B.*] och håller fast vid det, och då bör man göra ett försök, säger Claes Borgström.

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## Assanges svenska advokat välkomnar beskedet

Johanna Eklundh o. Nina Svanberg  
SVT  
13 mars 2015

Julian Assanges svenska advokat Per E Samuelson välkomnar beskedet om att åklagaren vill förhöra Wikileaks-grundaren på plats i London. Han säger också att Assange sannolikt kommer att acceptera erbjudandet efter att ha granskat det i detalj.

– Vi kommer under helgen att samråda med vår klient och lämna ett besked till åklagare i nästa vecka. Naturligtvis kommer vi att samarbeta. Det är vi som vill det här, men det finns ett antal punkter i åklagarens mejl som vi behöver ta ställning till, säger Per E Samuelson till SVT Nyheter.

Även Assange andra advokat Thomas Olsson välkomnar beskedet.

– Han kommer att samarbeta fullt ut. Det enda som ligger i Julian Assanges intresse är att få den här utredningen slutförd. Det är det han eftersträvat hela tiden, säger Julian Assanges advokat Thomas Olsson till TT.

Till Aftonbladet säger Per E Samuelson att Assange fick beskedet direkt nu på morgonen.

– Han var rätt morgontrött när jag ringde, så han var lite yrvaken och hade lite svårt att ta till sig innebörden. Men i princip var det en kombination av att han var glad över att det äntligen händer något och samtidigt irriterad över att Marianne Ny först nu gör något, säger advokat Per E Samuelson till tidningen.

Det här är vägen för Assange att bli helt fri, menar advokaten. Wikileaks-grundaren har inte varit utomhus sedan juni 2012.

– Han är väldigt blek, nästan genomskinlig i skinnet. Han är ute noll minuter om dagen. Samtidigt får han inte träffa sina barn och har svårt att sköta sitt jobb på ett normalt sätt, säger Samuelson till Aftonbladet.

Anledningen till att Assange befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad är att han är rädd att utlämningen till Sverige även ska leda till att han på sikt utlämnas till USA, där han riskerar åtal för de hemligstämplade dokument som Wikileaks läckt.

Organisationen skriver på Twitter att de befarar att Julian Assange grips av brittiska myndigheter och lämnas ut till USA även om Sverige lägger ner sin utredning.

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### **"Hennes agerande skadar trovärdigheten för rättsväsendet"**

*"Överåklagare Marianne Nys agerande skadar trovärdigheten för det svenska rättsväsendet. Att hon skulle tvingas åka till London var bara en tidsfråga", skriver advokat Per E Samuelson som företräder Julian Assange i Sverige.*

SVT-Opinion  
13 mars 2015

Fallet Assange har varit i ett dödläge i över fyra år. I dag har överåklagare Marianne Ny ställt en begäran om Assanges samtycke till att förhöra honom i London och genomföra ett DNA-prov, så kallad topsning.

Det är för det första en stor seger för oss som har krävt i fyra år att det äntligen händer. Vi har ända sedan hösten 2010 försökt få till stånd ett förhör med Assange. Det är en stor seger att överåklagare Marianne Ny nu gjort en helomvändning och krupit till korset efter fyra års dödläge.

För det andra får man inte bedriva förundersökning genom att göra ingenting. Den svenska rättegångsbalken innebär att förundersökningen måste föras framåt.

Man kan inte ha en förundersökning, som den mot Julian Assange, liggande öppen hur länge som helst.

Domstolen vill ha snabba avgöranden. Vittnen ska förhöras kort inpå händelseförloppet, inte fyra år senare som i fallet Assange. Det ligger i parterna staten, målsäganden och misstänkta intresse.

Detta har överåklagare Ny gravt brutit mot och därigenom åsamkat försämrade kvalitet på vittnesbevisningen.

Sedan är det så att åklagarens formella begäran är omgärdad av flera formaliteter, bland annat att de två länderna Storbritannien och Ecuador måste godkänna.

Engelsk lag kräver att Assange, i det här fallet den som ska förhöras inom ramen för regelverket om internationell rättslig ger sitt samtycke. Ecuador kommer också att få en framställan om tillstånd att genomföra åtgärderna på landets ambassad i London.

Vi är dock rädda att de formella kraven kan komma att ta lång tid eftersom inte vi utan länderna själva bestämmer det.

Överåklagare Marianne Nys agerande skadar trovärdigheten för det svenska rättsväsendet.

Jag har en bred exponeringsyta mot utländska media. Där kan man säga att utländska medier är väldigt frågande till den svenska rättsprocessen när ett dödläge kan pågå i fyra år. Många är förvånade över att Sverige som har rykte om sig att vara en rättsstat kan behandla personer så här hårt.

Jag är inte förvånad över dagens besked från överåklagare Marianne Ny, att hon skulle tvingas åka till London var bara en tidsfråga.

Det är väldigt svårt att förklarar varför all denna prestige. Man kan bara konstatera att det finns uppenbara prestigemässiga låsningar. Vi får vara glad att de löses upp.

Internationella påtryckningar har spelat en roll, men den svenska diskussionen har delvis förgiftats av media och vissa debattörer, till och med medlemmar i regeringen som ser det som ett svenskt fall.

De har inte sett att det är ett svårt läge där risken finns att min klient Julian Assange utlämnas till USA om han lämnar Ecuadors ambassad.

På det hela taget är min klient, som jag nyss talat med, glad att det händer något. Han ser fram emot att lämna sin version av händelserna.

Min klient ser fram emot att få sitt namn rentvätt men kan inte dölja sin irritation över att processen legat still så länge.

Julian Assange vill att förhöret ska äga rum.

DN: 2015-03-13

## Assanges läger välkomnar Londonförhör

Julian Assanges advokat är nöjd med åklagarens begäran att förhöra hans klient i London— men anser att det borde ha skett för flera år sedan. "Det här bekräftar kritiken om senfärdighet", säger Thomas Olsson.

Den sexbrottsmisstänkte Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London för att slippa bli utlämnad till Sverige. På fredagsmorgonen ringde överåklagare Marianne Ny hans svenske advokat Thomas Olsson och berättade att hon har begärt att få hålla förhör med hans klient på brittisk mark.

Advokaten är glad över beslutet— men anser att det kommer flera år för sent.

– Det här bekräftar kritiken om senfärdighet som försvaret har framfört under en lång tid. Vi är glada över beslutet även om det kommer sent. Vi kommer att göra allt vi kan för att få förhören till stånd och nu ska vi diskutera närmare praktiska förutsättningar för hur vi ska genomföra dem, säger han.

Assange har hela tiden motsatt sig att komma till Sverige eftersom han är rädd för att bli utlämnad till USA. Men Thomas Olsson utesluter inte att hans inställning kan komma att ändras.

– Som situationen är i dag finns det en påtaglig risk att han skulle kunna utlämnas till USA. Han har svårt att lämna ambassaden eftersom han då skulle fransäga sig rätten till asyl som han har fått av Ecuador. Men man får ta en sak i taget och se vart det leder när förhören är avklarade.

Thomas Olsson hade en kort kontakt med Assange efter att Marianne Ny meddelade beslutet på fredagsmorgonen. Han kommer eventuellt att ha ytterligare kontakt med honom på kvällen.

– Så snart som möjligt kommer vi att ha den kontakt som krävs för att diskutera förutsättningarna.

Hur mår din klient just nu?

– Jag brukar alltid låta mina klienter tala om själva hur de mår. Vi pratar om en övertygad och stark person, men även för en sådan person är det en otroligt stor påfrestning att sitta instängd i ett begränsat utrymme.

• *Marit Sundberg*

## **Ecuador: Hade besparat oss massor av pengar och besvär**

*Markus Ljungholm*

*SVT*

*13 mars 2015*

Ecuador är starkt kritiskt till att den svenska åklagarmyndigheten väntat flera år med beslutet att förhöra Julian Assange i London. "Hade besparat oss massor av pengar och besvär", skriver utrikesminister Ricardo Patiño Aroca på Twitter.

"Om de hade accepterat Ecuadors erbjudande att förhöra honom för 1.000 dagar sedan så hade det besparat oss massor av pengar och besvär", skriver Ecuadors utrikesminister Ricardo Patiño Aroca på Twitter.

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange anhölls redan i augusti 2010 i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för våldtäkt och ofredande av två kvinnor i Sverige. Men Assange har vägrat att komma till Sverige på förhör på grund av rädsla att Sverige ska utelämna honom till USA. Samtidigt har den svenska åklagaren vägrat att åka till Ecuadors ambassad i London dit Assange tog sin tillflykt sommaren 2012.

"På måndag har Assange varit i vår ambassad i London i 1.000 dagar. Från första dagen har vi erbjudit åklagaren att förhöra honom, men det gjorde de inte", skriver Ricardo Patiño Aroca vidare på Twitter.

Orsakerna till att åklagarmyndighetens nya beslut ska vara flera. Ett av dem är att ett av de brott som Assange misstänks för preskriberas i augusti.

– Min inställning har varit att formerna för ett förhör med honom på ambassaden i London är sådana att kvaliteten i förhöret skulle bli bristfällig och att han behöver vara närvarande i Sverige vid en eventuell rättegång. Den bedömningen kvarstår. Nu håller tiden på att rinna ut och jag bedömer därför att jag måste acceptera en kvalitetsförlust i utredningen och ta risken att förhöret inte för utredningen framåt, eftersom ingen annan åtgärd står till buds så länge Assange inte gör sig tillgänglig i Sverige, säger åklagare Marianne Ny enligt ett pressmeddelande.

Enligt Julian Assanges svenska advokat Per E Samuelson välkomnar Wikileaksgrundaren beslutet.

"Min klient ser fram emot att få sitt namn rentvätt men kan inte dölja sin irritation över att processen legat still så länge", skriver han på SVT Opinion. "Det är en stor seger att överåklagare Marianne Ny nu gjort en helomvändning och krupit till korset efter fyra års dödläge", skriver Per E Samuelson.

Bevakningen av Julian Assange har hittills kostat brittiska skattebetalare tio miljoner pund, cirka 126 miljoner kronor.

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DN: 2015-03-13

## Från hyllad hackare till bitter brottsmisstänkt

Rummet var fullt med journalister, svenska såväl som tillresta. Vid den här tiden stod han mitt i rampljuset på den globala medie- och politikscenen. Han var den perfekta storyn: Fruktad av makten, hemlighetsfull och med tillgång till sekretessbelagt material som kunde skaka stormakter i grunden. Han blev en symbol för allt det nya, kittlande som internetåldern förde med sig. Där och då stod han på toppen av sin bana.

Kort därefter avslöjades misstankarna om våldtäkt. Det blev början på en utdragen process som inte bara smutsade ner Julian Assanges eget rykte utan också drog med sig Wikileaks i fallet.

**Julian Assange klamrade sig fast vid organisationen Wikileaks** medan hans tillvaro kom att präglas alltmer av flykten från det svenska rättsväsendet. Det innebar att Wikileaks insatser snart överskuggades av hans person.

Efter seminariet i Stockholm intervjuade jag honom utanför LO-borgen. Han hade ett speciellt sätt att svara. Efter varje fråga förblev han tyst i några sekunder, sedan levererade han ett exakt svar utan stakningar eller upprepningar, väl medveten om att varje ord han sa kunde bli en rubrik i världens alla medier.

Bara en gång svarade han rappt och till synes spontant: När jag frågade om hans tid som ung hackare i Australien på det modemburna 1980-talet.

– Det där var när jag var tonåring!

Hans alias var "Mendax". Som medlem i hackar--gruppen International Subversives greps han 1991 i sitt hem i Melbourne. Misstankarna gällde en rad dataintrång mot företag och myndigheter. USA:s försvarsdepartement ska ha varit ett av gruppens offer. Den unge Julian Assange riskerade ett långt fängelsestraff. I väntan på rättegången sjönk han ner i depression, men fann tröst i Alexander Solzjenitsyns roman "Den första kretsen". Bokens vetenskapsmän och akademiker i fångenskap i Gulag fascinerade honom, har tidningen New Yorker rapporterat.

Domstolen gick försiktigt fram mot ynglingen vars hackande inte tycks ha drivits av något annat än experimentlusta, att klara utmaningar för utmaningarnas skull. Han slapp fängelse och kom undan med ett mindre skadestånd. Då hade fallet dragit ut på tiden. Inte förrän i december 1996 kunde han lägga historien bakom sig.

Tio år senare grundade Julian Assange Wikileaks, projektet som skulle göra honom världsberömd. Kanske kan det beskrivas som giftermålet mellan två tankesätt: Hackarmentalitetens strävan efter fri information, men applicerad på de stora frågorna: politiken, ekonomin, militären. Områden som teknikvärlden traditionellt inte hade brytt sig om.

De första läckorna kom nästan omedelbart: De handlade om den kenyanska presidentfamiljens påstådda korruption, där fanns manualen för vakter på Guantánamobasen, hemliga dokument från Scientologikyrkan. 2009 släpptes känsliga

uppgifter från den isländska banken Kaupthing som avslöjade vad som hade hänt strax före finanskrisen året innan.

Ändå gick det mesta obemärkt förbi, åtminstone jämfört med de enorma mängder hemligstämplad information om krigen i Irak och Afghanistan som började släppas 2010. I dag står det klart att merparten av, om inte hela, materialet kom från en enda källa: Chelsea Manning (då Bradley Manning), soldaten som dömdes till 35 års fängelse. Men initialt såg det ut som att Assange kontrollerade ett enormt nätverk av uppgiftslämnare, som om han kunde trola fram vilka hemligheter som helst.

Det var vid den tiden våldtäktsmisstankarna framkom, och bilden av Julian Assange började förändras. Han började tala om "fula trick" och "gillrade sexfällor". Resten är historia. Assange flyttade in på Ecuadors ambassad i London där han befinner sig än i dag.

Från att ha hyllat Sveriges pressfrihet och förlagt Wikileaks servrar hos svenska företag kallade han nu Sverige för "feminismens Saudi-arabien".

– Jag föll rakt ner i den revolutionära feminismens getingbo, sa han till Sunday Times.

Under hela tiden fortsatte han som Wikileaks ansikte utåt. Hade han distanserat sig hade organisationen sannolikt kunnat fortsätta. *[Har den lagts ner? Någon bör berätta om detta för all som fortfarande jobbar med den. --A.B.]* Nu kom den att kretsa alltmer kring Assanges eget öde. I skrivande stund har några timmar gått sedan beskedet att han ska förhöras på plats i London.

Wikileaks Twitterkonto, med 2,5 miljoner följare, har under dagen varken handlat om krigsförbrytelser eller om korruption, utan om en man misstänkt för sexualbrott. Nyheten om åklagarens beslut spreds över världen via de stora internationella nyhetsbyråerna.

Brittiska Reuters avhandlar ämnet under rubriken "Efter år av dödläge...". Franska AFP har en lång drapa om nyheten samt en sidotext med rubriken "1000 dagar inne i ambassaden: Assanges liv i London". Tyska DPA har rubriken "Assange välkomnar svenska åklagarens plan för Londonutfrågning" Också amerikanska AP uppmärksammar nyheten.

Brittiska BBC väljer rubriken "Sverige u-vänder om utfrågning". Amerikanska CNN noterar att en del av brottsmisstankarna preskriberas i augusti. Qatarbaserade Al Jazira har AP:s text.

I sin flykt från våldtäktsmisstankar i Sverige drog han med sig Wikileaks i fallet. Julian Assange är hackaren som blev informations-aktivist, men **som i dag slåss mer för sig själv än för att avslöja makten.**

Den 14 augusti 2010 stod Julian Assange i en fönsterlös sal i LO-borgen i Stockholm. Han var klädd i udda kavaj och svart slips. Det vanligtvis kritvita håret var för dagen färgat i ett fläckmönster som förde tankarna till en leopard.

Wikileaks hade nyligen släppt tiotusentals hemliga dokument om USA:s krig i Afghanistan. Nu berättade han för oss i salen om hur läckorna skulle fortsätta. Ytterligare 15 000 dokument skulle snart läggas ut. Det fanns kritik mot att de inte hade gallrats på personuppgifter, vilket kunde sätta enskilda i fara. Assange slog ifrån sig.

– Vi har ett ansvar att få ut sanningen till världen och till det afghanska folket, sa han till en journalist samma dag.

• *Linus Larsson, techredaktör*

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DN: 2015-03-13

## Pressen att höra Assange växte med åren

ANALYS Till sist fick överåklagare Marianne Ny ge sig i Assange-målet. Kritiken mot åklagarsidan har med tiden blivit allt starkare, även från jurister och, faktiskt, också från åklagarhåll.

Det är fortfarande för tidigt att avgöra om sexbrottsutredningen nu kan avslutas inom rimlig tid. Hittills har det hela tiden hänt oväntade saker, nya hinder kan mycket väl dyka upp.

De sexbrott som den här historien egentligen borde handla om tillhör inte de allra grövsta. Om det hade gällt någon annan, mindre känd, person hade det knappast blivit ens en notis i tidningen.

Men fallet Assange har kommit att handla om så mycket mer, som misstankar om att USA till varje pris vill komma åt Wikileaks grundare. Sexbrottsanklagelserna skulle alltså dölja en större affär om att USA vill komma åt Assange. Åklagarsidan har dock avfärdat detta som konspirationsteorier, och överåklagare Marianne Ny har hela tiden markerat att det är misstankarna om sexualbrott som är intressanta, inget annat.

Till en början har också åklagarsidan haft mycket starka argument för sitt agerande. Flera domstolar har prövat misstankarna och även godkänt att Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad. *[Ja, men knappast med "mycket starka argument". --A.B.]*

Men när åklagarsidan inte har gjort något för att brottsutredningen ska gå framåt har situationen blivit annorlunda. Allt fler jurister har framfört kritik mot att ingenting händer i utredningen. **Även åklagare har till DN framfört anonym kritik mot Mariannes Nys sätt att hantera utredningen.**

När hovrätten i november beslutade att Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad gjorde den samtidigt klart att något snart måste hända. Gissningsvis är detta orsaken till att åklagaren nu tar initiativ till förhör med Assange, och även dna-topsning.

Nu återstår ett antal formella beslut innan något kan hända. Assange måste formellt godkänna Sveriges förfrågan. Därefter ska både Ecuador och Storbritannien behandla

och godkänna åtgärderna. Kort sagt, mycket kan fortfarande hända innan en enda fråga kan ställas till Julian Assange.

Det är ännu mer osäkert om utredningen leder till att Julian Assange kommer att åtalas, och om han då är beredd att komma till Sverige för en rättegång. Svaret på frågan om han till sist kan fällas för de brott han anklagas för är fortfarande nästan omöjlig att ens spekulera om.

- *Stefan Lisinski*

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**Graphic by Somerset Bean, March 2015**



**Swedish prosecutors seek to question**

## WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in UK

*Per Nyberg and Laura Smith-Spark*  
CNN  
March 13, 2015

Swedish prosecutors have asked Julian Assange's legal representatives whether the WikiLeaks founder would consent to be interviewed in London and have his DNA taken via a swab.

Assange has been holed up in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden, where prosecutors want to question him about 2010 allegations that he raped one woman and sexually molested another.

Swedish prosecutors have previously balked at coming to Britain to question Assange. However, a number of the crimes Julian Assange is suspected of will be subject to a statute of limitation in August 2015, according to a statement from Marianne Ny, the director of public prosecutions.

"If Assange gives his consent, the prosecutor will promptly submit a request for legal assistance to the British authorities to further continue the investigation," the statement said.

A request will also be made to the Ecuadorian authorities for permission to "perform investigative measures" at its London embassy, the statement said. Ecuador granted Assange political asylum in 2012.

Assange's defense lawyer, Per E. Samuelsson, said he called Assange on Friday morning with the news from the prosecution authority— and that in principle they viewed the request positively.

"I think I woke him up, but he knew I was calling with news about the case since I called so early," Samuelsson said. "He was, of course, very happy that something is finally happening but he is irritated that it has taken such a long time." This is a step that Assange and his team have been requesting for four years, Samuelsson said.

Ny explained the logic behind the Swedish authorities' change of approach in her statement. "My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorian embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview, and that he would need to be present in Sweden in any case should there be a trial in the future," Ny said.

"This assessment remains unchanged. Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies to the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward, particularly as there are no other measures on offer without Assange being present in Sweden."

The Australian national has not been charged and denies the claims. He's said he fears Sweden would extradite him to the United States, where he could face the death

penalty if he is charged and convicted of publishing government secrets through WikiLeaks.

Samuelsson said Assange's legal team would travel over to London as soon as possible to discuss Ny's request and that it expects to respond next week. "The problem is that there are two more countries involved in this request so it might take some time to make all this happen," Samuelsson said.

Samuelsson also said Friday's development **was not a great surprise since Sweden's Supreme Court had last week asked the prosecutor general for an opinion on the case.** "We think that the prosecutor general, who has taken over the case, probably told Prosecutor Ny to interview Assange in London," he said.

Assange has previously said the arrest warrant should be thrown out because, in part, Swedish authorities declined to interview him at the Ecuadorian Embassy, thereby prolonging a preliminary investigation that he said should have concluded long ago.

London's Metropolitan Police said last month that the cost of the operation to guard the embassy to prevent Assange fleeing had spiraled to more than 10 million pounds (\$15.3 million.) overall

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/03/13/middleeast/sweden-uk-julian-assange/>

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## **1,000 Days: Julian Assange, Ecuador and the US War on Truth**

*As Julian Assange marks 1,000 days in Ecuador's London Embassy, teleSUR spoke with him and Ecuador's Foreign Minister on the importance of this landmark case.*

*Isobel Finbow  
Telesur  
March 15, 2015*

On Monday Julian Assange marks his 1,000th day in the Ecuadorean embassy in London. 24,000 hours spent trapped in a handful of little rooms in a non-descript Knightsbridge road: tirelessly working, rarely venturing into the sunlight.

While the building appears unremarkable, the symbolism of the four walls is great. Because ironically, the inside represents the freedom offered by the Latin American country, and outside, persecution and indefinite imprisonment await. Yet the Australian national has never been charged with a crime.

This is the tale of one of the greatest battles over freedom of speech in modern history, and how the tiny nation of Ecuador became an internationally recognized champion of human rights against the opposition of two imperialist giants.

In interviews with teleSUR, Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and Ecuador's Foreign minister have outlined the significance of this battle to defend those who publish the truth, whatever the consequences for the powerful.

Patino believes that these events underline how they show a “commitment to safeguarding human rights, freedom and life”, in today’s Latin America that is in stark contrast to a past riddled with dictators and human rights abused

“It has been a difficult 1000 days. Not so much for me but for my family,” Assange told teleSUR in an interview in the run up to the Sunday’s anniversary. “For me, I have plenty of things to concentrate on that are not in the embassy. I have an organization to run.”

That “organization,” Assange’s website Wikileaks, exploded into the limelight in April 2010 when it released an electrifying U.S. military video. It depicted U.S. military personnel in an Apache helicopter killing 18 civilians in the Iraqi suburb of New Baghdad, including two Reuters staff. The clip, entitled Collateral Murder, would be the first piece of evidence pointing to U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan in the public domain.

Two months later, Chelsea Manning, a then-22-year-old intelligence private with the U.S. military in Iraq, was arrested, charged with disclosing national secrets. It would later become apparent that Manning had executed the biggest leak in history: millions upon millions of top secret computer files, cascades of damaging documents.

Assange set about making partnerships with newspapers and television networks around the world to analyze and publish the information. According to Vanity Fair, the Wikileaks founder said, “I have a record of every single episode involving the U.S. military in Afghanistan for the last seven years ... I have a record of every single episode involving the U.S. military in Iraq since March 2003.”

The cache of information changed the media landscape, and made Assange one of the most wanted men in the world.

Over the next months, Assange and his media partners carefully orchestrated the spill, landing blow after blow to the reputation of the U.S. military and government by publishing the real ways it works. The world came to understand the full extent of the abuses.

But then in December that year Assange was arrested for sexual assault, allegations stemming from when he had visited Sweden earlier that year. A warrant was issued for his extradition to Stockholm, and Assange spent a few months under house arrest in England. A London court approved the extradition in February 2011.

Fearing that if he were to go to Stockholm to face questions the Swedish government would pack him straight off the U.S. to be tried over the Wikileaks scandal, Assange sought refuge with Ecuador. The Australian had met President Rafael Correa while hosting a show for Russia Today, and the two had shared views on rights, justice and the corporate media, which in part propelled Assange to later seek asylum there.

Since then, and for the next 1,000 days, Assange has been unable to leave the Ecuadorean embassy in London. Police hover outside, poised to arrest him and send him on to Sweden, or worse, the United States. The British government has spent

nearly US\$15 million on guarding the building, while Assange and his lawyers have engaged in a battle clear his name.

As Patino explained to teleSUR, Ecuador has repeatedly “sought a solution from the outset,” for all the people involved in the Swedish case and one “that’s compatible with the norms and principles of international law.” Yet offers to the Swedish prosecutors to “interview Julian Assange at the Embassy of Ecuador, either in the presence of Swedish officials themselves or via videoconference” were rebuffed or even described as not legally possible.

After nearly 1000 days, a breakthrough on that front came earlier this week when Swedish prosecutors finally agreed to question Assange within the embassy. The move is seen as a boost to Assange’s attempt to prove his innocence. But even if the Swedish arrest warrant is dropped, it doesn’t mean Assange can walk from the embassy a free man.

**“The UK has said that even if that happens they are going to arrest me anyway and you also have the U.S. case,”** Assange told teleSUR.

Assange’s fears over extradition to the U.S. are far from unfounded. His team already has proof that the U.S. is amassing a full-blown case to put him behind bars.

In 2012, Wikileaks revealed that a secret indictment had been brought against Assange by the U.S. A mysterious Secret Grand Jury, or the “neo-McCarthyist witch hunt against Wikileaks,” as Assange describes it, was gathering evidence.

“Not for Pub(lication — We have a sealed indictment on Assange. Pls protect,” one leaked memo read.

“Assange is going to make a nice bride in prison. Screw the terrorist. He’ll be eating cat food forever,” said another.

According to secret documents leaked by former employee Edward Snowden, Assange had been placed on a National Security Agency manhunt list in 2010, while further information confirms that U.S. military intelligence was spying on him from 2009.

“Our publications beginning 2010 set off a major conflict with the U.S. government,” says Assange. “As a result, the U.S. started up what it calls a whole government investigation, involving more than a dozen different U.S. agencies that is believed to be the largest ever investigation into a publisher.”

Google admitted it handed over all information that it had on three Wikileaks staff and journalists. Wikileaks said it was “astonished and disturbed” to find that Google had passed on the private emails, search terms and more, over two years ago.

“Not only did they place Google under gag orders, but the subpoenas revealed a sort of legal attack that the U.S. government is making on media and on WikiLeaks,” Assange explains. “They are investigating— which add up to 45 years in prison— espionage, conspiracy to commit espionage, computer hacking, general conspiracy, theft of U.S. government information.”



The same acts, against the 1917 Espionage Act and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, were used to jail Manning, who irrevocably changed the game of whistleblowing.

Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison and is currently being held in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. She was subjected to 11 months of solitary confinement before being tried, and according to the United Nations, was humiliated and degraded.

"The special rapporteur concludes that imposing seriously punitive conditions of detention on someone who has not been found guilty of any crime is a violation of (her) right to physical and psychological integrity as well as of his presumption of innocence," U.N. special rapporteur on torture Juan Mendez wrote, formally accusing the U.S. of torture.

Those who Manning helped to expose as murders of civilians and torturers, meanwhile, have got off scott free.

Edward Snowden too, the former National Security Agency employee who followed Manning's lead and leaked reams of secret files to the media exposing what he considered to be wrongdoing of the U.S. and British spy agencies, sparked a global manhunt. He is currently in Russia having been granted temporary asylum by Vladimir Putin. If caught, a trial of Snowden would be a circus, and he could well be frog marched towards fate similar to Manning's.

Rounding up the whistleblowers themselves is not unusual, but states going for the throats of the journalists and publishers facilitating the leaks appears to be becoming a norm with dangerous new precedents have been set. Glenn Greenwald, for example, the journalist who collaborated with Edward Snowden over the N.S.A. files, reports being hounded by agents, and his partner was detained for nine hours in a London airport on his way home to Brazil.

The U.S. government, as Assange explains, now asserts that publishing whistleblowers' material amounts to conspiracy. The flow of information, from whistleblower, to journalist, to editor, to publisher, to public, constitutes the crime.

"They have worked out a way to embroil an entire media organization in the U.S. jurisdiction based on any information coming in through one journalist working for that media organization," says Assange.

**WikiLeaks does not publish, and is not registered in the United States, "So how is it that the United States is claiming jurisdiction to prosecute us for these offenses", he asks.**

**He describes this a "territorial grab by the United States to say that they can they can go after any media organization anywhere in the world that publishes information that they say is classified."**

The case set the mold for a multi-fronted attack on freedom of speech and information, which Assange presents a "serious threat" to global media scrutiny of the U.S.

In the face of such ruthless persecution, it was Ecuador, with a population not much larger than London, that stepped in to defend Assange and take on one of the greatest battles of press freedom in modern times.

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño, who oversaw the events unfolding in London, told teleSUR that Ecuador's decision to take up Assange's cause was "faithful to its long tradition of defense of human rights, and in particular the victims of political persecution."

Though **he had also been offered asylum by the president of Tunisia**, a few things about Ecuador caught Assange's attention. The government's removal of the U.S. base in Manta in 2008 was an example, he says, of how Ecuador had shown a "history of fairly robust principled engagement." Furthermore, the government had shown a real interest in the Wikileaks project, and even documents that could potentially damage it.

**"The Ecuadorean government, unlike any other government, asked us to increase the speed of our publications and to publish more material about Ecuador and not less.** That was a very interesting and unexpected sign and the Deputy Foreign Minister came out at that time and said that Ecuador should offer me asylum in Ecuador," Assange he says.

What's more, the Ecuadorean government believed the threat that Assange would be extradited and face persecution due to his journalistic activity was very real.

"Ecuador granted diplomatic asylum to Julian Assange after carrying out a fair evaluation of his petition, and considered the risk of political persecution if the opportune methods weren't taken," Ecuador's foreign minister explains.

Several campaign groups joined in the defense of Assange, warning against the future implications of his arrest

The Committee to Protect Journalists wrote an open letter to the British government warning that, "such a prosecution could encourage the government to assert legal theories applying equally to all news media, which would be highly dangerous to the public interest. History shows that Congress didn't intend the law to apply to news reporting."

1000 days later, Patiño is still unwavering in his conviction to grant asylum to Assange, and reaffirms to teleSUR Ecuador's commitment to keep up the fight.

"We can't say we've completed our mission until Julian Assange recuperates his liberty. 1000 days have passed, not a single day more should," he says, highlighting how the period has affected the Wikileaks frontman, afflicting his deteriorating health.

What began as a question of the right to publish the truth without political persecution morphed into a test of thuggish bullying, and almost resulted in an unprecedented violation of diplomatic codes.

**On 15 Aug. 2012, the Ecuadorean embassy received a note from the British government. It threatened to “take action to arrest Mr Assange in existing facilities of the Embassy.”**

**“We sincerely hope that we do not reach that point, but if you are not capable of resolving this matter of Mr Assange’s presence in your premises, this is an open option for us,” the letter continued ominously.**

That night, police descended on the Knightsbridge street, “swarming into the building through the internal fire escape,” Assange wrote.

The threat of incursion into the sovereign territory was unheard of, and intended to intimidate the little Latin American nation. But backed up by 23 out of 26 Organization of American States countries who voted to condemn the move, and with the support of regional blocs such as ALBA and Unasur, Ecuador did not flinch. The solid combined response was a reflection of how far Latin America had come since colonial times, which, Patiño noted grimly, “are over.”

“Such a positive, supportive and coordinated response to episodes like this, where the elemental principles of the right are brought into question, like the respect of sovereignty of countries, reinforces the position Latin America in the world,” Patiño says.

“With the decision to grant asylum to Julian Assange, Ecuador demonstrated that it is a free and democratic state, not subject to any type of external pressures, independent of any interests other than of its people, sovereign in its politics and laws.”

The British bulldog strategy only served to reinforce what the Wikileaks cables first revealed: the moral weakness of the greatest powers in the western world. As Patiño noted, “The United Kingdom did not complete its threat,” and Ecuador will continue protecting Julian for “as long as necessary” and “until Julian Assange arrives at a safe place.”

Although Assange and Wikileaks have since fallen out with, and been maligned by, certain publications and organizations over the handling of the leaked materials, the work that they continue to do is unparalleled, and has ripped away previous boundaries of data journalism.

“Wikileaks performed a public service by posting the documents on the web, as have the newspapers that spent weeks analyzing that material,” wrote media commentator Roy Greenslade.

Millions of documents, spilling legions of secrets, that otherwise would have been consigned to the furthest, dustiest corners of U.S. ministries.

And as he continues to languish in the embassy, despite a veritable media campaign against his character, it looks as if the tide could be turning for the Wikileaks founder.

"There is a growing realization that what is happening here is really unjust. You cannot have someone detained in Europe without charge for four-and-a half years," he says. "Everyone can see that there is something wrong with that."

[www.telesurtv.net/english/news/1000-Days-Julian-Assange-Ecuador-and-the-US-War-on-Truth-20150314-0020.html](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/1000-Days-Julian-Assange-Ecuador-and-the-US-War-on-Truth-20150314-0020.html)

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## An 'Obvious and Conspicuous' Injustice, says Assange on Asylum

*In an exclusive interview with teleSUR, Julian Assange talks about why he chose Ecuador for asylum and the ongoing U.S. investigation into WikiLeaks.*

*Telesur*

*14 March 2015*

Swedish authorities announced Friday their willingness to finally interview WikiLeaks' editor-in-chief Julian Assange, but a secret U.S. investigation has trapped the insurgent publisher without charge in Ecuador's London embassy. Monday, March 16 will mark 1,000 days since Assange sought asylum there. In an exclusive interview with teleSUR English, Assange said there is growing recognition that the situation is unjust. Assange spoke with teleSUR editor Chis Spannos.

*Chris Spannos (CS): Why did you choose to seek asylum in the Ecuadorean Embassy?*

Julian Assange (JA): That is an interesting story. When we started our major cable publications in 2011 for Latin America, the Ecuadorean government, unlike any other government, asked us to increase the speed of our publications and to publish more material about Ecuador and not less. That was a very interesting and unexpected sign and the Deputy Foreign Minister came out at that time and said that Ecuador should offer me asylum in Ecuador. There had been some internal debate and things had moved on a bit, but that sort of opened up me looking at Ecuador in a particular way. The government had shown a history of fairly robust principled engagement, for example the removal of the U.S. base in 2008 at Manta. Ecuador was not on its own, it was in the broader Latin American context ALBA (The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America), so that if Ecuador took that brave and principled decision it would have support.

The President of Tunisia had also offered me asylum. In Tunisia, we were involved in the early days of the revolution there and the Tunisian people are strong supporters of WikiLeaks. But I felt that Tunisia, because of the regional matrix that it is embedded in, would not have back up from the Saudi's and would not have back up from Qatar. It would not have back up from the surrounding countries. **Whereas Ecuador would have back up and support from surrounding countries.**

The other important factor is that Ecuador is a proper democracy. So maybe China could have been an option. But China is not a proper democracy. That might create some difficulties in living that might create some public relations difficulties; such as does WikiLeaks really support democracy and freedom of the press?

Also, Ecuador is a highlight of nature and mountain climbing and fishing. Ecuador is a good country for that as well. These were the primary judgments. A little bit later on I came to see that Ecuador is politically interesting. Yes, it has its fair share of problems but it is moving really rapidly to try and address those problems in a lot of really interesting and creative ways. Not all of them successfully but others very successfully; in that sense, a more intellectually interesting country than Venezuela, which was another option.

*CS: On the topic of your asylum, tell me about the larger context of the U.S. investigation into WikiLeaks?*

JA: Well I had already had a number of run-ins and legal cases with big banks and the U.S. government before. Our publications beginning 2010 set off a major conflict with the U.S. government. As a result, the U.S. started up what it calls a whole government investigation, involving more than a dozen different U.S. agencies that is believed to be the largest ever investigation into a publisher. As the investigation has gone by, the competition between the different agencies over who is leading it has clarified. Now leading it is the Department of Justice National Security Division, the Department of Justice Criminal Division and the FBI as the sort of boots on the ground.

A lot of information has come out over time about the U.S. formally admitting court filings in February, just over a week ago, that is a multi-subject, ongoing, long-term, investigation and other findings saying that WikiLeaks is the central target of that investigation, not Chelsea Manning, who has already been dealt with.

This is not an investigation that is simply confined to the United States. The different agencies involved include the National Security Agency, the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The CIA and DIA, that is publicly admitted. The NSA, that is in the Snowden documents and also other records that came out from the Pentagon.

According to Snowden records I was placed on an NSA manhunt list in 2010. But we know that the U.S. military intelligence was spying on me from 2009 onwards in Germany. The FBI has conducted its activities in Europe, in Iceland and Denmark; the U.S. military intelligence in Germany; and the FBI also in the UK; and U.S. and-or Swedish intelligence in Sweden.

As time has gone by we have gone from a position of defense in these cases to offense. Which I have been able to do really to the thanks of the asylum of the embassy, since it is a static situation now [inside the Ecuadorean embassy] we can plan a bit more. We have filed criminal cases now against the U.S. intelligence activities in Germany where U.S. military intelligence came off their bases in Wiesbaden and went down to Berlin to spy on me and one of my friends, Jeremy Zimmerman, who runs a freedom of the press outfit in Paris.

The criminal case in Denmark last year, in relation to the unlawful FBI actions against us in Europe. The FBI sent a secret private jet over to Iceland where they had recruited an informant for the U.S. embassy in Iceland. The Icelandic government found out about it, that they did it without authority, and told [the U.S.] to get out. They [the U.S.], then smuggled the informant around a number of different hotels around Iceland interrogating him. Eventually they were kicked out of the country by the interior minister. They then took that informant, who was being paid, to Washington DC, and interrogated him for another five days and engaged in various plans to try and get that informant to steal hard drives from England, and engaged in cash transfers and other interrogations with him — he did at least two — so that is the subject of another criminal complaint in Denmark in relation to the FBI in Denmark, and

the illicit cash payments that occurred to that informant. So that is most aspects of the criminal case in the United States.

Something important came out early this year in relation to Google. The U.S. government subpoenas all information that Google had — email, search terms, etc. — from three of our journalists: Sarah Harrison, Kristinn Hrafnsson and Joseph Farrell. These subpoenas were important. Not only did they place Google under gag orders, but the subpoenas revealed a sort of legal attack that the U.S. government is making on media and on WikiLeaks. So their defense is that they are investigating — which add up to 45 years in prison — espionage, conspiracy to commit espionage, computer hacking, general conspiracy, theft of U.S. government information.

These charges are very interesting because they are sort of like crossing the spectrum of different charge types. They are trying many, many different ways to attack the organization and me using conspiracy on the one hand but also non-espionage charges that make it easier to extradite people, and you can see a little bit like that, that just happened in a case in Canada where they extradited someone for a non-conspiracy related charge successfully even though he claimed asylum in relation to his espionage investigation.

The two conspiracy charges are detail. But let's put this back into the global context about what is going on. WikiLeaks does not publish in the United States. WikiLeaks is not registered in the United States. WikiLeaks is a publisher in a variety of jurisdictions: Iceland, France, at one time Sweden. So how is it that the United States is claiming jurisdiction to prosecute us for these offenses. What the U.S. is claiming is that any information about the United States gives it jurisdiction and if we publish information that came from the U.S. government, therefore it has jurisdiction to prosecute publishers that exist outside the United States, because of their connection.

Now, the way journalists and publishers work is that some journalists get something from a source and then communicate it to other journalists in the organization; the editors and subeditors, the publisher, the distributor, the tech guys, and so on. **What the U.S. government is saying is that this flow of information, that occurred within WikiLeaks as a media organization, is a conspiracy. So they have worked out a way to embroil an entire media organization in the U.S. jurisdiction based on any information coming in through one journalist working for that media organization. So it is a territorial grab by the United States** to say that they can go after any media organization anywhere in the world that publishes information that they say is classified; not even classified actually... That they say has been derived from someone in the United States — a government worker doing something that they should not have — that is enough. If they allege one crime in the United States, some government worker that cannot handle classified information properly, or something else, and that circulates to others in a media organization that use that to go after the whole media organization. So it is really quite a serious threat to global media scrutiny of U.S. wars and U.S. spying.

*CS: So in this larger context, what does the Swedish investigation represent?*

JA: The U.S. investigation was already on foot. Without wanting to go into the details of the Swedish investigation, which are well documented on [justice4assange.com](http://justice4assange.com), the Swedes started their investigation and then dropped it, and then started it again, and then in the context of us just about to publish Cabelgate, put out an Interpol red notice for this preliminary investigation with no charges and kept it going ever since. The women in the case say to the courts that they did not want any such investigation. But the government took this up anyway. So it is quite a strange case and is being used as a

PR stick and it has trapped me here in the UK. So whenever we talk about what is going on in the U.S. case and how serious that is, the PR attack says "oh no, no, no. That is about some Swedish sex case." That has been a tremendous distraction.

Formally the Swedes say that it is a quote "preliminary investigation" unquote. I have not been charged and there has been nothing done in that preliminary investigation for four years and the Swedish authorities admit it. Now it seems likely that the preliminary investigation will dissipate within the next year. But the UK has said that even if that happens they are going to arrest me anyway and you also have the U.S. case.

CS: *Is there anything you want to say or add about your 1000 days of asylum generally?*

JA: It has been a difficult 1000 days. Not so much for me but for my family. For me, I have plenty of things to concentrate on that are not in the embassy. I have an organization to run. **We have a dozen different court actions across the world.**

As time has gone by the legal and political situation has clarified, such that it has become an obvious and conspicuous injustice. That view is now the dominant view in Sweden, the United Kingdom and many other countries always had that view but these two countries are involved in a concrete way. The United States is a bit harder. Although there has been very hostile rhetoric in the United States — calling for my assassination, calling for WikiLeaks to be listed as a terrorist organization, calling for bills presented before congress to define me and all my staff as enemy combatants who can be killed and kidnapped at will — the U.S. is a large enough country that we do have a fair run in a number of U.S. media outlets; some of the small ones nearly all the time. But even the largest, even Fox News, occasionally. So we have a spectrum of support in the United States not always able to express itself, but sometimes it is and I think that is quite a hopeful sign when you consider the amount of demonization that has occurred from the national security state in the U.S.

Here in the United Kingdom, as a result of my case, they changed the law last year to say that there should be no more extradition without charge. That only deals with one charge because we still have the U.S. case to deal with. But there is a growing realization that what is happening here is really unjust. You cannot have someone detained in Europe without charge for four-and-a half years. Everyone can see that there is something wrong with that.

[www.telesur.tv/english/news/An-Obvious-and-Conspicuous-Injustice-says-Assange-on-Asylum-20150314-0002.html](http://www.telesur.tv/english/news/An-Obvious-and-Conspicuous-Injustice-says-Assange-on-Asylum-20150314-0002.html)

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SvD: 17 mars 2015

## Åklagaren i Assange-fallet bör bytas ut

*Åklagare Marianne Ny har alltmer målat in sig i ett hörn. Är det överhuvudtaget möjligt att tänka sig att hon efter avslutat förhör med Assange i London kommer fram till att förundersökningen ska läggas ned? skriver fd åklagare Rolf Hillegren.*

Den 19 juni 2012 tog Julian Assange sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London och den 16 augusti samma år beviljades han politisk asyl i Ecuador. Sedan dess torde det ha stått klart för de flesta utom för överåklagaren Marianne Ny att Assange inte har för

avsikt att frivilligt avstå från sin asyl och bege sig till Sverige där han sedan november 2010 är häktad i sin frånvaro för sexualbrott. Åklagaren har helt enkelt underlåtit att agera utifrån den unika situation som uppstått i och med Assanges inflyttning på ambassaden. Hon har envist hävdat att enda sättet att driva utredningen framåt är att Assange är tillgänglig för förhör i Sverige.

Häkttningsbeslutet överklagades och beslutet fastställdes av hovrätten 2010. I samband med nytt överklagande i november 2014 fann Hovrätten att Assange skulle vara fortsatt häktad men anförde att åklagarens underlåtenhet att pröva alternativa vägar inte stämmer överens med skyldigheten att driva utredningen framåt. Detta ignorerades av åklagaren trots uppgift om att frågan kontinuerligt övervägts.

**Hovrättens beslut överklagades till Högsta domstolen och den 10 mars 2015 begärde HD att Riksåklagaren skulle yttra sig i ärendet och då särskilt med hänsyn till utredningsarbetet och proportionalitetsprincipen.**

**Därefter har åklagaren plötsligt ändrat sig** och redan den 13 mars 2015 bestämt att förhör ska hållas i London. Som förklaring har hon anført att vissa av brotten närmar sig preskription men tillagt att utredningen förlorar i kvalitet om förhören hålls i London. Uppenbarligen har hon förbisett att även utdragna utredningar ger negativa effekter.

För mig som varit åklagare och har åratals erfarenhet av att lyssna till tveksamma tillrättalägganden och efterhandskonstruktioner framstår Marianne Nys förklaring till sin ändrade inställning som föga övertygande.

**Hennes brist på agerande under de gångna åren kan endast tolkas som att hon hyst den förutfattade meningen att ytterligare förhör med Assange endast skulle kunna leda till att han ska åtalas. Men så får en åklagare inte bete sig.**

**Som åklagare måste man agera fullständigt förutsättningslöst** och ständigt vara beredd på alla eventualiteter. Det är mycket vanligt— i synnerhet vid sexualbrottsutredningar— att utredningen läggs ned med motiveringen att brott inte kan styrkas. **Den möjligheten tycks åklagaren helt ha bortsett ifrån i fallet Assange. Detta är extra anmärkningsvärt då bevisläget är tämligen tveksamt**, vilket den som så önskar kan konstatera då den hittillsvarande utredningen finns tillgänglig på nätet.

Om åklagaren agerat på det enda sätt som varit det rimliga borde hon ha förhört Assange så snart som möjligt hösten 2012. Det mest troliga är att hon därefter funnit skäl att lägga ned utredningen med motiveringen att brott inte kan styrkas. Som det nu ser ut talar mycket för att Assange hittills har tillbringat drygt två och ett halvt år på ambassaden i onödan.

Till saken hör att det varit fullt möjligt att förhöra honom i London långt innan han begav sig till ambassaden. Här duger det inte att som vissa hävda att "han får skylla sig själv".

**Åklagaren är ensam ansvarig för att utredningen drivs framåt** och dennes skyldighet att vara objektiv gör uppgiften delikat. Det är lika sannolikt att en oskyldig blir orättvist behandlad som att en målsägande blir det om utredningen inte bedrivs skyndsamt.

Skulle åklagaren å andra sidan efter förhör ha konstaterat att åtal ska väckas hade problemet kvarstått men åklagarens agerande skulle ha framstått som mindre klandervärt. Helt oantastligt hade det dock inte varit. **Jag nöjer mig här med att**



påminna om att ärendet snabbt lades ned av en erfaren åklagare redan 2010 och jag är övertygad om att majoriteten av landets erfarna åklagare skulle ha gjort detsamma.

Vartefter åren gått har åklagarens prestige och passivitet gjort att hon alltmer målat in sig i ett hörn från vilket ingen hedervärd återvändo finns. Är det överhuvudtaget möjligt att tänka sig att hon efter avslutat förhör med Assange i London kommer fram till att förundersökningen ska läggas ned? Vilken kritik skulle hon då drabbas av? Och vilken kritik skulle riktas mot Åklagarmyndigheten?

Mot bakgrund av att åklagaren hittills visat prov på bristande objektivitet och drivit utredningen i strid mot sina åligganden och gängse praxis är risken överhängande att ett förhör i London kommer att leda till att hon mot bättre vetande och av prestigeskäl finner att åtal ska väckas. Skulle så ske finns dock ändå möjligheten att HD häver häktningen med hänsyn till proportionalitetsprincipen och insikten att Assange inte lär bege sig till Sverige frivilligt.

Om häktningen å andra sidan inte hävs lär Assange bli kvar på ambassaden och tidpunkten för den totala skandalen för rättsväsendet kommer att ytterligare skjutas på framtiden.

Det bästa vore om Marianne Ny själv insåg att hon bör lämna utredningen och att den i fortsättningen bör handläggas av någon som står helt utanför hennes befälsföring. Inser hon inte det bör Riksåklagaren agera och överlämna målet till **en ny åklagare— gärna en med hög integritet. Det är för övrigt märkligt att en överklagare, som i detta fall efter fattat beslut om återupptagande av förundersökningen, väljer att själv driva den vidare. Det hör inte till vanligheterna.**

Oavsett hur målet kommer att avslutas är det uppenbart att fallet redan nu kvalificerar sig som rättsskandal. Genom sitt agerande har åklagaren åstadkommit en situation som är långt mer allvarlig än de brott för vilka Assange misstänks. Och eftersom fallet väckt internationell uppmärksamhet har hon inte enbart dragit löje över Åklagarmyndigheten utan även vanärat landet— en bedrift som få misstänkta brukar lyckas med.

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## Is WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange Close to Freedom?

*Assange's lawyer on the latest legal developments.*

*Amy Goodman  
Democracy Now!  
March 16, 2015*

There is a new break in the sexual assault case involving WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is entering his 1,000th day of his asylum at the Ecuadorian embassy in London— as Swedish prosecutors filed a request to interview him in that city. Assange has not stepped outside, fearing that the Swedish arrest warrant would lead him to be extradited to America. Michael Ratner, the U.S. attorney who is representing Assange and WikiLeaks, spoke to Democracy Now! and explained the significance of that decision.

"Julian is in custody because he can't leave that embassy without being forced to go to Sweden, and ultimately to the United States," Ratner told Amy Goodman. "And so, it's a victory for Julian, but it also shows the outrage of the Swedish prosecutor and their system. Here it's four years. Julian has had to give up his passport, take refuge in the embassy, been given asylum, deprived of any kind of real freedom, no ability to visit his family, etc. Four years later, now the prosecutor says, 'I can question Julian about these allegations.'"

Below is an interview with Ratner:

AMY GOODMAN: Today marks the 1,000th day that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has spent in Ecuador's London embassy, where he has political asylum. Now, for the first time, Swedish prosecutors have issued a request to question Assange in London. This follows pressure from their own courts, from Swedish courts, and repeated requests by Assange's lawyers. Assange has never been charged over allegations of sexual assault, yet he has been holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London since 2012, fearing that if he steps outside, he would be arrested and extradited to Sweden, which could lead to his extradition to the United States. His lawyers have been asking Swedish prosecutors to question him in London for over four years. On Friday, Assange's attorney in Stockholm, Sweden, Per Samuelson, welcomed the news.

PER SAMUELSON: A bottom line is, after the autumn of 2010, the prosecutor did nothing for more than four years. That's clear breach of Swedish law. That has hurt Mr. Assange severely. And it has also hurt both the women, who have not had their case tried for over four years. And it hurts the court, because witnesses forget. Time passes, and all the evidence is much worse now than it was back in 2010.

AMY GOODMAN: In July, Democracy Now! went to London to the Ecuadorean Embassy to speak with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange about the Swedish government's handling of his case.

JULIAN ASSANGE: There has been no movement. Although the Swedish government is obligated to somehow progress the situation, they've been very happy to keep it a complete stasis. They've refused to come here to speak to me here or pick up a telephone or to accept an affidavit. They have also refused to provide a guarantee that I will not be extradited to the United States if I offer to go to Sweden. So, that situation means we have to tackle the Swedish matter, it seems, in Sweden. The only other alternative is perhaps going to the International Court of Justice in relation to the asylum. ... The Swedish government has an obligation under its own law to proceed with maximum speed, with minimum cost, and also with bringing the minimum suspicion on the person who's being investigated. And it is in clear violation of all those points of law.

AMY GOODMAN: That was WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange speaking to Democracy Now! in July from inside the Ecuadorean Embassy in London. To see the whole hour, you can go to [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org).

But right now, we're joined by Michael Ratner, president emeritus of the Center for Constitutional Rights. He and CCR are the U.S. attorneys for Julian Assange and WikiLeaks. He's also the chairman of the European Center for Constitutional and

Human Rights. Michael, welcome back to Democracy Now! Talk about the significance of what the Swedish government has now said.

MICHAEL RATNER: Well, it's the Swedish prosecutor, really, as you pointed out, being forced to do so because Julian's lawyers have gone to the Swedish courts and said, "How can this go for four years with allegations, over four years?" Julian is in custody because he can't leave that embassy without being forced to go to Sweden, and ultimately to the United States. And so, it's a victory for Julian, but it also shows the outrage of the Swedish prosecutor and their system. Here it's four years. Julian has had to give up his passport, take refuge in the embassy, been given asylum, deprived of any kind of real freedom, no ability to visit his family, etc. Four years later, now the prosecutor says, "I can question Julian about these allegations."

AMY GOODMAN: So I want to go exactly to what she said. On Friday, the director of public prosecutions in Sweden, Marianne Ny, issued a statement. She wrote, quote, "My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview, and that he would need to be present in Sweden in any case should there be a trial in the future. Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies in the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward."

MICHAEL RATNER: Yeah, well, she's not telling the truth there. **The Swedish Supreme Court just issued an order to the prosecutor saying, "Explain the investigatory delay in this case." The lower court said to her, "This case has not preceded according to Swedish law."** So, it's not right. She could have done this questioning a long time ago. Of course, one of the big problems with this is that, meanwhile, the U.S. has continued its intensive investigation of Julian Assange. Just a few weeks ago, they admitted that they were going forward with an espionage investigation.

AMY GOODMAN: Wait. How do you know that?

MICHAEL RATNER: There was a court decision, based in a Freedom of Information Act case, in which documents were requested about WikiLeaks supporters and what the Department of Justice was doing with them and what the FBI was doing with them. And the court decision said, "We can't turn over these documents because there's an ongoing multi-subject investigation of Julian Assange, and it's for espionage, conspiracy, theft of government documents." We know it from that, and we know it from search warrants that have been issued to three WikiLeaks employees that indicate that there's an ongoing investigation.

AMY GOODMAN: How can Julian Assange, who is not a U.S. citizen, be charged with espionage here? *[As a foreign spy, of course. Nothing unusual about that. --A.B.]*

MICHAEL RATNER: Well, I always found that— when I first got involved with this case, I always found that to be remarkable. He doesn't owe any loyalty to the United States as a citizen.

AMY GOODMAN: Is espionage different from the espionage law, the act?

MICHAEL RATNER: Espionage is similar. Now, I think that one of the reasons you see that they're looking at him for theft of documents, as well as for Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, is because the U.S. understands that most countries in the world will not extradite Julian Assange for espionage. So they throw in these other, quote, "non-espionage" charges, even though they're all related to espionage. That's why they do it. Espionage is the classic, classic political crime.

AMY GOODMAN: Explain what the Swedish prosecutor will be questioning Julian Assange about. Now, again, although some of the media will say he's been charged with sexual misconduct, he's never been charged. He hasn't even been questioned, until, apparently, now he will be.

MICHAEL RATNER: Right. Now, well, he did answer questions at one point in Sweden, when he was there. And after that questioning, the charges were actually dismissed or not allowed to go forward. And then the case switched to another prosecutor, and that prosecutor then took it forward. So, Sweden has this claimed, you know, authority that it has this wonderful, fair country. But, in fact, it's not. And there was actually a recent periodic review of Sweden's compliance with its fundamental law and its laws of justice, and many countries have come in and said, "What is going on in Sweden? How can it be four years for this?" Well, as you said, it's allegations. He'll be questioned about those allegations. I'm assuming that the prosecutor will go forward and do this. Of course, there are some conditions. She has to apply under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, which I assume Ecuador and the U.K. will allow it. She also has to turn over her investigative file to Julian Assange's lawyers and the defense team.

AMY GOODMAN: To you.

MICHAEL RATNER: The defense team in Sweden, yes. And that is one of the things that has been litigated in the courts: How come they have failed to turn over parts of the file to Julian Assange's lawyers? Ultimately, this case and what's going to happen to it is going to go to the European Court of Human Rights on a number of issues, including his arbitrary detention in the embassy. But in the end, Sweden is there. But in the final—final answer is it's what's happened in the United States and the fact that it's this ongoing, multi-subject investigation of Julian Assange, WikiLeaks, publishers—let's repeat that, publishers—of documents taken by others.

AMY GOODMAN: What does espionage charges in the United States have to do with sexual misconduct allegations in Sweden?

MICHAEL RATNER: Well, the main thing is that Julian would have gone to Sweden a long time ago had he gotten a guarantee from Sweden that they will not forward him to the United States for standing trial on the espionage charges. Sweden has never been willing to give that guarantee. And Sweden has a very bad reputation of complying with U.S. demands, whether it was sending some people from Sweden to Egypt for torture or whether it's guaranteeing people who are asylees in Sweden that they won't be deported. So, Sweden has not—a key here is that Sweden has not given the guarantee that it's required to do and to recognize Julian's asylum. Let's understand, he's been given asylum by Ecuador. Every country in the world is obligated to recognize that asylum. And that's asylum, because Ecuador has said Julian Assange will be persecuted in the United States.

AMY GOODMAN: We only have a minute. What can happen now? Well, first of all, do you think part of the change has to do with the Swedish government changing?

MICHAEL RATNER: I don't know that. I know that there's been heavy litigation in Sweden by Julian's lawyers, and the courts, as I've said, have slapped that prosecutor around.

AMY GOODMAN: So what can happen now? A Swedish prosecutor goes to London. Ecuador has hailed this decision, of course will allow the questioners to go into the embassy. They will question Julian Assange. And what happens from that?

MICHAEL RATNER: Well, there's different consequences that could happen. One is they could say that, as the first prosecutor said, that this case isn't strong enough to go forward with that case. That would be one. A second thing they could say is—well, maybe they could say, "Well, we think we're going to go forward anyway." But let's bring out one fact. Julian has now spent over four years in custody of some form—as you said as you opened, a thousand days in the embassy. Almost three years. If he were sentenced—if he were convicted of these allegations, they were made into charges, and he's convicted—

AMY GOODMAN: We have 10 seconds.

MICHAEL RATNER: —he's done all the time he would have to do. And therefore, he wouldn't do any time any longer, so the whole case is essentially a bogus way of keeping him in that embassy. And he has to be kept out of the United States in recognized asylum.

AMY GOODMAN: Michael Ratner, attorney for Julian Assange, president emeritus of the Center for Constitutional Rights. To see all of our coverage of the Julian Assange case and our interview with him in the Ecuadorean Embassy, go to our website at [democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

<http://www.democracynow.org>

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## **Assange's case must go to U.N., says Ecuador's foreign minister**

*Global Post*  
March 17, 2015

Quito (EFE) — Ecuadorian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ricardo Patiño said the situation of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, who has taken refuge in Ecuador's embassy in London since 2012, should be referred to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"I think the matter is going to have to be referred there, as it cannot continue the way it is," said the Minister Monday, emphasising that "it cannot be that someone is deprived of his human rights for so long and now he is told simply", that there is ultimately no case against him.

The Minister spoke to media about the new position taken by Swedish prosecutors, who agreed on Friday to question Assange in London over four rape and sexual assault allegations.

A preventative detention order was issued against Assange in absentia in 2010 in Sweden, and he has remained several years in the Ecuadorian embassy to avoid extradition from the United Kingdom to Sweden for questioning over the allegations.

Assange has denied the accusations and argues that his extradition to Sweden could lead to extradition to the United States where he could face a death sentence for releasing thousands of confidential diplomatic documents through the Wikileaks website.

Patiño re-iterated that the Ecuadorian government had proposed long ago that Assange be questioned at the embassy. However, instead of being questioned, the whistleblower was isolated from judicial process, reflected the Minister.

According to Patiño, the London embassy has facilities to provide for the stay of the Wikileaks founder, who enjoys boxing and ballgames within the diplomatic offices.

[www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/150317/assanges-case-must-go-un-says-ecuadors-foreign-minister](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/agencia-efe/150317/assanges-case-must-go-un-says-ecuadors-foreign-minister)

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## **Assange Demands Rape Case Files Before Sweden Questions Him**

*Agence France-Presse*  
March 24, 2015

GENEVA. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will agree to be questioned by Swedish prosecutors in London over rape allegations, but only if he is given access to the investigation files, his defence said Monday.

"We need to be provided access to the entirety of the proceedings, which for four and half years has been in the hands of the Swedish prosecution and not in the hands of the defence," said Baltasar Garzon, a former Spanish judge who is Assange's lawyer.

Swedish prosecutors offered earlier this month to drop their previous demand that Assange come to Sweden for questioning about the 2010 allegations, marking a significant U-turn in the case that has been deadlocked for nearly five years.

Sweden issued an arrest warrant for Assange in 2010 following allegations from two women in Sweden, one who claimed rape and another who alleged sexual assault.

The Australian former hacker, who has always vehemently denied the allegations and insisted the sexual encounters were consensual, has been ensconced in Ecuador's embassy in London since 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden.

He has long offered to be interviewed by prosecutors at the embassy or by video link. "That offer has always been on the table. It has been repeated again, and again and again, and I am very pleased that the prosecution has finally accepted that offer," Assange said via video feed to a diplomatic conference on how to protect whistleblowers from prosecution.

He added though that "there are details to work through" since three countries were involved and it **remained unclear which jurisdiction would apply**.

Garzon told AFP on the sidelines of the conference in Geneva that the defence team had yet to respond to the Swedish authorities' request for an interrogation to take place at the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

"Of course we will agree to the interrogation, but they have to guarantee minimum prerequisites," he said, stressing that giving the defence access to the investigation files was "simply the minimum rights of any person subjected to a judicial process."

He said it remained unclear when the interrogation might take place, but that "it should be fast".

That would be good news for Assange, 43, who pointed out that he had spent 1,006 days holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy "without charge", and another 560 days mainly under house arrest in Britain "without charge in any country".

**Former French judge and European Union parliamentarian Eva Joly voiced outrage at how Assange's case had been handled.** "I think Sweden has an answer to give. Why did they let this situation take 1,000 days?" she told the conference.

Assange has refused to go to Sweden for fear he would be passed on to the United States, where investigations are going on against him and WikiLeaks over the 2010 release of 500,000 secret military files on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and 250,000 diplomatic cables.

A former army intelligence analyst, Chelsea Manning, is currently serving a 35-year prison term for passing classified documents to WikiLeaks, and Assange pointed out that according to the draft charges, he himself could face 45 years behind bars.

Garzon said Assange would remain in the Ecuadorian embassy until Britain grants him safe passage to Ecuador, where he has been granted asylum.

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## **Riksåklagaren: HD bör pröva Assanges häktning**

TT/SVT  
24 mars 2015

Riksåklagaren (RÅ) anser att Julian Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad i sin frånvaro, men vill att Högsta domstolen prövar frågan, skriver Åklagarmyndigheten i ett pressmeddelande.

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange, misstänkt för sexualbrott i Sverige, har tidigare överklagat hovrättens beslut om fortsatt häktning till Högsta domstolen. I en svarsskrivelse konstaterar RÅ att det nu gått mer än fyra år sedan det ursprungliga häktningsbeslutet.

Eftersom Högsta domstolen (HD) inte tidigare uttalat sig om hur man ska se på en situation där någon under så lång tid varit häktad i sin frånvaro anser RÅ att fallet bör provas.

”Såsom ärendet har utvecklats har det kommit att innehålla flera avvägningsfrågor där olika intressen ställs mot varandra. Det vore värdefullt om Högsta domstolen ger sin syn på dessa frågor. Högsta domstolen har inte tidigare uttalat sig om hur man ska se på en situation där någon under lång tid är häktad i sin frånvaro utan att häktningsbeslutet kan verkställas”, skriver RÅ Anders Perklev i pressmeddelandet.

RÅ anser att samhällets och målsägandenas intresse av att de misstänkta brotten utreds och provas i domstol måste vägas mot den långa tid som gått och Assanges situation på ambassaden i London, dit han tog sin tillflykt 2012. Därmed inte sagt att han anser att häktningen är fel.

”Jag anser liksom tingsrätten och hovrätten att skälen för häktning fortfarande väger tyngre än skälen emot”, säger Anders Perklev i pressmeddelandet.

En av Julian Assanges två svenska advokater, Thomas Olsson, välkomnar beslutet.

– Det här är naturligtvis en ståndpunkt som vi håller med om eftersom vi överklagat häktningsbeslutet, säger Olsson till TT.

Samtidigt har uppgifter från Julian Assanges spanske advokat, Baltasar Garzón, på måndagen, tolkats som att Assange bara kommer att höras om han får tillgång till allt utredningsmaterial.

– Visa oss innehållet i utredningen, för under fyra och ett halvt års process har vi inte haft någon som helst tillgång till den och vi kan inte fortsätta i blindo, sade Garzón i måndags enligt den spanska nyhetsbyrå EFE, vilket ska ha varit ett krav för ett förhör.

Thomas Olsson säger till TT att han inte vet vad Garzón menar med sitt uttalande.

– Jag känner mig inte på något sätt bunden av hans uttalanden i frågan. Men **det finns en ny bestämmelse i rättegångsbalken som säger att man som misstänkt har rätt att ta del av allt det material som ligger till grund för häktningen**, säger Olsson.

– Den möjligheten kommer att nyttjas fullt ut av Assanges sida. Tidigare kunde allt material hemlighållas.

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## Israel Behind Hamas — New Assange Revelations

RT

March 24, 2015

Julian Assange has given an interview to an Argentinian paper from his Ecuadorian embassy asylum where he spent more than 1,000 days. He spoke about why US meddling in Ukraine led to civil war, how the West helped ISIS and Israel supported Hamas.

The United States has spent “a lot of time trying to bring Ukraine to the West,” the WikiLeaks founder said in an interview to *Pagina/12*, Argentinian newspaper on Monday.

“If it cannot be with a NATO membership, at least it becomes independent from Moscow's sphere of influence, to reduce Russian industrial-military complex and its naval bases in Crimea.”

Kiev first stepped closer to NATO was in December 2014, when President Petro Poroshenko signed a law canceling the Ukraine’ non-bloc status and promised to hold a national referendum on NATO accession in the next five to six years.

In January, Kiev authorities announced that the Ukrainian army would take part in 11 international military drills in 2015 to bolster NATO standards in troops.

One more attempt of US and Europe to ‘bring Ukraine closer to the West’ was spending “billions of dollars on the creation of NGOs,” said Assange, adding that “through these institutions, the West promised to end corruption in Ukraine.”

Meddling of Western countries in the Middle East led to creation of the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS), an Islamist group that is currently gaining a massive following across the wider Middle East and Africa, Assange said. “The IS is a direct result of the adventurism of the West,” Assange said.

He says the “adventurism” of Western countries has already destroyed the Libyan and Syrian society and now is “destroying Iraq for oil and other geopolitical reasons.”

Many people know that arms are being transported to Syria, that there are attempts to reduce Iranian influence in postwar Iraq by supporting the Sunnis, he said. But “what we don’t know is that in recent years Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey have increased their power and managed to gain certain independence from the US.”

As a result, Washington ceased to be “the only geopolitical actor” pushing developments in the Middle East, believes Assange.

The WikiLeaks founder accused Israeli authorities of supporting Hamas group at its early stages in order to divide the Palestinian resistance.

**"Our cables reveal that Israel supported Hamas in its infancy, that Hamas was used as an instrument to divide the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] and the Palestinian resistance,"** Assange told the paper.

Assange has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London while awaiting safe passage to the Central American country, where he has been granted asylum. Staking out the building, in case the Australian should leave the premises, has already cost British taxpayers a hefty £10 million, according to govwaste.co.uk.

Assange has not been charged with a crime, but is wanted for questioning in Sweden regarding allegations of sexual misconduct brought against him in 2010. An arrest warrant was issued for Assange in 2010 in the wake of sexual assault allegations leveled against him by two Swedish women *[actually, by the police and prosecutors "in the interests of" the women --A.B.]*. He denied the allegations of sexual misconduct and rape and managed to avoid extradition to Sweden by seeking refuge in the embassy in 2012.

He repeatedly announced that he is ready to answer all questions concerning his sexual assault allegations within the sanctity of the embassy. However, Swedish prosecutors were reluctant to do so until March this year.

"If Assange gives his consent, the prosecutor will promptly submit a request for legal assistance to the British authorities to further continue the investigation," the Swedish Prosecution Authority said in a statement.

Assange's Swedish lawyer welcomed the Swedish prosecutors' request to interview Assange in London, but added that the whole process of questioning could take time. "We welcome [this] and see it also as a big victory ... for Julian Assange that what we have demanded is finally going to happen," Per Samuelson said.

Assange supporters fear that if he is deported to Sweden he will likely face espionage charges in America over his role in publishing sensitive, classified US government documents.

But even if Sweden drops the case, he faces arrest by UK police for jumping the bail granted while the British courts considered a European arrest warrant issued by Stockholm.

In June 2014, 56 international human rights and free media organizations signed a letter addressed to US Attorney General Eric Holder calling upon the US government to end all criminal investigations into Assange's actions as editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks, and to cease harassing the organization for publishing materials in the public interest.

<http://rt.com/news/243445-assange-west-islamists-us/>

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## Assange's lawyer: Matter of time before he leaves London embassy

*Today's Zaman (Turkey)*  
March 26, 2015

Julian Assange, the co-founder of WikiLeaks who has been staying at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since 2012 due to accusations against him in the US and Sweden, has high hopes for a legal solution to his situation in the near future, according to his lawyer, Per E. Samuelson, who has said: "We are sure to win. It is just a matter of time."

Assange is charged with espionage in the US and faces sexual molestation charges in Sweden.

With regards to the legal case in Sweden, Samuelson explained that Assange is accused of committing sexual offenses against two women in August 2010. "Mr. Assange denies the accusations and states that nothing unusual happened between him and the two Swedish women," Samuelson said in an interview with Today's Zaman.

"In the US, there is a pre-investigation going on against the founders of Wikileaks regarding the material which Wikileaks published in 2010 about the US's war in Iraq. The alleged source of Wikileaks, Bradley Manning, has already been sentenced to 35 years in prison," Samuelson added.

Samuelson confirmed that both cases against Assange in Sweden and the US are still at a prosecutorial stage and have not yet become court trials.

Given the fact that the investigation overseen by Swedish prosecutors is viewed by many as a pretext to extradite Assange to the US for the original case, Samuelson highlighted that the biggest legal trouble at the moment is that Assange cannot leave the Ecuadorian Embassy in London though he was granted political asylum by Ecuador in August 2012. He elaborated: "If Assange leaves, he will lose his political asylum and will run the risk of being extradited to the US."

Swedish prosecutors recently agreed to interview Assange at the embassy in London because the crimes attributed to him are about to reach their statute of limitations. Samuelson regards this as positive progress in terms of the course of the case.

"This is what we have been asking for over four years. It gives Assange the chance to explain to the Swedish authorities what really happened between him and the two women in Sweden. It gives him the chance to clear his name. **We believe that the prosecutor will drop the charges once she hears Assange's explanation," Samuelson commented.**

According to Samuelson, Assange sees this move by the Swedish prosecutors as a victory and as evidence that he has been right all along and that the prosecutor was wrong. However, Assange is annoyed at the same time because the prosecutor handling the probe did not go to London to question him before. "She has robbed Mr. Assange of over two years of his life," Samuelson said.

Some media reports in 2014 had said Assange was suffering from high blood pressure and arrhythmia due to lack of sunlight. It was even claimed that he might surrender to the British police because of his health. When asked whether these claims were true, Samuelson said: "Those new reports are wrong. **He is not ill. But he has been inside the embassy for over two-and-a-half years now** without even a breath of fresh air. No contact with family, children, no possibility of conducting your work, living in a small office area. Of course that tears you apart. But Mr. Assange is strong and knows that he cannot leave the building without losing his political asylum so he has to wait."

Assange currently works via e-mail, phone and computer, and is still active in WikiLeaks, Samuelson added.

When asked what Assange's concern is about being tried in the US, Samuelson replied, "No one likes the idea of spending perhaps the rest of your life in prison."

As a lawyer representing Assange, a figure viewed by many as a hero of modern times, Samuelson stated in response to a question that he is proud to defend him.

[www.todayszaman.com/anasayfa\\_assanges-lawyer-matter-of-time-before-he-leaves-london-embassy\\_376387.html](http://www.todayszaman.com/anasayfa_assanges-lawyer-matter-of-time-before-he-leaves-london-embassy_376387.html)

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## Assange: More leaks to come

*Philip Dorling  
Sydney Morning Herald  
May 1, 2015*

WikiLeaks is planning new releases of secret documents on controversial negotiations and intelligence agency operations, according to the anti-secrecy organisation's Australian founder, Julian Assange.

In an interview with Fairfax Media, Mr Assange said that while he does not expect to leave Ecuador's London embassy any time soon, WikiLeaks very much remains in the business of publishing the secrets of diplomats and spies.

"There'll be more publications— about large international so-called free trade deals, and about an intelligence agency," Mr Assange said.

Over the past two years WikiLeaks has published leaked documents relating to the secret Trans Pacific Partnership trade negotiations as well as talks on the proposed multilateral agreement on Trade in Services.

In December 2014, WikiLeaks also published a leaked US Central Intelligence Agency analysis of the effectiveness of drone strikes and another CIA paper on the implications of enhanced airport security arrangements for clandestine intelligence operatives. At that time WikiLeaks said the CIA documents were the beginning of a series of releases relating to the US espionage agency.

In a wide ranging interview Mr Assange discussed the recent establishment of a secure internet chat system to enable anonymous sources to contact WikiLeaks and the prospective reintroduction of a secure electronic drop box to facilitate the deposit of leaked documents.

Mr Assange acknowledged that re-establishing a drop box had proved a challenge since the WikiLeaks submission system had been disabled when a disgruntled member left the group in late 2010.

"Given the realities of mass surveillance, and the intense focus on WikiLeaks, we knew we needed a much stronger approach," he said. "There have been a number of efforts to do this, by others and ourselves, but until now every one has failed the test. Our new system has some innovation that will be visible, and a lot that is not."

Mr Assange said that a key challenge arose from the fact that any website open to receive anonymous leaks was an "exposed front door that becomes a permanent target" for intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

One part of the solution is to embed the instructions and code for the submission system on every webpage so that potential sources would be concealed amidst the estimated 500,000 unique readers who visit the WikiLeaks website each month.

"That gives a source some cover," Mr Assange said, "but it's important to understand that the protection of sources requires much more than a single technological fix. A combination of elements is needed— cryptologic, jurisdictional and personal security."

Mr Assange acknowledged his physical location in Ecuador's London embassy was "a complicating factor, but not insurmountable" in WikiLeaks operations, and pointed to the assistance given by WikiLeaks staffer Sarah Harrison to former US intelligence contractor and whistleblower Edward Snowden as a demonstration of high levels of operational security.

Mr Assange said that he was hopeful that Sweden's highest court would strike down the still current arrest warrant for him to be questioned about sexual assault allegations that were first raised in August 2010.

He has lived at Ecuador's London embassy since June 2012 when the South American country granted him political asylum on the grounds that he is at risk of extradition to the United States to face espionage and conspiracy charges arising from the leaking of thousands of secret documents by US Army private Chelsea Manning.

In March, a US court confirmed that WikiLeaks and Mr Assange are still being targeted in a long-running investigation by the US Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation. British police are on guard outside the Ecuadorian embassy, waiting to arrest Mr Assange so he can be extradited to Sweden for questioning about the sexual assault allegations. Mr Assange denies the allegations and his lawyers have advised that he is at risk of extradition to the US from both Sweden or the United Kingdom.

Sweden's Supreme Court confirmed this week it will hear an appeal by Mr Assange seeking to quash the arrest warrant on the grounds that prosecutors had failed to progress the case and that he has been denied access to key facts relevant to the decision to arrest him.

However, the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has confirmed even if the Swedish warrant disappeared British police would still seek to arrest Mr Assange for breaking his bail conditions when he sought refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy.

"When my legal team asked the FCO whether they were aware of any US extradition proceedings, they refused to confirm or deny," Mr Assange said. There's also the question of US and UK investigations relating to Sarah Harrison and myself as a consequence of our assistance to Snowden," he added.

Mr Assange said he hadn't had any contact from Australian consular officials for more than a year. His Australian passport, currently held by British authorities, has expired. He has been advised that he must physically present himself at the Australian High Commission in London if he wishes to obtain a new passport.

"The Australian Government and DFAT [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade] like to make a big song and dance about helping Australians overseas, but the reality is they do as little as possible, especially when they don't like someone's politics. I'm probably not moving for a while yet," he said.

[www.smh.com.au/national/assange-more-leaks-to-come-20150501-1mxmqz.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/assange-more-leaks-to-come-20150501-1mxmqz.html)

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## **Assange appeal rejected by Sweden's supreme court**

*4-1 decision means arrest warrant against WikiLeaks founder over claims of rape and sexual assault will not be lifted, but dissenting justice gives legal team hope*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
11 May 2015*

Sweden's highest court has thrown out Julian Assange's appeal against his arrest warrant, dashing his immediate hopes of an end to his three-year confinement in Ecuador's embassy in London.

His lawyers were, however, encouraged by a 4-1 decision by the judges, which a senior legal figure said indicated the court could still change its mind.

The WikiLeaks founder is wanted for questioning in Sweden following allegations of sex crimes that date from August 2010. But without a guarantee he would not be extradited to the US to face espionage charges, he has refused to travel to Sweden and in 2012 sought asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy.

Stockholm's supreme court said in its ruling on Monday: "The public interest in the investigation continues to weigh heavily. In view hereof, and the risk that Julian Assange may evade prosecution if the arrest warrant is lifted, continued detention is currently regarded as compatible with the principle of proportionality."

Per Samuelson, a lawyer for the 43-year-old Australian, condemned what he called a weak decision by the court, which he said had issued its ruling before the Assange team had made its final submission.

But the split decision suggests that the supreme court's position on proportionality is not set in stone, **according to Anne Ramberg, the head of Sweden's Bar Association. "The reasoning of the court indicates that it may take a different view with the passing of further time," she said.**

Claes Borgström, a lawyer for one of the complainants in the case, said he was very satisfied by the court's decision, but was surprised one judge had dissented. "If Assange was suspected of a theft or another minor crime, proportionality would be different, but he is suspected of rape, a very severe crime," Borgström said. *[Assange is not suspected of "rape" as that term is understood everywhere except in some parts of Sweden; see <http://www.nnn.se/nordic/assange/murder.pdf> -- A.B.]*

An 11-month battle through Sweden's courts has seen Assange's lawyers argue that his exile in Ecuador's embassy amounts to enforced and that the severe restrictions it places on his freedoms are disproportionate to the scale of the crimes of which he is accused. Lower courts in Sweden have objected that Assange's confinement is self-imposed.

The supreme court backed the lower courts, stating that the fact of his residence in the embassy "cannot be given any importance in the assessment of proportionality... Julian Assange's freedom of movement cannot be considered to be limited in practice in such a way that it is contrary to the European convention [on human rights]".

**The ruling does not include a legal explanation for this conclusion, which Samuelson said was "disappointing and annoying".**

**But in an appendix to the ruling, Justice Svante Johansson issued a dissenting opinion in support of the appeal. The arrest warrant was "in violation of the principle of proportionality", he said, and the reasons for continued detention did not "outweigh the intrusion and inconvenience" it caused Assange.**

Assange's lawyers said on Monday they would discuss their next steps. Previously they said they were prepared to take their case to the European court of human rights, where they maintain that legal thinking on proportionality speaks in their favour.

Swedish prosecutors are now preparing to travel to London to question Assange, after Stockholm's appeal court in November was sharply critical of their failure to move the case forward. Assange has argued that the prosecutor's repeated refusal to question him in London has condemned him to remain in legal limbo.

The supreme court also stated on Monday that the investigating authorities “must examine what alternative investigative opportunities are available to drive the investigation forward”. A spokesperson for Marianne Ny, the prosecutor in the case, said she was waiting for formalities to be completed before conducting the interrogation, which is a necessary step towards formal charges.

Although Assange has not yet been formally charged— a process that occurs relatively late in the legal process under Swedish jurisprudence— the prosecutor is obliged to drop the case unless there are reasonable grounds for suspicion.

Assange’s lawyers said on Monday they have the right to go through the entire legal process once again in the Swedish courts after the London interrogation has taken place, holding out the prospect of at least another year of legal wrangling.

**In January, Sweden’s government agreed to examine whether it could issue a guarantee forbidding rendition of “any person under the control of the Swedish authorities while considered a refugee by a third country”. It is scheduled to issue a decision by 15 June.**

As well as Johansson, the supreme court justices who ruled in the case were Ann-Christine Lindeblad, Gudmund Toijer, Ingemar Persson and Lars Edlund.

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## **Assange vill överklaga HD-utslag**

*TT/SVT*

*12 maj 2015*

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange ska överklaga Högsta domstolens beslut att häktningen av honom för misstänkt våldtäkt och sexuella övergrepp i Sverige ska kvarstå. Hans försvarsteam anser att han därmed berövats rätten till en rättvis rättegång och ska överklaga HD-utslaget till internationella domstolar. Det uppger advokat Baltasar Garzon, en av Assanges försvarare.

Assange, som nekar till anklagelserna från två svenska kvinnor, sökte skydd på Ecuadors ambassad i London 2012 och har inte lämnat den sedan dess. Om han lämnar ambassaden kan han gripas och utlämnas till Sverige. Assange befarar att han i så fall ska bli utlämnad till USA

Försvarsteamet undersöker nu till vilka domstolar HD-beslutet ska överklagas.

Garzon säger i ett uttalande att HD inte har tagit hänsyn till de "oberättigade" förseningarna i fallet och att Assange "de facto" har varit frihetsberövad i tre år.



## "Pretrial Punishment": Julian Assange Remains in Ecuadorean Embassy Fearing Arrest If He Leaves

*Democracy Now!*  
2015-05-28

AMY GOODMAN: Five years ago this week, U.S. Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning was arrested in Kuwait and charged with leaking classified information. Weeks later, WikiLeaks published tens of thousands of internal logs from the war in Afghanistan. It was one of the largest leaks in U.S. military history. Major articles ran in The New York Times, in The Guardian, Der Spiegel and other outlets. Chelsea Manning, then known as Bradley, and Julian Assange soon become household names.

While Manning was sentenced to 35 years in jail, Assange has been living for the past three years inside Ecuador's Embassy in London, where he has political asylum. Assange faces investigations in both Sweden and the United States. Here in the United States, a secret grand jury is investigating WikiLeaks for its role in publishing leaked Afghan and Iraq War logs and State Department cables. In Sweden, Assange is wanted for questioning on allegations of sexual misconduct, though no charges have ever been filed. Earlier this month, Sweden's Supreme Court rejected his appeal to lift his arrest warrant. Swedish prosecutors are reportedly preparing to travel to London to interview Assange after refusing to do so for years.

On Monday, Democracy Now! went to London to interview Julian Assange inside the Ecuadorean Embassy. When we were inside, British police asked the Ecuadorean Embassy to hand over our identification. That's unusual. Local police aren't supposed to ask people for ID entering foreign embassies, so we refused. In part two of our exclusive interview, Julian Assange began by talking about the latest developments in the U.S. case against him.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, the latest information is from the 4th of March. Now, we know, as a result of warrants that were issued to our journalists' Google accounts, that **the charges are espionage; conspiracy to commit espionage; the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, which is computer hacking; conversion, which is theft of government secrets; and general conspiracy.** We don't know how many of each one, but we know that these are the charge types. This is what has been used to apply for warrants. We know that there are several more warrants that Google has. Google has admitted publicly that it is still gagged about the other warrants that have been applied.

Now, on the 4th of March, there was a case in federal court where EPIC, which is a Electronic Privacy Information Center, NGO based in Washington, D.C., has been litigating to try and see whether the U.S. government is illegally surveilling our supporters. And their case has become unexpectedly important. There are some 500 information requests from the media and us, that have been blocked by the U.S. government, into what has been happening with WikiLeaks. And they've been blocked under the excuse that to release such information would be to help us resist the prosecution, and that they want to use that in the prosecution, and therefore they can't release it to anyone.

Now, the FBI has admitted that they have more than 42,135 pages just in the FBI file. There's the DOJ file. There's the grand jury file. And they're not going to release a single sentence, not a single paragraph. But they have to explain themselves. And in explaining themselves, they've revealed some important things— that the investigation is being run by the DOJ National Security Division, and it's being run by the DOJ

Criminal Division, and that there is responsive documents in the DOJ extradition unit. So, we see the flavor of the prosecution from this, but also many other things. But this is the most recent one, from the 4th of March.

Now, importantly, we lost that case. Or rather, EPIC lost that case to get those documents, because the court accepted that to release any information about the WikiLeaks prosecution would affect the WikiLeaks prosecution, **that we could use this to defend ourselves**. And the argument used is quite incredible. So, we argued that—the argument used to restrict all information about the pending WikiLeaks prosecution is quite incredible. It is that not only would any information be— if released, assist us, even saying that we're no longer interested in that particular person, we're interested in this one, but that the court doesn't have a right to, itself, make this determination. So, the government says that we need to keep all this information secret about the WikiLeaks investigation— tens and tens of thousands of pages, not a single sentence can be released— because it would help WikiLeaks, would help me.

And then, so we say, and EPIC, who's litigating the case, says, "Well, that's absurd. Surely, out of tens of thousands of pages, there's one sentence that can be released under the FOIA." And they say, "No, we're the experts on our own investigation, and that's what we say." And then, so we say, "Well, we want the court to look at the documents and say whether they can be released or not, whether they would truly affect the investigation."

And then the government argues, "The court does not have a right to make this assessment. This is a question of a national security fact. Either it is a fact that the information held by the DOJ and held by the FBI would— about WikiLeaks — would affect national security or not. And it is the government that is best placed to determine this fact, not the court." And so, in the judgment, **the judge states that it is necessary to show, quote, "appropriate deference to the executive on matters of national security," and therefore she is simply going to defer to the government's claim without looking at the material at all**. This is incredible, that you have the judiciary— the whole purpose of the judiciary is it is not to defer to the executive; it's meant to be an independent assessor.

And if you look at what would happen in a normal criminal case, say, a murder case, there's a question of DNA in the murder case. So the government would bring their witness and say, "We believe the DNA shows that this person was at the murder scene." And the defense would go, "We have an expert. He is much more eminent than your expert. He has done a bigger study. And he says that, in fact, no, this is quite incorrect. It is that you simply have incompetent procedures." And then the court would allow these experts to battle it out and make a determination on which one was the most credible.

That is not permitted here. The court doesn't say, "Let's hear your expert." The court doesn't say, "Well, I, the judge, will look at these documents, and I will judge them." Rather, it's necessary to show appropriate deference to the executive in matters of national security. So all that's necessary for the government is to claim that this is a national security fact, information— any information released about WikiLeaks will harm national security. Its investigation into us, its spying on us, its spying on our supporters— any of that information, if it's released, will harm national security and will compromise the pending prosecution of WikiLeaks.

So, what has happened here, at a much more interesting and structural level, is a front loading— a front loading of the deterrent and penalty phase. You have a classical view of the criminal process and the deterrent process. Someone is accused of something, you charge them with a crime, it goes to trial, you convict them or they're

acquitted. Let's say they're convicted. Then the sentence is both the penalty, and it is the deterrent. OK.

Now, what has happened in these whistleblowing cases is that has been flipped. If you look at Thomas Drake, for example, NSA whistleblower, it's been seven years. There was no penalty, no— he didn't go to prison at all, in the end. And they just plea deal down to a slap on the wrist. It was— **the pretrial process was both the deterrent, the general deterrent, and it was the penalty.** And the same thing is happening here in the WikiLeaks process, where we have no rights as a defendant because the formal trial hasn't started yet.

The same thing has happened with me here in this embassy in relation to the Swedish case: no charges, no trial, no ability to defend yourself, don't even have a right to documents, because you're not even a defendant.

AMY GOODMAN: And the investigation, U.S. investigation, has gone on for how many years?

JULIAN ASSANGE: It's gone on for just over five years....

[www.democracynow.org/2015/5/28/pretrial\\_punishment\\_julian\\_assange\\_remains\\_in](http://www.democracynow.org/2015/5/28/pretrial_punishment_julian_assange_remains_in)

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## **Julian Assange says Swedish prosecutor is 'reckless' for scrapping interview**

*Wikileaks founder holed up in Ecuadorian embassy in UK capital says he believed interrogation on rape and molestation claims was to go ahead*

*Ben Quinn and David Crouch  
The Guardian  
17 June 2015*

A Swedish prosecutor has cancelled an appointment to interview Julian Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, according to the Wikileaks founder, who has been living in the building for nearly three years to avoid extradition.

Assange said Marianne Ny had led his lawyers to believe that an appointment to take a statement from him would take place on Wednesday and described the cancellation as reckless.

But Ny said the meeting would have to be called off because she had not received official permission from Ecuador to enter its London embassy.

"Some formal approval has not come, and it is unclear when the matter can be resolved," the prosecutor Marianne Ny wrote to Assange's lawyers at 3.47pm on Wednesday, in email correspondence seen by the Guardian. "It is therefore no longer necessary to carry out investigative measures this week."

Swedish prosecutors have been trying since 2010 to question Assange [*No, they have not. --A.B.*] about allegations of rape and sexual molestation, although he has never been charged. He entered the embassy three years ago on Friday and has remained there to avoid a perceived threat of being sent on from Sweden to the US for publishing military secrets.

Lawyers for Assange claimed a victory in March after Ny bowed to pressure from the courts and agreed to break the deadlock in the case by interviewing him in London. Ny's formal request to interrogate him in the Ecuadorian embassy was the first sign of movement in a case that has been frozen since August 2012.

Assange said on Wednesday: "This afternoon, the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny cancelled a prospective appointment to take my statement today. We proposed the dates and Ny accepted them.

"Prosecutor Ny led my lawyers to believe that the appointment was proceeding. My lawyers had booked tickets and I have been put to considerable expense. Last year, the Swedish court of appeal found that prosecutor Ny had breached her duty because she had refused to take my statement for four and a half years.

"The prosecutor waited another seven months before finally accepting my offer to take my statement in London. **Today, I learned that the Swedish legal application to Ecuador, which is likely to take weeks, was only sent to Ecuador two days ago.**

"To behave in such a way seems reckless and it is hard to imagine that it was more than a public relations exercise. It is impossible to maintain confidence in this prosecutor under such circumstances."

The foreign ministry of Ecuador issued a statement on Wednesday saying it had received a request at its Stockholm embassy on Friday 12 June from the prosecutor for legal assistance in carrying out the interrogation, and that it was considering this request.

Per Samuelson, a lawyer for Assange in Stockholm who had been due to fly to London on Tuesday night, said that Ingrid Isgren, a deputy prosecutor charged with conducting the interrogation, was already in London.

A spokesperson for the prosecutor said he was unable to confirm or deny that Isgren was in London, or that Ny had sent an email to Assange's lawyers calling off the interrogation.

"We haven't cancelled any meetings, we have not confirmed any dates ... We have said we will do everything to get this interview done before the end of July," he said.

Ny has previously said that she changed her mind about going to London because the statute of limitations on several of the crimes of which Assange is suspected runs out in August 2015.

"My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorian embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview, and that he would need to be present in Sweden in any case should there be a trial in the future. This assessment remains unchanged," Ny said in a statement earlier this year.

“Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies to the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward, particularly as there are no other measures on offer without Assange being present in Sweden.”

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## **Julian Assange’s third anniversary in embassy of Ecuador**

*Justice for Assange*  
*June 2015*

19 June 2015 marks three years since Julian Assange, an Australian citizen, entered the embassy of Ecuador in London. He was granted political asylum under the 1951 Refugee Convention due the ongoing espionage case against him in the United States. Mr. Assange risks extradition to the US from both the UK and Sweden.

Mr. Assange has been detained— without charge— in prison, under house arrest and in the embassy for nearly five years. He has not seen the sun in three years as the embassy has no outdoor area. His rights have been severely abused, as have the rights of his young family. Fifty nine legal and civil rights organizations have complained to the United Nations about his treatment in the last year alone. The UN will shortly issue a finding as to whether Mr. Assange’s situation formally amounts to "arbitrary detention"— which is unlawful under any circumstances.

A number of criminal cases have been filed in Europe (including in Denmark, Germany and Sweden) in response to illicit state action against him by the US government and its allies including the use of unlawful surveillance and the payment of cash bribes to illegally obtain evidence.

Both the UK and Sweden refuse to provide legal or diplomatic assurances not to extradite Mr. Assange to the US (in violation of their obligations under the Refugee Convention), despite repeated requests by Ecuador and NGOs, including Amnesty International.

Until Mr. Assange’s right to effective protection from extradition to the US is recognised, he will continue to endure prolonged and arbitrary detention, a legally uncertain and precarious situation. This situation should not be tolerated or, worse still, abetted by any State which subscribes to the most basic human rights protections. Mr. Assange has been the subject of severe restrictions on his liberty (in prison, under house arrest, and in the embassy) since 7 December 2010. His passport was seized the same day.

More than five years ago, in February 2010, the US commenced its ongoing ‘espionage’ investigation into Mr. Assange and WikiLeaks . The case has been described in diplomatic cables as “unprecedented in scale and nature” and is widely regarded to be the largest ever investigation of a publisher in US history. The FBI file alone is known to run to more than 42,135 pages.

Warrants issued to Google, which were revealed late last year, show that the US is seeking to prosecute Mr. Assange under the following criminal laws for his work as editor of WikiLeaks:

Espionage: 18 U.S.C. § 793(d)

Conspiracy to commit espionage: 18 U.S.C. § 793(g)

The theft or conversion of property belonging to the United States government: 18 U.S.C. § 641

Violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act: 18 U.S.C. § 1030

Conspiracy: 18 U.S.C. § 371

The Swedish investigation was initiated six months after the US investigation commenced but has remained at the 'preliminary investigation' phase ever since that time. The prosecutor still has not made a decision as to whether to charge him, but also refuses to disclose to the courts key exculpatory evidence to enable Mr. Assange to properly challenge the basis of his ongoing detention. **This evidence includes SMS messages between the two complainants, which state the allegations were "made up" by the police who were "trying to get" Mr. Assange. Another statement in the police report by one of the women said that she was "railroaded" by police and others. Both women state they had no intent to bring a case.**

Sweden has granted every US extradition request for at least the past 15 years. Sweden has also been complicit in CIA renditions (Agiza and Alzery cases) and has recently cooperated with the United States to build terrorism cases against two of its own citizens who were renditioned from Djibouti to the United States.

Apart from the Swedish risk, there remains an extant risk that the UK authorities would extradite Mr. Assange if he were to leave the Embassy. The UK refuses to confirm or deny whether it has received a US extradition request for Mr. Assange. Even if the Swedish case is dropped, the UK has stated publicly that they will arrest Mr. Arrange when he leaves the embassy.

As there are no formal criminal charges against him, Mr. Assange has not been able to exercise the rights of a defendant.

The legal basis for Mr. Assange's extradition from the UK has completely vanished since the split Supreme Court decision in 2012. In response to the injustice of his and similar cases, the UK Parliament in July 2014 decided to ban future attempts to extradite persons from the UK without charge, however the UK executive says that it would be 'retrospective' to apply the change in law to Mr. Assange.

The known cost of police surveillance of Mr. Assange is now more than £11.4 million (over \$17.8 million USD: see <http://govwaste.co.uk>). The UK government refuses, on "national security" grounds, to provide a breakdown of these costs.

Mr. Assange has no access to fresh air or sunlight because the embassy premises do not have an outdoor area. UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners requires minimum one hour of exercise outdoors each day. **Ecuador has requested that Mr. Assange be permitted outdoor exercise without risking his political asylum, but the UK has refused.**

## Stop the Foot-Dragging on Assange

*Dinah Pokempner  
Human Rights Watch  
June 19, 2015*

Today marks three years since Julian Assange, the publisher of Wikileaks, walked into the Ecuadorean embassy in London, which has become in effect his jail.

Assange, who has been recognized as a refugee by Ecuador, sought protection from deportation to Sweden, where he is wanted in a preliminary investigation on various allegations of non-consensual sexual relations. He has consistently maintained he is ready to cooperate fully. But Sweden hasn't granted him assurances it wouldn't deport him to the U.S., which has maintained an open-ended investigation of him and others associated with Wikileaks on espionage and other charges for publishing classified US diplomatic cables leaked by Chelsea Manning. Were he to set foot outside the embassy, he would risk extradition to the US.

Sweden's prosecutor has managed to forestall a decision by Sweden's Supreme Court to quash the arrest warrant based on Assange's prolonged confinement by declaring in March that she would interview him in London. It is June and this has yet to occur, despite the impending statute of limitations on three of the four possible charges against him. **His lawyers argue that at this point, his liberty has been restricted longer than the prison sentence he would likely face were convicted.**

Sweden deserves censure for foot-dragging, which serves neither the interests of the two women alleged to be his victims nor of Assange. So whose interests does it serve?

**The US government, which would be only too happy to see Julian Assange caged, is accomplishing through a protracted and secret grand jury investigation what it should not accomplish through law.** No evidence has emerged that would show he did more than what publishers of more mainstream outlets do— release to the public information of public interest. So far, the US has not prosecuted the media under the draconian terms of its antiquated Espionage Act, though it has been quite willing under President Obama to punish the leakers.

The US should make good on former Attorney General Eric Holder's assurance that the Justice Department "will not prosecute any reporter for doing his or her job" and close its Assange investigation or let the public and the media know what evidence justifies keeping it going.

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SvD: 2015-06-17

## Förhör med Assange ställdes in

Förhör med Julian Assange var inplanerade i veckan men ställdes in i sista minuten, säger hans svenske advokat Thomas Olsson. Åklagarmyndigheten kommenterar inte uppgifterna.

Under onsdagen och torsdagen var det tänkt att chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren skulle förhöra Wikileaksgrundaren på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

– Åklagaren hade frågat oss om vi kunde ange några dagar när vi kunde hålla förhör och vi föreslog de här dagarna. Och det förutskickades för oss att de skulle hållas, säger Thomas Olsson.

Men nyligen blev det känt att ansökningen om att få tillstånd att hålla förhör hade kommit in sent till Ecuador.

– I dag (onsdag) fick jag besked om att förhören inte skulle komma att genomföras eftersom man inte hade erforderliga tillstånd från Ecuador, säger Thomas Olsson.

Fredrik Berg, informatör vid Åklagarmyndigheten, vill inte kommentera uppgifterna. Men han säger att det har varit problem med en del dokument som fördröjt processen.

– Vi kommer att göra allt för att förhöret ska bli av under juni eller juli, säger han.

Ecuadors utrikesdepartement uppgav senare på onsdagen att det överväger Sveriges begäran, rapporterar AFP.

Julian Assange är misstänkt för sexualbrott mot två kvinnor i Sverige 2010. Han har befunnit sig på Ecuadors ambassad sedan 2012.

• *Fredrik Gunér/TT*

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## **French Asylum for Snowden and Assange Would Send 'Clear Message' to US**

*In response to new revelations that U.S. had spied on French leaders, officials say offering asylum would not be surprising*

*Nadia Prupis, staff writer  
Common Dreams  
June 26, 2015*

**French Justice Minister** Christiane Taubira would "absolutely not be surprised" if whistleblower Edward Snowden and WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange received asylum in France.

"It would be a symbolic gesture," Taubira told French news channel BFMTV on Thursday, adding that it would not be her decision to offer asylum, but that of the French Prime Minister and President.

Taubira's statement came in response to a question about recent revelations that the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) spied on the past three French presidents, which she called an "unspeakable practice."



Snowden currently lives in political asylum in Russia, awaiting an offer of permanent refuge from several other countries, including France. He faces espionage charges in the U.S.

Assange, who is wanted in Sweden over allegations of sexual assault, has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for the past three years. He has said he fears being extradited to the U.S. if arrested by Swedish authorities.

As the Intercept reported on Thursday, Taubira's comments echo those of the leftist French newspaper Libération, whose editor Laurent Joffrin wrote that France would send "a clear and useful message to Washington, by granting this bold whistleblower [Snowden] the asylum to which he is entitled."

The editorial, entitled "A Single Gesture," calls for France to offer asylum to the "single, courageous man, who has been chased without respite for three years: Edward Snowden, stalked and threatened with life in prison for having told the truth."

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## **Julian Assange denies making asylum request that was refused by France**

*Australian Associated Press*  
4 July 2015

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has denied filing a request for asylum in France after revealing the existence of a child he has not seen for five years.

His legal defence team took issue on Friday with a statement from the Elysee Palace that an asylum request from the Australian had been declined.

Defence team director Baltasar Garzon said in a statement an open letter written by Assange to the French president, Francois Hollande, had only expressed his willingness "to be hosted in France if and only if an initiative was taken by the competent authorities".

Earlier Hollande's office said in a statement it could not "act on the request", adding Assange was not in immediate danger and there was a European arrest warrant out on him....

In his open letter published in Le Monde newspaper on Friday, Assange described himself as a "journalist pursued and threatened with death by the United States' authorities as a result of my professional activities".

He wrote that "only France now has the ability to offer me the necessary protection against, and exclusively against, the political persecution that I am currently the object of".

Such an offer of protection would be a “humanitarian and symbolic gesture” and send a message of encouragement “to journalists and whistleblowers around the world”.

Assange said in his letter he had not seen his youngest child or the child’s mother, who are both French, for five years. “I have had to keep their existence secret up to today in order to protect them,” he wrote.

In response to the open letter, Hollande’s office said that “on account of the legal elements and material situation of Mr Assange, France cannot act on the request”.

**But Garzon said contrary to assertions from the Elysee Palace, the Australian’s defence team “wishes to state very clearly that Julian Assange has filed no request for asylum in France. No terminology in his letter to the president of the Republic can be interpreted in a different sense.”**

Garzon said Assange’s letter was in part a response to recent comments by the French justice minister, Christiane Taubira, and he questioned how carefully Hollande’s office had interpreted the letter before providing a response “in such a rush”.

In his letter, Assange raised the issue of US spying on French leaders after WikiLeaks last week released documents indicating Hollande and the two previous presidents had been wiretapped.

The revelations caused widespread anger in France and prompted Taubira to say she would “not be shocked” if France decided to extend political asylum to Assange and fellow whistleblower Edward Snowden.

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AB: 2015-07-25

## **Assange-jakten har satt Sverige på juridikkartan**

*Krönika av Staffan Heimerson*

Då och då gör han sig synlig. Han dyker upp på balkongen till lägenhet 3b, på gatan Hans Crescent nr 3 i Londonstadsdelen Knightsbridge.

Julian Assange, 44 — den australiske särlingen och hackaren, visselblåsaren och Wikiläckaren — säger några ord från den plats, ett trångt gästrum, där han beviljats politisk asyl på Ecuadors ambassad.

Han ser sliten ut, har infallna kinder, där han står i en ljusblå skjorta och en murrig slips. Han har blivit vithårig. I sin sysslolöshet [!?!] har han odlat ett fullt litet skägg. Det är en bedrövlig syn.

Politisk asyl är vanligen kortvariga affärer. Svenskar nämner gärna stolt hur vi 1973 i samband med en militärkupp gav dödshotade oppositionsmän skydd på svenska ambassaden i Santiago de Chile. De slussades på några veckor vidare i säkerhet.

Dåvarande presidenten i Panama, Manuel Noriega, en narko-gangster, satte sig i säkerhet på Vatikanens ambassad, när han skulle gripas av Amerika. Han härdade ut i tio dagar; amerikanerna drev ut honom med rockmusik på högsta volym.

Om långvarig politisk asyl erinrar jag mig — förutom Assange— bara József Mindszenty. Denne var katolska kyrkans kardinal i Ungern, fängslad först under andra världskrigets nazism, sedan som motståndare till kommunismen. Han kom loss under den ungerska revolutionen 1956. När Moskva slog tillbaka satte han sig i säkerhet på Amerikas ambassad. Det tog 15 år innan han slapp ut.

Assange riskerar samma långa "husarrest" — hans asyl har nu gått in i sitt fjärde år— om inte två svenska flickor och en prestigesugen svensk åklagare kan finna ett sätt att befria honom. **De har för sig själva — och för Assange— åstadkommit en juridisk cirkus.**

Ni vet vad som hänt. En nybliven världscelebritet, Julian Assange, kom en augustidag 2010 till Sverige för att presentera hackat material som avslöjade regeringars omoraliska dubbelspel. Assange blev vänsterbloggarnas Sankt Göran [*typisk heimersonsk dumhet --A.B.*]. Tv-producenter och chefredaktörer kråmade sig.

En flicka i arrangörsleden, en politisk aktivist i ett ungdomsförbund, blev så förtjust i honom att hon arrangerade en kräftskiva i sin våning i Gamla stan. Den andra flickan gjorde arrangörerna en tjänst som springflicka. Hon sms:ade sina vänner att sa, att hon var tillsammans med "världens smartaste karl" [*det var faktiskt den förstnämnda --A.B.*]. Hon frågade sen Assange: "Ska du inte hänga med mig hem till Enköping? Ja, jag betalar din tågbiljett." [*Citatet är påhittat, men det blev på det sättet. --A.B.*]

Men allt sket sig. Flickorna, som tidigare inte känt varandra, råkade stråla samman. Och, inte överraskande, jämförde de sina intryck av Assange och blev varse om den svekfulle mannens dubbelrugg. [*Han svek ingendera och som Heimerson själv noterar var det kvinnorna som raggade upp Assange. --A.B.*]

Flickorna gick gemensamt till polisen. De har förklarat: Vi ville veta vad man skulle göra om vi var hiv-smittade.

Sedan var kalabaliken igång. Flickornas polisbesök blev till våldtäktsmisstankar. Åklagare och advokater kallades in.

Obs! Inget åtal är väckt. Men Assange, som flyttat till England är häktad i sin frånvaro. Åklagaren Elisabeth [Marianne] Ny kräver att Assange ska förhöras på plats i Stockholm. Londonpolisen griper honom om han sätter foten på trottoaren utanför ambassaden. Assange vill inte låta sig lämnas ut. Icke orimligt tror han att han riskerar att Sverige lämnar ut honom till Amerika, vars myndigheter ogillat Wikileaks avslöjanden.

Men vad finns att utreda? Vill vi veta: 1) varför hjälpte Assange inte till med disken efter kräftskivan, eller 2) varför betalade han inte tågbiljetten till Enköping ur egen ficka? [*Kanske roligt, men grovt missvisande. --A.B.*]

Enda avläsbara effekt hittills är, att den suspekta, virriga jakten på Assange — det är som om Jönssonligan dragit på sig polisuniformer— har satt Sverige på den juridiska kartan; webben vimlar av förlöjligande kommentarer.

Vänsterdebattören John Pilger, tidigare i många år medarbetare på Aftonbladet Kultur, skrev nyss, att "fallet Assange förstör många sanningar och en av dem är Washingtons växande globala terrorism". Han hävdar också att en av flickorna "av den svenska polisen lurats in i sin berättelse". Pilger summerar: "Vilken vanära detta är för det svenska rättsväsendet."

Åklagaren borde ha lagt ner målet för fem år sedan. Lägg ner det nu.

**Men det feministiska trollet har smugit sig in i fallet.** En advokat, Elisabeth Massi Fritz, skildrar det så här: "Det handlar i själva verket om en man med makt som förstör två kvinnors liv, ställer sig över lagen och verkar ha kommit på ett sätt att slippa stå till svars för det. Det skulle vara ett slag i ansiktet på de målsägande och alla kvinnor som blivit utsatta för sexuellt våld om tingsrätten häver häktningsbeslutet."

Slutsats: Du är körd, Julian. Bered dig på många år till i ditt mörka rum. Och låt dig aldrig mera raggas upp av svenska tjejer.

*[Några faktafel och opåkallade elakheter, som är typiskt för Heimerson. Men ändå... --A.B.]*

[www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/kolumnister/staffanheimerson/article21167579.ab](http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/kolumnister/staffanheimerson/article21167579.ab)

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AB: 2015-07-29

## Heimersons krönika är djupt kränkande

*Borgström: Han förmår inte tänka tanken att kvinnorna faktiskt kan ha utsatts för våldtäkt av Assange*

I en krönika (AB 25.7.2015) kränker Staffan Heimerson djupt de två kvinnor som är målsägande i Assange-målet. Han skriver bl.a. att "två svenska flickor" har "åstadkommit en juridisk cirkus." I en kommentar (DN 28.7.2015) konstaterar Amanda Björkman att Heimerson hånar, skuldbelägger och förminskar de båda kvinnorna. Det är han dessvärre inte ensam om. Många (så gott som alltid män) har under flera år fullständigt hänsynslöst i olika media trakasserat de två kvinnorna. Angreppen är sexistiska, raljerande och okunniga och ger uttryck för en total avsaknad av empati. Heimerson förmår inte tänka tanken att kvinnorna faktiskt kan ha utsatts för sexuella övergrepp av Assange.

Observera att inget åtal är väckt, skriver Heimerson. Kommentar: Observera att Stockholms tingsrätt, Svea hovrätt och Högsta domstolen har beslutat att Assange ska vara häktad eftersom han är på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt, olaga tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

Det är alltså sannolikt att Assange begått allvarliga sexuella övergrepp. Det är oförsvarligt att förlöjliga de två kvinnorna på det sätt som Heimerson gör. Kvinnorna "blev varse om den svekfulle mannens dubbelrugg." Heimerson ställer frågan om den pågående polisutredningen ska ge svar på varför Assange inte hjälpte till med disken efter en kräftskiva eller varför han inte betalade sin tågbiljett själv när hand följde med en av kvinnorna hem. "Det är som om Jönssonligan dragit på sig polisuniformer." Heimerson hänvisar till "Vänsterdebattören" John Pilger som "hävdar" att en av kvinnorna "av den svenska polisen lurats in i sin berättelse."

Allt detta och det mesta övriga i krönikan är nedlåtande nonsens och syftar enbart till trakassera de två kvinnorna.

Heimerson avslutar sin krönika med en uppmaning till Assange att aldrig mera låta sig raggas upp av svenska tjejer. Det är uppseendeväckande osmakligt med tanke på de allvarliga brott Assange är misstänkt för.

De brott som Assange misstänks för att ha begått mot den kvinna jag företräder kommer sannolikt att preskriberas i mitten av augusti. Det medför att Assange inte kommer att dömas för dessa brott. Det innebär också att han inte kommer att frikännas.

• *Claes Borgström*

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## **Julian Assange: Ecuador and Sweden in tense standoff over interview**

*Both sides accuse the other of blocking an interview with the Australian founder of Wikileaks wanted in Sweden over sexual assault allegations*

*Esther Addley and David Crouch  
The Guardian  
24 July 2015*

Ecuador and Sweden are in a tense diplomatic standoff over arrangements for Swedish prosecutors to interview Julian Assange in Ecuador's embassy in London, weeks before the statute of limitations on most of the sexual assault allegations against him are due to expire under Swedish law.

More than three years after the WikiLeaks founder sought asylum inside Ecuador's small, west London embassy, Sweden said its prosecutors were now ready to travel to interview him there, and that Ecuador was blocking progress by insisting the two countries must agree terms before it will allow the Swedes access.

**Quito insists it is a requirement of Ecuadorean law that the two countries draw up a formal agreement before prosecutors can enter — which it argues could be a quick and straightforward process — and says that despite its repeated appeals to break the deadlock, the Swedes have left it to the very last minute to act.**

Assange, 44, is wanted in Sweden over four alleged offences of unlawful coercion, sexual molestation and [*“minor”*] rape, which he denies, after two women reported him to Stockholm police in 2010. He has not been charged with any offence.

The Australian asked Ecuador for asylum in June 2012 after losing his appeals to the UK courts. Assange argues that going to Sweden would leave him vulnerable to onward extradition to the US, which is known to be investigating WikiLeaks over its publishing activities.

Both Assange and Ecuador have repeatedly asked Swedish prosecutors to interview him in London, a request that Ecuador says was rebuffed until it received a formal request from the Swedes in June. The statute of limitation on the three lesser offences for which Assange is sought expires on 20 August. **Prosecutors would have another five years to investigate the fourth alleged offence of rape, however, meaning Assange’s immediate position would not necessarily change.**

In an interview with the Guardian, Ecuador’s foreign minister, Ricardo Patino, expressed exasperation at Sweden’s position, saying: “I do not find it acceptable that... [having] finally decided to answer the calls during all these years to continue the case, they would expect the role of Ecuador would be limited to opening the doors of its embassy.”

**Patino said his country couldn’t simply allow the Swedes access without prior discussion because of Assange’s “extraordinary” position as someone who has been granted asylum; Ecuador would want to insist, for instance, on the presence of diplomatic staff in the interview, he said.**

But despite Ecuador offering to meet “with the stated and sincere objective of reaching a mutual understanding”, said Patino, “there is a refusal to discuss on [Sweden’s] part. This certainly hinders any progress. **Honestly, I do not know why. Only Swedish prosecutors can give an answer.**”

**Sweden’s foreign ministry declined to comment. But in a series of tense diplomatic exchanges seen by the Guardian, Stockholm is equally insistent that Ecuador is in fact the roadblock to progress, and that an agreement between the two countries before the interview, beyond the protocols established in international law, is unnecessary. Should Ecuador continue to insist on it, Sweden argues, it will interpret the response as a refusal to grant access to Assange.**

Prosecutor Marianne Ny, who is leading the investigation in Sweden, has insisted since 2010 that Assange would have to come to Sweden to be interviewed. But she has come under increasing pressure in Sweden to break the deadlock, with Sweden’s supreme court writing to the country’s prosecutor general in early March, pointedly asking his view on the investigation. On 13 March Ny announced she would ask Ecuador for permission to conduct the interview in London.

**Ecuador, however, says it received the first request for access, via its Stockholm embassy, on 12 June.** Five days later, Assange said the Swedes abruptly cancelled an interview in London that had been arranged for that day; “Some formal approval has not come [from Ecuador],” explained Ny.

“The prosecutor’s view remains: the aim is to question Mr Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy in London as soon as possible,” a Swedish spokesman said on Thursday.

Niklas Wågner, the Stockholm appeal court judge who heard Assange’s case in November, told the Guardian the continuing failure to interview the Australian in London might amount to “new circumstances” in the case, which would enable Assange to launch another appeal through the Swedish courts. If Assange found himself facing only one outstanding charge, he added, it could be a factor for judges to weigh if the case came back to court.





**“Time has gone by and nothing has happened— it would be up to the the courts to decide if [a diplomatic dispute between Sweden and Ecuador] would be a good enough explanation for the prosecutor not making progress in the case,” he said.**




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“What to read next” on Yahoo’s website, 2015-07-25

### Bill Cosby: New York Mag cover features 35 of comedian’s accusers

By [Dylan Stableford](#)  
5 hours ago  
Yahoo News










New York Magazine has [published an explosive cover story](#) chronicling the stories of nearly three dozen women accusing Bill Cosby of rape or sexual assault.


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Bill Cosby testimony paints horrible  
picture of comic  
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Report: Military Sexual Assault Still  
Rin Problem  
[Wochit](#)

## Julian Assange: The Untold Story Of An Epic Struggle For Justice

*John Pilger*  
*July 31, 2015*

This is an updated version of John Pilger's 2014 investigation which tells the unreported story of an unrelenting campaign, in Sweden and the US, to deny Julian Assange justice and silence WikiLeaks: a campaign now reaching a dangerous stage

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The siege of Knightsbridge is both an emblem of gross injustice and a gruelling farce. For three years, a police cordon around the Ecuadorean embassy in London has served no purpose other than to flaunt the power of the state. It has cost £12 million. The quarry is an Australian charged with no crime, a refugee whose only security is the room given him by a brave South American country. His "crime" is to have initiated a wave of truth-telling in an era of lies, cynicism and war.

The persecution of Julian Assange is about to flare again as it enters a dangerous stage. From August 20, three quarters of the Swedish prosecutor's case against Assange regarding sexual misconduct in 2010 will disappear as the statute of limitations expires. At the same time Washington's obsession with Assange and WikiLeaks has intensified. Indeed, it is vindictive American power that offers the greatest threat— as Chelsea Manning and those still held in Guantanamo can attest.

The Americans are pursuing Assange because WikiLeaks exposed their epic crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq: the wholesale killing of tens of thousands of civilians, which they covered up, and their contempt for sovereignty and international law, as demonstrated vividly in their leaked diplomatic cables. WikiLeaks continues to expose criminal activity by the US, having just published top secret US intercepts— US spies' reports detailing private phone calls of the presidents of France and Germany, and other senior officials, relating to internal European political and economic affairs.

None of this is illegal under the US Constitution. As a presidential candidate in 2008, Barack Obama, a professor of constitutional law, lauded whistleblowers as "part of a healthy democracy [and they] must be protected from reprisal". In 2012, the campaign to re-elect President Barack Obama boasted on its website that he had prosecuted more whistleblowers in his first term than all other US presidents combined. Before Chelsea Manning had even received a trial, Obama had pronounced the whistleblower guilty. He was subsequently sentenced to 35 years in prison, having been tortured during his long pre-trial detention.

Few doubt that should the US get their hands on Assange, a similar fate awaits him. Threats of the capture and assassination of Assange became the currency of the political extremes in the US following Vice-President Joe Biden's preposterous slur that the WikiLeaks founder was a "cyber-terrorist". Those doubting the degree of ruthlessness Assange can expect should remember the forcing down of the Bolivian president's plane in 2013— wrongly believed to be carrying Edward Snowden.



According to documents released by Snowden, Assange is on a "Manhunt target list". Washington's bid to get him, say Australian diplomatic cables, is "unprecedented in scale and nature". In Alexandria, Virginia, a secret grand jury has spent five years attempting to contrive a crime for which Assange can be prosecuted. This is not easy. The First Amendment to the US Constitution protects publishers, journalists and whistleblowers.

Faced with this constitutional hurdle, the US Justice Department has contrived charges of "espionage", "conspiracy to commit espionage", "conversion" (theft of government property), "computer fraud and abuse" (computer hacking) and general "conspiracy". The Espionage Act has life in prison and death penalty provisions.

Assange's ability to defend himself in this Kafkaesque world has been handicapped by the US declaring his case a state secret. In March, a federal court in Washington blocked the release of all information about the "national security" investigation against WikiLeaks, because it was "active and ongoing" and would harm the "pending prosecution" of Assange. The judge, Barbara J. Rothstein, said it was necessary to show "appropriate deference to the executive in matters of national security". Such is the "justice" of a kangaroo court.

The supporting act in this grim farce is Sweden, played by the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny. Until recently, Ny refused to comply with a routine European procedure routine that required her to travel to London to question Assange and so advance the case. For four and a half years, Ny has never properly explained why she has refused to come to London, just as the Swedish authorities have never explained why they refuse to give Assange a guarantee that they will not extradite him on to the US under a secret arrangement agreed between Stockholm and Washington. In December 2010, The Independent revealed that the two governments had discussed his onward extradition to the US.

Contrary to its 1960s reputation as a liberal bastion, Sweden has drawn so close to Washington that it has allowed secret CIA "renditions"—including the illegal deportation of refugees. The rendition and subsequent torture of two Egyptian political refugees in 2001 was condemned by the UN Committee against Torture, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch; the complicity and duplicity of the Swedish state are documented in successful civil litigation and in WikiLeaks cables. In the summer of 2010, Assange had flown to Sweden to talk about WikiLeaks revelations of the war in Afghanistan—in which Sweden had forces under US command.

"Documents released by WikiLeaks since Assange moved to England," wrote Al Burke, editor of the online Nordic News Network, an authority on the multiple twists and dangers facing Assange, "clearly indicate that Sweden has consistently submitted to pressure from the United States in matters relating to civil rights. There is every reason for concern that if Assange were to be taken into custody by Swedish authorities, he could be turned over to the United States without due consideration of his legal rights."

Why hasn't the Swedish prosecutor resolved the Assange case? Many in the legal community in Sweden believe her behaviour inexplicable. Once implacably hostile to Assange, the Swedish press has published headlines such as: "Go to London, for God's sake."

Why hasn't she? More to the point, why won't she allow the Swedish court access to hundreds of SMS messages that the police extracted from the phone of one of the two women involved in the misconduct allegations? Why won't she hand them over to Assange's Swedish lawyers? She says she is not legally required to do so until a formal charge is laid and she has questioned him. Then, why doesn't she question him? And if she did question him, the conditions she would demand of him and his lawyers— that they could not challenge her— would make injustice a near certainty.

On a point of law, the Swedish Supreme Court has decided Ny can continue to obstruct on the vital issue of the SMS messages. This will now go to the European Court of Human Rights. What Ny fears is that the SMS messages will destroy her case against Assange. One of the messages makes clear that one of the women did not want any charges brought against Assange, "but the police were keen on getting a hold on him". She was "shocked" when they arrested him because she only "wanted him to take [an HIV] test". She "did not want to accuse JA of anything" and "it was the police who made up the charges". (In a witness statement, she is quoted as saying that she had been "railroaded by police and others around her".)

Neither woman claimed she had been raped. Indeed, both have denied they were raped and one of them has since tweeted, "I have not been raped." That they were manipulated by police and their wishes ignored is evident— whatever their lawyers might say now. Certainly, they are victims of a saga which blights the reputation of Sweden itself.

For Assange, his only trial has been trial by media. On August 20, 2010, the Swedish police opened a "rape investigation" and immediately— and unlawfully— told the Stockholm tabloids that there was a warrant for Assange's arrest for the "rape of two women". This was the news that went round the world.

In Washington, a smiling US Defence Secretary Robert Gates told reporters that the arrest "sounds like good news to me". Twitter accounts associated with the Pentagon described Assange as a "rapist" and a "fugitive".

Less than 24 hours later, the Stockholm Chief Prosecutor, Eva Finne, took over the investigation. She wasted no time in cancelling the arrest warrant, saying, "I don't believe there is any reason to suspect that he has committed rape." Four days later, she dismissed the rape investigation altogether, saying, "There is no suspicion of any crime whatsoever." The file was closed.

Enter Claes Borgstrom, a high profile politician in the Social Democratic Party then standing as a candidate in Sweden's imminent general election. Within days of the chief prosecutor's dismissal of the case, Borgstrom, a lawyer, announced to the media that he was representing the two women and had sought a different prosecutor in the city of Gothenberg. This was Marianne Ny, whom Borgstrom knew well, personally and politically.

On 30 August, Assange attended a police station in Stockholm voluntarily and answered all the questions put to him. He understood that was the end of the matter. Two days later, Ny announced she was re-opening the case. Borgstrom was asked by a

Swedish reporter why the case was proceeding when it had already been dismissed, citing one of the women as saying she had not been raped. He replied, "Ah, but she is not a lawyer." Assange's Australian barrister, James Catlin, responded, "This is a laughing stock... it's as if they make it up as they go along."

On the day Marianne Ny reactivated the case, the head of Sweden's military intelligence service—which has the acronym MUST—publicly denounced WikiLeaks in an article entitled "WikiLeaks [is] a threat to our soldiers." Assange was warned that the Swedish intelligence service, SAPO, had been told by its US counterparts that US-Sweden intelligence-sharing arrangements would be "cut off" if Sweden sheltered him.

For five weeks, Assange waited in Sweden for the new investigation to take its course. The Guardian was then on the brink of publishing the Iraq "War Logs", based on WikiLeaks' disclosures, which Assange was to oversee. His lawyer in Stockholm asked Ny if she had any objection to his leaving the country. She said he was free to leave.

Inexplicably, as soon as he left Sweden—at the height of media and public interest in the WikiLeaks disclosures—Ny issued a European Arrest Warrant and an Interpol "red alert" normally used for terrorists and dangerous criminals. Put out in five languages around the world, it ensured a media frenzy.

Assange attended a police station in London, was arrested and spent ten days in Wandsworth Prison, in solitary confinement. Released on £340,000 bail, he was electronically tagged, required to report to police daily and placed under virtual house arrest while his case began its long journey to the Supreme Court. He still had not been charged with any offence. His lawyers repeated his offer to be questioned by Ny in London, pointing out that she had given him permission to leave Sweden. They suggested a special facility at Scotland Yard commonly used for that purpose. She refused.

**Katrin Axelsson and Lisa Longstaff of Women Against Rape wrote: "The allegations against [Assange] are a smokescreen behind which a number of governments are trying to clamp down on WikiLeaks for having audaciously revealed to the public their secret planning of wars and occupations with their attendant rape, murder and destruction... The authorities care so little about violence against women that they manipulate rape allegations at will. [Assange] has made it clear he is available for questioning by the Swedish authorities, in Britain or via Skype. Why are they refusing this essential step in their investigation? What are they afraid of?"**

This question remained unanswered as Ny deployed the European Arrest Warrant, a draconian and now discredited product of the "war on terror" supposedly designed to catch terrorists and organised criminals. The EAW had abolished the obligation on a petitioning state to provide any evidence of a crime. More than a thousand EAWs are issued each month; only a few have anything to do with potential "terror" charges. Most are issued for trivial offences, such as overdue bank charges and fines. Many of those extradited face months in prison without charge. There have been a number of shocking miscarriages of justice, of which British judges have been highly critical.

The Assange case finally reached the UK Supreme Court in May 2012. In a judgement that upheld the EAW—whose rigid demands had left the courts almost no room for

manoeuvre— the judges found that European prosecutors could issue extradition warrants in the UK without any judicial oversight, even though Parliament intended otherwise. They made clear that Parliament had been "misled" by the Blair government. The court was split, 5-2, and consequently found against Assange.

However, the Chief Justice, Lord Phillips, made one mistake. He applied the Vienna Convention on treaty interpretation, allowing for state practice to override the letter of the law. As Assange's barrister, Dinah Rose QC, pointed out, this did not apply to the EAW.

The Supreme Court only recognised this crucial error when it dealt with another appeal against the EAW in November 2013. The Assange decision had been wrong, but it was too late to go back. With extradition imminent, the Swedish prosecutor told Assange's lawyers that Assange, once in Sweden, would be immediately placed in one of Sweden's infamous remand prisons..

Assange's choice was stark: extradition to a country that had refused to say whether or not it would send him on to the US, or to seek what seemed his last opportunity for refuge and safety. Supported by most of Latin America, the courageous government of Ecuador granted him refugee status on the basis of documented evidence and legal advice that he faced the prospect of cruel and unusual punishment in the US; that this threat violated his basic human rights; and that his own government in Australia had abandoned him and colluded with Washington. The Labor government of prime minister Julia Gillard had even threatened to take away his passport.

Gareth Peirce, the renowned human rights lawyer who represents Assange in London, wrote to the then Australian foreign minister, Kevin Rudd: "Given the extent of the public discussion, frequently on the basis of entirely false assumptions... it is very hard to attempt to preserve for him any presumption of innocence. Mr. Assange has now hanging over him not one but two Damocles swords, of potential extradition to two different jurisdictions in turn for two different alleged crimes, neither of which are crimes in his own country, and that his personal safety has become at risk in circumstances that are highly politically charged."

It was not until she contacted the Australian High Commission in London that Peirce received a response, which answered none of the pressing points she raised. In a meeting I attended with her, **the Australian Consul-General, Ken Pascoe, made the astonishing claim that he knew "only what I read in the newspapers" about the details of the case.**

Meanwhile, the prospect of a grotesque miscarriage of justice was drowned in a vituperative campaign against the WikiLeaks founder. Deeply personal, petty, vicious and inhuman attacks were aimed at a man not charged with any crime yet subjected to treatment not even meted out to a defendant facing extradition on a charge of murdering his wife. **That the US threat to Assange was a threat to all journalists, to freedom of speech, was lost in the sordid and the ambitious.**

Books were published, movie deals struck and media careers launched or kick-started on the back of WikiLeaks and an assumption that attacking Assange was fair game and he was too poor to sue. People have made money, often big money, while WikiLeaks

has struggled to survive. The editor of the Guardian, Alan Rusbridger, called the WikiLeaks disclosures, which his newspaper published, "one of the greatest journalistic scoops of the last 30 years". It became part of his marketing plan to raise the newspaper's cover price.

With not a penny going to Assange or to WikiLeaks, a hyped Guardian book led to a lucrative Hollywood movie. The book's authors, Luke Harding and David Leigh, gratuitously described Assange as a "damaged personality" and "callous". They also revealed the secret password he had given the paper in confidence, which was designed to protect a digital file containing the US embassy cables. With Assange now trapped in the Ecuadorean embassy, Harding, standing among the police outside, gloated on his blog that "Scotland Yard may get the last laugh".

The injustice meted out to Assange is one of the reasons Parliament reformed the Extradition Act to prevent the misuse of the EAW. The draconian catch-all used against him could not happen now; charges would have to be brought and "questioning" would be insufficient grounds for extradition. "His case has been won lock, stock and barrel," **Gareth Peirce told me, "these changes in the law mean that the UK now recognises as correct everything that was argued in his case. Yet he does not benefit."** In other words, the change in the UK law in 2014 mean that Assange would have won his case and he would not have been forced to take refuge.

Ecuador's decision to protect Assange in 2012 bloomed into a major international affair. Even though the granting of asylum is a humanitarian act, and the power to do so is enjoyed by all states under international law, both Sweden and the United Kingdom refused to recognize the legitimacy of Ecuador's decision. Ignoring international law, the Cameron government refused to grant Assange safe passage to Ecuador. Instead, Ecuador's embassy was placed under siege and its government abused with a series of ultimatums. When William Hague's Foreign Office threatened to violate the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, warning that it would remove the diplomatic inviolability of the embassy and send the police in to get Assange, outrage across the world forced the government to back down. During one night, police appeared at the windows of the embassy in an obvious attempt to intimidate Assange and his protectors.

Since then, Julian Assange has been confined to a small room under Ecuador's protection, without sunlight or space to exercise, surrounded by police under orders to arrest him on sight. For three years, Ecuador has made clear to the Swedish prosecutor that Assange is available to be questioned in the London embassy, and for three years she has remained intransigent. In the same period Sweden has questioned forty-four people in the UK in connection with police investigations. Her role, and that of the Swedish state, is demonstrably political; and for Ny, facing retirement in two years, she must "win".

In despair, Assange has challenged the arrest warrant in the Swedish courts. His lawyers have cited rulings by the European Court of Human Rights that he has been under arbitrary, indefinite detention and that he had been a virtual prisoner for longer than any actual prison sentence he might face. The Court of Appeal judge agreed with Assange's lawyers: the prosecutor had indeed breached her duty by keeping the case

suspended for years. Another judge issued a rebuke to the prosecutor. And yet she defied the court.

Last December, Assange took his case to the Swedish Supreme Court, which ordered Marianne Ny's boss— the Prosecutor General of Sweden Anders Perklev— to explain. The next day, Ny announced, without explanation, that she had changed her mind and would now question Assange in London.

In his submission to the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General made some important concessions: he argued that the coercion of Assange had been “intrusive” and that that the period in the embassy has been a “great strain” on him. He even conceded that if the matter had ever come to prosecution, trial, conviction and serving a sentence in Sweden, Julian Assange would have left Sweden long ago.

In a split decision, one Supreme Court judge argued that the arrest warrant should have been revoked. The majority of the judges ruled that, since the prosecutor had now said she would go to London, Assange's arguments had become “moot”. But the Court ruled that it would have found against the prosecutor if she had not suddenly changed her mind. Justice by caprice. Writing in the Swedish press, a former Swedish prosecutor, Rolf Hillegren, accused Ny of losing all impartiality. He described her personal investment in the case as “abnormal” and demanded that she be replaced.

Having said she would go to London in June, Ny did not go, but sent a deputy, knowing that the questioning would not be legal under these circumstances, especially as Sweden had not bothered to get Ecuador's approval for the meeting. At the same time, her office tipped off the Swedish tabloid newspaper Expressen, which sent its London correspondent to wait outside Ecuador's embassy for “news”. The news was that Ny was cancelling the appointment and blaming Ecuador for the confusion and by implication an “unco-operative” Assange— when the opposite was true.

As the statute of limitations date approaches— August 20— another chapter in this hideous story will doubtless unfold, with Marianne Ny pulling yet another rabbit out of her hat and the commissars and prosecutors in Washington the beneficiaries. Perhaps none of this is surprising. In 2008, a war on WikiLeaks and on Julian Assange was foretold in a secret Pentagon document prepared by the “Cyber Counter-intelligence Assessments Branch”. It described a detailed plan to destroy the feeling of “trust” which is WikiLeaks' “centre of gravity”. This would be achieved with threats of “exposure [and] criminal prosecution”. Silencing and criminalising such a rare source of truth-telling was the aim, smear the method. While this scandal continues the very notion of justice is diminished, along with the reputation of Sweden, and the shadow of America's menace touches us all.

For important additional information, click on the following links:

<http://justice4assange.com/extraditing-assange.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/assange-could-face-espionage-trial-in-us-2154107.html>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ImXe\\_EQhUI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ImXe_EQhUI)

<https://justice4assange.com/Timeline.html>

[http://pdfserver.amlaw.com/nlj/wikileaks\\_doj\\_05192014.pdf](http://pdfserver.amlaw.com/nlj/wikileaks_doj_05192014.pdf)

<https://wikileaks.org/59-International-Organizations.html>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.documentcloud.org/documents/1202703/doj-letter-re-wikileaks-6-19-14.pdf>

[http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/jul/23/julian-assange-ecuador-and-sweden-in-tense-standoff-over-interview?CMP=tw\\_t\\_gu](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/jul/23/julian-assange-ecuador-and-sweden-in-tense-standoff-over-interview?CMP=tw_t_gu)

<http://assangeinsweden.com/2015/03/17/the-prosecutor-in-the-assange-case-should-be-replaced>

<https://justice4assange.com/Prosecutor-cancels-Assange-meeting.html>

*This article:* <http://johnpilger.com>

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## Fallet Julian Assange — ett brott mot anständigheten

*Göteborgs-Posten*

8 augusti 2015

*Obegränsade häktningstider är besvärande för Sverige. Varför har Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange de facto varit frihetsberövad i snart fem år? Varför avslutas inte förundersökningen? Sverige har ingen maxtid för häktning. Så här får det inte gå till, skriver advokat Svante Thorsell.*

Dawit Isaac har suttit frihetsberövad i fjorton år utan att få sin sak prövad i domstol. Fångarna på Guantánamobasen på Kuba har hållits kvar där av USA sedan 2002 utan rätt att få sin sak prövad av en allmän och offentlig domstol. Allvarliga brott mot rättssäkerheten, hävdas det. Sverige har här sin egen bakgård, dåligt belyst av jurister och glömd av makthavare.

Julian Assange har de facto varit frihetsberövad av Sverige i snart fem år. Först i husarrest och sedan som inlåst asylflykting på Ecuadors ambassad i London. Assange lämnade vårt land hastigt 2010 i tron att Sverige inte var rättssäkert och är alltjämt misstänkt för egenartade sexbrott. **Om han infunnit sig, ett åtal prövats och Assange fällts hade ett fängelsestraff varit omkring två år och betydligt kortare än den tid han nu varit berövad sin frihet i London.**

Det finns skäl att granska vad åklagaren haft för sig under de fem åren. Sedan Assange sökte asyl på Ecuadors ambassad har polisbevakningen kostat de brittiska skattebetalarna drygt 160 miljoner kronor.

Sverige utmärker sig i EU då det inte finns någon tidsgräns inom vilken förundersökningen skall avslutas. Det anges i lagen bara att den skall bedrivas så skyndsamt som möjligt. **Det finns inte något rättsmedel, någon rätt att i domstol få den nedlagd eller arbetet granskat i ett rättsligt förfarande. Assange får liksom andra finna sig i att vara föremål för brottsutredningen så länge det passar åklagaren**

Avsaknaden av rätten att få beslut om förundersökning prövad av domstol är besvärande. Europakonventionen för de mänskliga rättigheterna är direkt tillämplig som lag i Sverige. Enligt artikel 6 garanteras den som anklagas för brott en rättegång inom skälig tid. **Men Sverige som rättsstat är unikt då vi saknar en regel om maxtid för frihetsberövande före rättegång.**

Av de närmare 10 000 personer som häktas årligen var ifjol 21 frihetsberövade i mer än 361 dygn. En misstänkt narkotikasmugglare släpptes efter 3,5 år i häktet. Det krävs inte någon livlig fantasi för att förstå vad det innebär att vistas i ett utrymme som motsvarar en transporthiss tjugotre timmar per dygn i månader— kanske år. Det tillämpas i primitiva stater "in order to break them" och leder ofta till att den misstänkte har en väl etablerad apati då han sent träder in i rättssalen för att tillvarata sin rätt. I rättsstaten Sverige har vi en ordning med många förundersökningsfångar, det vill säga personer som sitter frihetsberövade utan att vara dömda. Till orimligheten hör att de dessutom skall bemötas som oskyldiga om än i sina celler.

Från åklagaren i Assangemålet, Marianne Ny, har det varit tyst sedan hösten 2010. Under våren 2015 bröts tystanden då hon kommit på att man skall höra Assange i England. I rättegångsbalken anges att Ny, som varje annan kollega, skall bedriva förundersökningen på sådant sätt att ingen onödigtvis utsättes för misstanke och får vidkännas olägenheter. Så länge en person är misstänkt leder det till en stor anspänning. Det är en svår prövning i sig även utan rättegång. Vad har åklagaren haft för sig under snart fem år?

Vi saknar särskilda regler om rätt till domstolsprövning av hur förundersökningen bedrivits. Kvar finns JO:s generella uppdrag att enligt grundlagen granska att varje myndighet är opartisk och saklig i sin maktutövning och att de grundläggande fri- och rättigheterna iakttas. **Justitieombudsmannen, JO, har tvärtom i karga former avvisat två anmälningar i fallet Julian Assange.** JO Cecilia Renfors har avfärdat en anmälan av före detta hovrättsdomaren/rättsvetenskapsmannen Brita Sundberg-Weitman med ett avhugget besked att det inte föranleder någon åtgärd eller något uttalande. Sundberg-Weitman ansåg att Assangefallet strider mot Europarådets konvention om de mänskliga rättigheterna och regeringsformens proportionalitets-princip.

2012 avskrev JO Hans-Gunnar Axberger en anmälan med motiveringen att saken var "föremål för en pågående rättslig prövning". Hur Axberger kunde veta att den var pågående är i marginalen märkligt. Vad var det som "pågår"? Allt talar för att brottsutredningen redan då var död. JO avstår i fallet Assange från att ta värn mot det som felas.

**Allmänheten kan befara att Sverige har en dold agenda, att JO i vart fall inte vill ha detta känsliga ärende på sitt bord, i skärningspunkten mellan juridik, politik och CIA-mystifiering.**



**Varje spekulation blir berättigad till dess åklagare Ny berättat, saken utretts av JO eller blivit kända genom domstols prövning.** Det är något ruttet med fallet Assange. Varför är han de facto frihetsberövad? Varför avslutas inte förundersökningen? **Svaret finns på utrikesdepartementet, tyvärr inte inom rättsväsendet.** En slutsats lika säker som någon annan i detta tystnadens hav.

Den politiska makten tillåts här ha inflytande över rättsväsendet för att vårt konungarike inte skall få problem med USA och dess intresse för "hackaren Julian Assange"? **Om Sverige inte är följsamt i fallet Assange, kan vi frysas ute från utbyte av information med amerikanska säkerhetstjänster och blockeras från köp av militär teknologi, säger de som vet.**

Jag har ingen närmare kännedom om rättsordningen i Dawit Isaaks Eritrea eller rättsordningen där Guantanamofångarna vistas, men jag befarar det värsta. Gemensamt med Sverige har de dock att man där kan hållas frihetsberövad utan rättegång, och utan någon maxtid. Det finns inte heller någon tid inom vilken förundersökningar skall vara avslutade.

Den misstänktes lidande skall alltid begränsas oavsett om det är Eritrea, Sverige eller Guantanamo. Och när tänkte åklagaren Ny på de båda kvinnorna som brottsmisstänkarna avser? De är i vart fall offer i den meningen att de fått vänta i fem år på Ny. I maj prövade Högsta Domstolen häktningen av Assange. HD gav då Ny en sista chans. HD fäste då särskild vikt vid att åklagare Ny, som en nyhet, åtagit sig att förhöra Assange i London. Det har hon inte gjort.

Hennes obegripliga invändning har tidigare varit att det fanns formella hinder för staten Sverige att genomföra ett förhör i Storbritannien. Det stämmer inte. **Under samma tid har svensk polis, tvärtom genomfört 44 förhör på brittiskt mark.** Trots löftet har hon, i dag, ännu inte avtalat någon tid med Julian Assange. Det har snart gått fem år sedan de påstådda våldtäkterna [*fel ord --A.B.*]. Åklagarens passivitet är ett brott mot anständigheten.

[www.gp.se/nyheter/debatt/1.2796215-fallet-julian-assange-ett-brott-mot-anstandigheten](http://www.gp.se/nyheter/debatt/1.2796215-fallet-julian-assange-ett-brott-mot-anstandigheten)

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DN: 2015-08-08

## **Ecuador: Sverige kan inte ifrågasätta Assanges asyl**

Efter svensk åklagares misslyckade försök att förhöra Wikileaks-grundaren Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London är det ordkrig mellan länderna. Justitiedepartementet menar att Ecuador ställer orimliga och olagliga krav— Ecuadors ambassadör i Sverige kontrar bland annat med att Sverige inte har rätt att ifrågasätta asylén som landet gett Assange.

Det är i ett brev till DN som Ecuadors ambassadör i Stockholm kommenterar de senaste turerna i Assange-fallet, där en svensk åklagare kommit hem med ogjort ärende efter att ha rest till London för att förhöra Julian Assange.

Från svenskt håll har Cecilia Riddselius, chef på justitiedepartementets centralmyndighet, hävdat att förhören inte blivit av för att Ecuador ställt orimliga krav, nämligen **att Sverige skulle garantera Assange asyl. Det låter sig inte göras på ett annat lands ambassad, utan måste ske på svenskt territorium och beslutas av Migrationsverket, enligt Riddselius.**

**Ett annat krav ska ha varit att svenska regeringen garanterar att Assange inte kommer att lämnas ut till USA. Även det något som inte lagligt låter sig göras, eftersom regeringen inte kan lägga sig i myndigheternas beslutsgång, enligt Riddselius.**

**Ecuadors ambassadör Mario Guerrero Murgueytio punktar å sin sida i brevet upp tre skäl till varför det gick snett:** dels menar han att det svenska rättssystemet inte kan hantera Julian Assange-fallet som vilket som helst, utan man måste ta hänsyn till att han befinner sig under Ecuadors beskydd. Dels hävdar han att svenska myndigheter tagit kontakt alldeles för sent inpå att förhöret skulle hållas. Först den 12 juni inkom begäran till den ecuadorianska ambassaden i Stockholm.

”Under sådana omständigheter var det opassande att den svenska åklagarmyndigheten försökte komma in i Ecuadors ambassad i London, utan att ha begärt relevanta tillstånd” skriver ambassadören.

**Mario Guerrero Murgueytio menar också att Migrationsverket inte har något att göra med den asyl som Assange fått av Ecuador. Enligt internationella lagar får inte den asyl som ett land gett en person ifrågasättas av tredje part, hävdar ambassadören i brevet till DN.**

Förhören i London skulle hållas mot bakgrund av att flera av de brott som Julian Assange misstänks för blir preskriberade nu i augusti.

Den svenska chefsåklagaren hade tidigare motsatt sig att förhöra Julian Assange i London, där han sedan drygt tre år tillbaka tagit skydd på Ecuadors ambassad. Assange misstänks för sexuella övergrepp mot två kvinnor i Sverige, bland annat våldtäkt [nej, rubriceringen är ”våldtäkt, mindre grovt” som faktiskt inte är våldtäkt --A.B.]. Den brottsmisstanken preskriberas dock inte förrän om fem år.

Svenska myndigheter har tidigare tillbakavisat uppgifterna om att man skulle ha ansökt för sent om att få förhöra Assange på ambassaden i London.

Enligt Åklagarmyndigheten, som tagit fram uppgifterna åt DN, skrevs ansökan om rättshjälp den 29 maj, men man menar att det kan stämma att Ecuadors ambassad fick papprena den 12 juni, efter att handlingarna översatts och hanterats diplomatiskt. En åklagare var på plats den 17-18 juni i London, med beredskap för att kunna förhöra Julian Assange om tillstånd gavs, alltså 5-6 dagar efter ansökan. Enligt myndigheten var det dagar som passade försvaret och Assange, efter vad som framkommit i de kontakter man haft.

– Vi hade haft underhandskontakter med ambassaden och de visste att vår ansökan var på gång. **Det kanske inte var gott om tid**, men det fanns tid. Det här var ju dessutom

något som de hade efterfrågat och sagt att de välkomnade sedan lång tid tillbaka. **Men det stämmer att åklagaren ännu inte hade fått något tillstånd för förhör när man åkte till London, säger Cecilia Riddselius.**

Efteråt har det varit nya diskussioner mellan justitiedepartementet och Ecuadors ambassad om att förhöra honom. Men efter det misslyckade försöket att förhöra Assange är det ordkrig mellan länderna:

**– Jag finner det inte acceptabelt att när de slutligen beslutade sig för att svara på önskemålen som funnits i alla år om att fortsätta utreda fallet, så förväntade de sig att Ecuadors roll bara skulle vara att öppna dörren, sa Ecuadors utrikesminister Ricardo Patino i en intervju i juli med the Guardian.**

– Ecuador har alltid sagt att de var öppna för att förhör skulle hållas i London för att Julian Assange skulle få framföra sin sida av saken. Men nu när de verkligen skulle bli av, så ställer de plötsligt orimliga krav, säger Cecilia Riddselius.

**Hon påpekar också att ett förhör i London inte skulle förändra någonting för Assange, han skulle fortfarande åtnjuta Ecuadors asyl.**

– Det är ju inte så att åklagaren skulle kunna ta med sig honom till Sverige.

Hur tolkar du agerandet?

– Det är inte min sak att tolka det här, men det är ett faktum att när som helst så inträder preskription för några av de påstådda brotten.

**Ambassadörens sista punkt i brevet till DN, att Sverige enligt internationell lag måste ge asyl till en person som ett annat land har gett asyl till, tillbakavisar hon.**

– Vi håller inte med om den bedömningen. Det är en enskild prövning som görs och vi godkänner inte andra staters beviljade asyl. I vår skriftväxling går vi in på den frågan, och avvisar den. Sverige gör en självständig bedömning.

Enligt Riddselius har departementet erbjudit Ecuador en lösning.

– Nu ligger bollen hos dem. Vi har sträckt ut en hand och är beredda att förhandla om ett generellt avtal om rättshjälp, det är det vi kan erbjuda enligt svensk rätt, säger hon.

Åklagarmyndigheten står också beredd att på nytt åka till London för förhör.

Inom kort ska myndigheten också fatta beslut om huruvida utredningen mot Assange ska fortsätta eller inte, efter att delar av brotten som han misstänks för preskriberats.

• *Juan Flores*

DN: 2015-08-10

## Ecuador till motangrepp om Assange

Versionerna av varför svensk åklagare och polis inte kunde höra den sexbrottsmisstänkte Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London går isär. Ambassaden tillbakavisar uppgifter om att svensk åklagare inte släpptes in.

I ett kort uttalande hävdar ambassaden också att det inte ställts några krav på Sverige att garantera Assange asylstatus, något som svenska justitiedepartementet hävdar. Uttalandet är en reaktion på uppgifter förra veckan om att svenska åklagare har varit i London under sommaren för att höra Assange på ambassaden, men inte släppts in.

### Båda uppgifterna tillbakavisas nu från London, till viss förvåning i Stockholm.

I juni var biträdande åklagaren i ärendet, chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren, i London tillsammans med en utredare från polisen. Huruvida de släpptes in eller inte, kanske är mer av en semantisk fråga.

– De har inte varit och knackat på dörren, så gör man inte, säger Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på åklagarmyndigheten.

Orsaken till att svenska rättsväsendet aldrig knackade på, rent bokstavligt, var att tillståndsansökan om att få höra Assange aldrig beviljades.

**Det har justitiedepartementet kopplat ihop** med att regeringen inte gjort några utfästelser om asylstatus för Assange. Något som regeringen inte kan göra enligt svensk lag.

Att ambassaden nu hävdar att sådana krav inte ställts, möts också med förvåning.

– Det är så vi har uppfattat det, säger Cecilia Riddselius vid justitiedepartementet.

Flera av de brott som Julian Assange misstänks för preskriberas i augusti. Preskriptionstiden för den våldtäkt han misstänks för går dock ut först om fem år.

Åklagaren är beredd att åka till London igen för att höra Assange, under förutsättning att tillstånd har beviljats innan.

• Maria Davidsson/TT

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## Sweden and Ecuador edge closer to end of Julian Assange standoff

*Swedish government agrees to direct talks with Ecuador which may lead to WikiLeaks founder being interviewed in London*

*David Crouch and Esther Addley  
The Guardian  
11 August 2015*

Sweden has offered to negotiate an agreement with Ecuador to enable Swedish prosecutors to interview Julian Assange in the Ecuadorian embassy in London,

potentially ending the standoff between the two countries but almost certainly too late to prevent some allegations against the WikiLeaks founder from expiring.

Sweden's government had agreed to open direct talks with Ecuador to explore the possibility of "a general agreement" on legal assistance in criminal matters, the Swedish justice ministry said.

"The coming discussions will show if this is a way forward," said Cecilia Riddselius, the senior justice ministry official responsible for the case.

**The move marks an apparent concession by Sweden** after sharp official exchanges between the two countries in which each accused the other of blocking progress. On Friday, Riddselius said demands by Ecuador were "in complete violation of our principles of justice".

Meanwhile, the British government has grown increasingly irked by the stalemate, which has cost the Metropolitan police more than £10m in policing the embassy in Kensington.

"We are frustrated that the interview has not yet taken place," the Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said. "This remains a deeply unsatisfactory and costly situation" *[one that is self-imposed and unnecessary, according to critics in Parliament and elsewhere --A.B.]*.

Sweden's justice ministry said it welcomed Ecuador's acceptance of its offer of negotiations, but **the Guardian understands the ministry rejected a proposal by Quito to meet this week because officials were on holiday**, and because it would take more than a few days to prepare the negotiations.

Assange is wanted for questioning over allegations of sex crimes in Stockholm in August 2010, but has resisted extradition to Sweden citing fears that he could be transferred to the US to face espionage charges. He has repeatedly requested that he be questioned in London. He has not been charged with any offence.

Sweden's prosecutor has faced pressure to interview Assange in London to make progress in the case, which has been deadlocked since Assange sought political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in June 2012. In March she dropped her objections, citing the impending expiry of the statute of limitations on most of the allegations as a reason for renewed urgency.

In April, Assange consented to the prosecutor's conditions for an interview. But as this month's deadline under the statute of limitations drew closer, progress towards a London interview was slow. **Sweden formally requested permission from Ecuador to enter the embassy only two months later**, and an agreed date of 17 June to begin the questioning had to be cancelled at the last minute amid mutual accusations of blame for the delay.

The statute of limitations on allegations of unlawful coercion and one count of sexual molestation, made against Assange by two Swedish women, expires on Thursday, and on one count of sexual molestation next Tuesday.

Sweden made the offer last Thursday to negotiate with Ecuador, and Ecuador accepted it on Monday, Riddselius said. "I do not know when the discussions will begin. Undertaking a general agreement takes time and is normally a longer procedure."

Ecuador had insisted on negotiating a specific agreement with Sweden over the conditions for questioning Assange in the embassy, which would be contrary to the Swedish constitution, Riddselius said last week.

She said Quito had also demanded that Sweden confer upon Assange the same status of political refugee bestowed on him by Ecuador, which had created a fresh obstacle to agreement. **This appeared to prompt a statement by the Ecuadorian embassy on Monday: "At no point has the Republic of Ecuador asked the Kingdom of Sweden to grant Mr Assange asylum".**

Riddselius said on Tuesday that Sweden had not altered its understanding of Ecuador's requests *[suggesting that the Swedish government understands the Ecuadorian position better than Ecuador does, itself --A.B.]*.

Ecuador had noted a "positive change on the Swedish side" during the last few weeks, according to a senior official at the country's foreign ministry. Quito had therefore been surprised and disappointed by the rebuff it received from Sweden last week, according to people familiar with the situation.

"After the initial official correspondence from Sweden seemed to discard any possibility of maintaining an official dialogue on the matter, Sweden's current inclination towards negotiating an agreement is perceived with optimism from our side, along with the hope that we can find a well overdue resolution to the Assange case," the foreign ministry official said.

**"It's unfortunate that those authorities haven't responded favorably to our requests to meet during the nearly three years of Julian Assange's asylum".**

An outstanding allegation against Assange of "rape, less serious crime" remains current under Swedish law until August 2020.

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### **Julian Assange: Sex assault claims may never be investigated due to Swedish statute of limitations**

*The Wikileaks founder has never been charged with the four allegations of sexual assaults he is alleged to have committed in Sweden in 2010*

*Hardeep Matharu  
The Independent  
12 August 2015*

Three of the four allegations of sexual assault against Wikileaks founder Julian Assange may never be investigated as the time limit required to do so will expire in seven days.

Mr Assange, whose Wikileaks website published thousands of US military and diplomatic documents in 2010, has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London since 2012.

The 44-year-old was granted political asylum by Ecuador and moved into its embassy in the capital to avoid being extradited to Sweden over allegations of four sexual assaults it is claimed he committed there in 2010. Mr Assange has never been charged with any offences relating to the claims and denies the allegations.

But the chance for Swedish prosecutors to interview the Wikileaks editor about the claims will run out in a week because of Sweden's statute of limitations relating to the allegations. This is the time period within which a person must be charged if they are to be prosecuted for an alleged offence.

The statute of limitations for three of the four claims against Mr Assange is five years from when they were alleged to have been committed against the same person — with the dates of the alleged incidents being 13, 14 and 18 August 2010, reports legal blogger Jack of Kent.

The nature of the fourth sexual assault allegation means it has a ten-year limitation period, according to the blogger.

In March, Swedish prosecutors said that they would be willing to interview Mr Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London — but they were later reportedly not given permission to do so by Ecuador.

"This, of course seems counter-intuitive," Jack of Kent wrote. "It surely cannot be the case that Assange can rely on his own refusal to go to Sweden to escape answering the allegations." *[And in fact he has not done so. --A.B.]*

A spokesperson for the Swedish Prosecution Authority told the blogger: "As long as the prosecutor does not receive permission to interview Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy, there is nothing else she can do before 13-18 August. An interview is necessary for the investigation." *[The Swedish prosecutor has had three years to conduct an interview but has refused to do so on spurious grounds. --A.B.]*

Mr Assange fears that if he goes to Sweden he will be taken to the US for questioning over the Wikileaks disclosures.

Swedish prosecutors confirmed the Australian was due to be cleared on the three allegations, according to The Times, while Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister Hugo Swire said the situation was "deeply unsatisfactory and costly".

Claes Borgström, the alleged victim's lawyer, told the newspaper his client felt a "sense of injustice" — but suggested she was keen to put the case behind her.

"At the time of, of course, she wanted Julian Assange to stand before the court to answer the allegations, then time passed. "She's leading her own normal life. You do not want to recall [the claims] all over again."

## Sweden, Ecuador in talks as time runs out for Assange case

MATTI HUUHTANEN

*Associated Press*

2015-08-12

Swedish officials said Wednesday they're making last-minute attempts to quiz WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange over sex crimes allegations, most of which are set to expire by next week, but that he would still be wanted for questioning on accusations of rape.

Assange, who escaped a Swedish arrest warrant by taking refuge in the Ecuadorean embassy in London in 2012, is wanted on two allegations of sexual molestation and one of unlawful coercion which expire by Aug. 18 unless he is formally charged. A fourth allegation of rape is valid until 2020.

The 44-year-old Australian, who has denied the allegations, says he has no intention of going to Sweden for fear of being extradited to the United States because of an ongoing investigation into WikiLeaks' dissemination of hundreds of thousands of classified U.S. documents.

Karin Rosander, spokeswoman at Sweden's prosecution authority, said Assange and British authorities have agreed he be questioned in London but that prosecutors have not heard back from the Ecuadorean Embassy despite attempts to contact them in March and June. *[Incorrect. --A.B.]*

The Ecuadorean embassy said in a statement Monday that "on no occasion has any representative of the Kingdom of Sweden presented themselves at the embassy in relation to the Assange matter." The embassy didn't immediately respond to requests for further comment Wednesday.

"Even though the prosecutor is obliged to drop the (three) cases that will expire ... the rape (allegation) still stands," Rosander said. She did not want to speculate if the prosecutor would abandon the prosecution altogether.

One of Assange's Swedish defense lawyers, Thomas Olsson, said that if the three cases are dropped "it will not change anything for Assange" as the arrest warrant remains in force. "I believe the case should have been closed long ago because the evidence is weak," Olsson said.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Cecilia Riddselius says Sweden and Ecuador have agreed to start talks on an agreement of mutual legal assistance but that it was unclear if it could open the possibility of questioning Assange at the embassy.



2015-08-12

## **Julian Assange case: Sweden to drop sex assault inquiry**

*Caroline Hawley*  
*BBC News*

Swedish prosecutors will drop their investigation into sexual assault allegations against Julian Assange on Thursday because of the statutes of limitation, the BBC has learned.

The Wikileaks founder still faces the more serious allegation of rape.

But prosecutors have run out of time to investigate Mr Assange for sexual assault because they have not succeeded in questioning him.

He denies all allegations and has said they are part of a smear campaign. The Australian journalist and activist sought asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden.

Under Swedish law, charges cannot be laid without interviewing the suspect. Prosecutors had until 13 August to question Mr Assange about one accusation of sexual molestation and one of unlawful coercion, while the time limit on a further allegation of sexual molestation runs out on 18 August.

The more serious allegation of rape is not due to expire until 2020.

An official announcement from the prosecutor's office is expected on Thursday morning.

Mr Assange has always denied all the accusations and says he fled into the Ecuadorian embassy because he fears being extradited from Sweden to the US and put on trial for releasing secret American documents. He has said in the past that he will not leave the embassy, even if the accusations of sex crimes are dropped.

The woman who accused Mr Assange of sexual molestation and unlawful coercion—who is identified in legal papers only as AA—is said to be relieved that the case is now behind her.

"She had wanted him to stand before the court and answer the accusations but it's five years ago and she's not interested in going to court now," her lawyer, Claes Borgstrom, told the BBC. "She wants to put it all behind her. It's been a difficult time for her and she's now trying to forget about it and move on with her life."

Swedish prosecutors had initially insisted that Mr Assange be questioned in Sweden, but earlier this year—under pressure to advance the investigation—agreed that he could be interviewed in London. But the Swedish government has been unable [???] to negotiate access with the Ecuadorian authorities, with both sides blaming the other for the impasse.

Lawyers for Mr Assange say the allegations of sexual assault should have been dropped long ago. "Our position is that the investigation should have been shut down earlier because there wasn't enough evidence to keep it going," Thomas Olsson, one of his Swedish lawyers, told the BBC. "It's regrettable that it's gone on for this long."

He said he believed Mr Assange could clear his name over the rape allegation. "We are convinced that as soon as he has the opportunity to give his version of the circumstances, there'll be no need to continue the investigation."

Sweden is expected to continue discussions with Ecuador over the terms under which the prosecutor could question Mr Assange over the remaining accusation.

The UK government has urged Ecuador to co-operate, stressing that the UK has a legal obligation to extradite Mr Assange.

"We are clear that our laws must be followed and Mr Assange should be extradited," a UK Foreign Office spokeswoman said. "As ever, we look to Ecuador to help bring this difficult, and costly, situation to an end." *[BBC readers should learn what Ecuador has to say about the British government in this matter. --A.B.]*

The cost of policing the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightsbridge for the past three years now stands at around £12 m (\$18.8 m; €16.8 m). *[The British government has only itself to blame, and its taxpayers to burden. --A.B.]*

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AB: 2015-08-12

## **Assanges misstänkta brott preskriberas — men han är inte fri än**

*Oisín Cantwell*

I morgon preskriberas några av de brott Julian Assange misstänks för. Men det innebär inte att den frivillige [???] fången på ambassaden är fri.

Fem år har gått sedan Assange under ett besök i Stockholm med några dagars mellanrum träffade två kvinnor som han följde med hem.

Vad som sedan hände har jag ingen aning om, men det har inte heller alla de konspirationsteoretiker som tror sig veta allt från att CIA gillrade en honungsfälla till att Rosenbad behövde stoppa Wikileaks grundare från att publicera dokument som skulle vara komprometterande för Sverige. *[Vad som hände har beskrivits av de två kvinnorna vars vittnesmål är lätt tillgängliga för den som vill veta. --A.B.]*

Vi vet dock att Assange i november 2010 i sin frånvaro häktades som misstänkt för ett antal brott och att en cirkus som inte saknar bisarra inslag har pågått sedan dess.

För två av dessa brott— sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång— löper preskriptionstiden ut i morgon. Ytterligare ett fall av sexuellt ofredande passerar gränsen om några dagar. Det innebär att förundersökningen rörande dessa misstankar läggs ner, vilket är ett misslyckande för åklagare Marianne Ny.

Åklagarmyndighetens agerande är tyvärr en viktig anledning till att utredningen i flera år stod helt still. Under tiden har minnen blivit blekare och bevisläget försämrats. Varken Assange eller kvinnorna har kunnat gå vidare med sina liv.

Inställningen att Assange ska lämna Ecuadors ambassad, ditt han flydde för tre år sedan, och pallra sig till Sverige för förhör är i grund och botten i sin ordning. Misstänkta brottslingar ska inte få diktera villkoren. *[Enligt svensk lag skall utredningar utföras med hänsyn till den misstänkta situation. --A.B.]*

Åklagaren har dock en skyldighet att föra utredningen framåt, vilken ingen ens med den bästa viljan i världen kan säga ha skett i detta fall.

Att Ny gav vika och beslöt att förhör ska hållas i London först sedan Högsta domstolen krävt en "skyndsam" förklaring till det djupfrysta läget är för övrigt knappast en tillfällighet.

Men allt är nu inte åklagarens fel. Assange har i flera år krävt att utredarna skulle komma till ambassaden, men började konstra så fort ett besked om att så skulle ske kom. *[Missvisande påstående. --A.B.]*

Ett av kraven var enligt justitiedepartementet att Sverige skulle garantera den misstänktes asyl. Men det låter sig inte göras på ett annat lands ambassad, utan måste ske på svenskt territorium. Ett sådant beslut fattas för övrigt inte av regeringen utan av Migrationsverket.

Dessutom krävdes att Rosenbad garanterade att Assange inte skulle lämnas ut till USA. Inte heller det kan Stefan Löfven lova. Saken ska först prövas av Högsta domstolen.

*[Ecuador tillbakavisar dessa anklagelser. --A.B.]*

För någon månad sedan åkte chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren, biträdande åklagare i ärendet, till London tillsammans med en polisutredare. Men något förhör blev inte av. Ecuador har gått till motangrepp och hävdar att inga krav har ställts, **men jag har svårt att se att justitiedepartementet skulle ljuga om detta.**

Utöver det rättsliga trasslet så har ytterligare kapitel skrivits i denna absurda evighetsföljetong på senare tid. Som till exempel då Assange vädjade direkt till Frankrikes president François Hollande i ett öppet brev som publicerades i tidningen Le Monde.

Han skrev att hans liv var i fara och begärde asyl i Frankrike. En begäran som avslogs så snabbt att det troligen skulle platsa i Guinness rekordbok. "Herr Assanges situation utgör inte någon omedelbar fara. Han är också föremål för en europeisk arresteringsorder", lät det franska presidentkontoret meddela inom någon timme.

Och för några dagar sedan hävdade advokat Svante Thorsell i en debattartikel att Assange i praktiken varit frihetsberövad av Sverige i fem år och gjorde hisnande jämförelser med Dawit Isaac och Guantánamobasen.

Detta är kvalificerat nonsens. Assange sökte sig frivilligt till ambassaden. **Ingen annan än han själv bär ansvaret för att han ännu sitter där.**

Om framtiden vet vi inte mycket. Men vi vet att denna egendomliga historia inte tar slut med morgondagens preskription.

**Den vithårige är nämligen även misstänkt för våldtäkt**, ett brott som preskriberas först om ytterligare fem år.

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## Sweden to drop Assange sex assault probe as deadline expires

*Agence France-Presse*  
2015-08-13

Stockholm — Swedish prosecutors are set to drop a sexual assault probe against Julian Assange on Thursday when the case reaches its expiration date without investigators having succeeded in questioning the WikiLeaks founder.

~~Two~~ [Three] of the four allegations against Assange — who has been holed up at Ecuador's London embassy since 2012 to avoid extradition — are reaching their statute of limitations after five years.

The accusations involve one count of sexual assault and another of unlawful coercion. A separate allegation of sexual molestation will run out on August 18.

The 44-year-old Australian can still however be prosecuted for the more serious claim of rape, which carries a 10-year statute of limitations and expires in 2020.

Assange denies the allegations against him, brought by two Swedish women, and insists the sexual encounters were consensual.

Under Swedish law, if a suspect is not questioned before the deadline expires, they can no longer be tried for the alleged crimes.

Despite repeated attempts, prosecutors have been unable to gain access to Ecuador's embassy. [*Utterly false statement. --A.B.*]

They initially insisted Assange return to Sweden for interrogation — a condition he rejected on fears Stockholm could deliver him to US authorities, who may try him for leaking nearly 750,000 classified military and diplomatic documents in 2010.

In a U-turn in March, prosecutors agreed to Assange's compromise offer to question him inside the London mission but say they have yet to see their request approved by Ecuador because of procedural issues — leading critics to suspect Quito of playing the clock.

Attorneys for Assange however say suspicions that Ecuador is using delaying tactics are unfounded. "The (Swedish) request came in late and is being processed by Ecuador, which will certainly approve it after following its own procedures," Assange's Swedish lawyer Per Samuelsson told AFP earlier this month.

Claes Borgstrom, a lawyer for one of the two women accusing Assange of having assaulted them in 2010, said his client was trying to come to terms with the likelihood that the case will never be tried.

"She has always been ready to stand by her accusations and wanted to bring the case to court. But at the same time a weight has been lifted. This has been dragging on for five years and she wants to go back to her normal life," he told the daily Dagens Nyheter.

Assange has compared living inside the embassy — which has no garden but is in the plush Knightsbridge district, near Harrods department store — to life on a space station.

His 15 feet by 13 feet (4.6 by 4 metre) room is divided into an office and a living area. He has a treadmill, shower, microwave and sun lamp and spends most of his day at his computer.

He is subject to a European arrest warrant and Britain has vowed to detain him if he sets foot outside the embassy, which is under constant police surveillance.

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## **Julian Assange case: UK to make formal protest to Ecuador**

*BBC*

2015-08-13

The UK is to make a formal protest to the government of Ecuador over the country's decision to "harbour" Julian Assange, the Foreign Office has said. The Wikileaks co-founder sought asylum at London's Ecuadorean embassy in 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden.

UK officials said the bill for policing the embassy, which stands at £12m (\$18.8m; €16.8m), was "unacceptable". Earlier, Swedish prosecutors dropped two sex assault claims against Mr Assange, who had denied the claims.

Mr Assange still faces the more serious accusation of rape, which he also denies.

The British Ambassador in Quito, Ecuador's capital, is to make the formal protest to the Ecuadorean government on Thursday. "Ecuador must recognise that its decision to harbour Mr Assange more than three years ago has prevented the proper course of justice... It is completely unacceptable that the British taxpayer has had to foot the bill for this abuse of diplomatic relations," said Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire.

Mr Swire said the UK "continues to have a legal obligation" to extradite Mr Assange over the rape allegation. "I have instructed our ambassador in Quito to reiterate to Ecuador that the continuing failure... to bring this situation to an end, is being seen as a growing stain on the country's reputation," he added.

Mr Assange sought asylum three years ago to avoid extradition to Sweden, fearing he would then be sent to the US and put on trial for releasing secret American documents.

The UK has paid for policing around the embassy in Knightsbridge, central London, for the past three years.

The formal protest comes after Swedish prosecutors dropped their investigation into an allegation of sexual molestation and an accusation of unlawful coercion against Mr Assange because they ran out of time to question him [*due to their own inaction --A.B.*].

An additional alleged incident of sexual molestation will be "time barred"—that is, time will run out to question Mr Assange—on 18 August. The Swedish statement also said an allegation of rape was due to expire on 17 August 2020, but that investigation would continue.

The alleged events took place in August 2010.

Mr Assange said he was "extremely disappointed", adding the Swedish prosecutor had avoided hearing his side of the story. Under Swedish law, charges cannot be laid without interviewing the suspect.

"There was no need for any of this. I am an innocent man. I haven't even been charged," said Mr Assange. "From the beginning I offered simple solutions. Come to the embassy to take my statement or promise not to send me to the United States. This Swedish official refused both. She even refused a written statement."

However, Sweden's director of public prosecution said a request to interview Mr Assange inside the embassy had been submitted but permission was yet to be granted. Marianne Nye said she still hoped to arrange an interview as there were "ongoing negotiations" between Sweden and Ecuador.

One of Mr Assange's lawyers, Helena Kennedy, said: "Julian Assange has spent more time incarcerated in the small rooms of the embassy, with no access to fresh air or exercise and contrary to international law, than he could ever spend in a Swedish prison on these allegations."

Mr Assange's mother Christine said: "I have privately shed many tears for many years—the terrible injustice of it all."

Wikileaks has published thousands of secret documents, which have caused intense embarrassment for the US and lifted the lid on diplomatic relations.

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## **Julian Assange condemns Swedish handling of sexual assault claims**

*WikiLeaks founder says he is disappointed he hasn't had chance to prove innocence after five-year time limit for bringing some charges expires.*

David Crouch  
The Guardian  
14 August 2015

Julian Assange has criticised what he described as the incompetence of Sweden's prosecutor after she dropped her investigation into some of the allegations of sexual assault against him due to the expiration of a five-year time limit for bringing charges.

Prosecutors will continue to pursue an interview with the WikiLeaks founder over an outstanding rape allegation.

"I am extremely disappointed. There was no need for any of this," Assange said in a statement. "I am an innocent man. I haven't even been charged. From the beginning I offered simple solutions. Come to the [Ecuadorian] embassy to take my statement or promise not to send me to the United States. This Swedish official refused both."

The Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny, said she regretted leaving the investigation unfinished, but said she was forced to do so because Assange had refused to leave Ecuador's London embassy, where he has taken refuge.

Two women made allegations against Assange five years ago in Stockholm, but no charges were brought because the prosecutor was unable to interrogate him after he challenged an extradition order and sought political asylum in the embassy in June 2012.

Assange, who denies the allegations, believes that travelling to Sweden would leave him vulnerable to extradition to the US to face espionage charges. His repeated requests to the Swedish government for a firm guarantee of his safety have been declined.

For more than four years Ny refused to go to London to interview Assange, but changed her mind in March after a Swedish court questioned her failure to make progress in the investigation. Ny cited the impending expiry of the statute of limitations as a reason for the turnabout.

**But it was June before the Swedish government made an official request to Ecuador to enter the embassy**, and an agreed date to begin interrogation a week later had to be scrapped. After a tense standoff in which each side blamed the other for delays, this week they agreed to formal talks over judicial cooperation, potentially breaking the deadlock— but not in time to prevent the time limit on most of the accusations running out.

"It is still my hope to be able to conduct a hearing [on the rape allegation] since there is an ongoing dialogue on the issue between Sweden and Ecuador," Ny said in a statement.

Assange said: "She has managed to avoid hearing my side of the story entirely. This is beyond incompetence. I am strong but the cost to my family is unacceptable."

Britain said on Thursday it would make a formal protest to the Ecuadorian government over its decision to provide asylum to Assange.

“Ecuador must recognise that its decision to harbour Mr Assange more than three years ago has prevented the proper course of justice,” the Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said in a statement.

The statute of limitations for an allegation of unlawful coercion and one case of sexual molestation expired on Thursday; another allegation of sexual molestation expires on Tuesday. The outstanding allegation of rape expires on 17 August 2020.

Claes Borgström, a Stockholm lawyer who represents one of the women whose allegations against Assange will now never be tested in court, said the woman was ambivalent about the situation. “On the one hand, she wanted Assange to face trial and answer for what he has done. On the other, she wants to put this behind her.”

Helena Kennedy QC, a member of Assange’s legal team, said he had spent more time in the embassy than he could ever spend in a Swedish prison, and the remaining allegation against him was “just as unlikely to lead to conviction”.

“The question remains whether we are dealing with incompetence or bad faith or an agenda set by other considerations. I remain unconvinced that this prosecution has been about securing justice for women.”

\* \* \*

A human rights attorney representing Julian Assange reacts to Thursday’s news that various sexual assault charges against the WikiLeaks founder have been dropped, following the expiration of a five-year time limit. Carey Shenkman says it is ‘unacceptable’ that Assange has been detained for so long without a charge, and questions the motives of Swedish prosecutors

*Video:* <http://www.theguardian.com/media/video/2015/aug/13/julian-assange-sexual-assault-case-wikileaks-video>

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DN: 2015-08-14

## **Ecuador: Vi bär inte ansvar för Assange-fallet**

Ecuador hävdar att det är England och Sverige som bär ansvaret för att vissa av anklagelserna om sexbrott mot Wikileaks-grundaren Julian Assange preskriberats. Det skriver landets regering i en officiell kommentar på fredagen— dagen efter att England anklagat landet för att förhindra rättvisans gång.

Det var i torsdags som flera av utredningarna om sexbrott som Julian Assange anklagas för lades ned, på grund av att det gått för lång tid.

Samma dag skulle Storbritanniens ambassadör i Quito lämna in en officiell diplomatisk protest till Ecuador, om att landet förhindrar rättvisans gång— och för att den brittiska polisen tvingas stå för notan för bevakningen av Ecuadors ambassad i London, enligt BBC.



Sedan Julian Assange tog sin tillflykt dit för drygt tre år sedan har man haft polisbevakning dygnet runt, något som hittills kostat drygt 150 miljoner kronor.

Assange betraktas som en rymling från rättvisan i Storbritannien, eftersom han var fri mot borgen när han flydde till Ecuadors ambassad för att slippa bli utlämnad för förhör till Sverige.

Men på fredagen kom Ecuadors svar, i ett pressmeddelande från landets utrikesdepartement. Där hävdar man i ett officiellt uttalande att det är Storbritannien och Sverige som råar för det stillestånd som råder i frågan.

Ecuador välkomnar att vissa av anklagelserna mot Julian Assange läggs ned, men anser att det hade varit bäst att pröva dem rättsligt, skriver man.

**Enligt skrivelsen har landet vid 31 tillfällen gjort propåer för att få tillstånd en lösning.**

Ecuador "berömmar att svenska myndigheter sent omsider visat öppenhet för att diskutera frågan med Ecuador" men beklagar brittiska och svenska myndigheters "pågående misslyckande med att agera under nästan 1.000 dagar."

Tidigare i sommar har dock svenska myndigheter [*påstått att de --A.B.*] förgäves försökt få tillstånd att förhöra Julian Assange i London.

Nu pågår förhandlingar om ett generellt rättshjälpsavtal mellan Sverige och Ecuador, som eventuellt kan leda till att Assange kan förhöras i London när det gäller den allvarigare anklagelsen om våldtäkt på en svensk kvinna. Den preskriberas inte förrän år 2020.

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## **Ecuador hits back at UK criticism over Julian Assange**

*Minister rejects claim that Ecuador is to blame for deadlock over WikiLeaks founder, who has been living at London embassy to avoid extradition*

*Press Association (U.K.)  
16 August 2015*

Ecuador has hit back at the British government over who is to blame for the deadlocked case of the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

The Australian has been living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London for more than three years to avoid extradition to Sweden, where he faces allegations of sexual assault. Three of four investigations were dropped last week after they time-lapsed.

The Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said Ecuador's decision to harbour Assange had prevented the proper course of justice. He said the UK continued to have a legal obligation to extradite him to Sweden.

“The continuing failure to expedite the Swedish prosecutor’s interview, and to bring this situation to an end, is being seen as a growing stain on the country’s reputation,” he said.

Ecuador’s acting foreign minister, Xavier Lasso, said he categorically rejected the accusations. “It is not acceptable to try to place the responsibility for the lack of progress in this area over the last five years on Ecuador.”

**If diplomatic relations had been abused it was the British government that had done so, he said, recalling that it had threatened to “violate the immunity of diplomatic premises” and maintained a police cordon outside the embassy in London.**

“The British government has the sole responsibility for such an invasive and unnecessary police deployment,” Lasso said. **“The republic of Ecuador will not take lessons from any foreign government, least of all those that are unaware of the institution of political asylum, its legitimacy,** attached and enshrined in international law, and its humanitarian nature based on the sovereign equality of nations.”

Assange fears being taken to the US for questioning over the activities of WikiLeaks. The police operation to guard the embassy has cost more than £12m.

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DN: 2015-08-17

### **“Assange tröttsam gäst för Ecuador”**

Ecuador har efter tre år börjat tröttna på att härbärgera Wikileaks-grundaren Julian Assange. Det är trångt på ambassaden, han har excentriska vanor— och kostar en förmögenhet, enligt ambassadkällor som The Times pratat med. [*The Times ägs av den vidrige Rupert Murdoch. --A.B.*]

Julian Assange är efter tre års exil inne på sin tredje ambassadör på Ecuadors lilla ambassad i London, och den nuvarande ambassadören är här för att “lösa problemet Assange”, skriver The Times.

Enligt tidningen, som ska ha pratat med icke namngivna personer på ambassaden, har Assange blivit något av en gökunge, som tar mycket plats och resurser, och ska kosta Ecuador stora summor.

Den främsta kostnaden är för säkerhetsvakter som skyddar Assange dygnet runt, och som även används för att åka till restauranger för att köpa hämt-mat åt gästen— som dels uppges vara kräsen med vad han äter, dels inte vill ha mat från samma ställe flera gånger— på grund av “risken för att bli förgiftad”.

Dessutom har man tvingats bygga om en damtoalett till sovrum och upplåtit rum som kontor till Julian Assange, samt plats för ett löpband som han springer på.

Ambassaden är inrymd i en lägenhet på omkring 10 rum, men har ingen gård, vilket gör situationen än mer klaustrofobisk.

Assange sitter uppe till 04.00 på nätterna och chattar och behöver sedan sova på dagtid, och enligt The Times klagar personalen på att det är svårt att utföra vanliga diplomatsysslor

När brandlarmet gick för en tid sedan trodde man att det var ett trick för att försöka få ut Assange ur ambassaden. Alla sprang ut enligt utrymningsplanerna, utom Assange och hans livvakt "som tydligen hellre riskerade att bli grillade" skriver tidningen.

Nyligen lämnade den engelska ambassadören i Quito in en officiell protest till Ecuador eftersom man anser att landet förhindrar rättvisans gång, och kostar de engelska skattebetalarna stora summor.

Sedan Julian Assange fick beskydd på Ecuadors ambassad i London har en polis stått posterad utanför dygnet runt, och räkningen för den insatsen uppges vara uppe i drygt 150 miljoner kronor.

• *Juan Flores*

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## Subverting Illusions: Julian Assange and the Value of WikiLeaks

*Norman Solomon  
Common Dreams  
August 17, 2015*

Three years after Ecuador's government granted political asylum to Julian Assange in its small ground-floor London embassy, the founder of WikiLeaks is still there—beyond the reach of the government whose vice president, Joe Biden, has labeled him "a digital terrorist." The Obama administration wants Assange in a U.S. prison, so that the only mouse he might ever see would be scurrying across the floor of a solitary-confinement cell.

Above and beyond Assange's personal freedom, what's at stake includes the impunity of the United States and its allies to relegate transparency to a mythical concept, with democracy more rhetoric than reality. From the Vietnam War era to today— from aerial bombing and torture to ecological disasters and financial scams moving billions of dollars into private pockets—the high-up secrecy hiding key realities from the public has done vast damage. No wonder economic and political elites despise WikiLeaks for its disclosures.

During the last five years, since the release of the infamous "Collateral Murder" video, the world has changed in major ways for democratic possibilities, with WikiLeaks as a catalyst. It's sadly appropriate that Assange is so deplored and reviled by so many in the upper reaches of governments, huge corporations **and mass media**. For such powerful entities, truly informative leaks to the public are plagues that should be eradicated as much as possible.

Notably, in the U.S. mass media, Assange is often grouped together with whistle-blowers. He is in fact a journalistic editor and publisher. In acute contrast to so many at the top of the corporate media and governmental food chains, Assange insists that democracy requires the "consent of the governed" to be informed consent. While powerful elites work 24/7 to continually gain the uninformed consent of the governed, WikiLeaks has opposite concerns.

Genuine journalistic liberty exists only to the extent that overt or internalized censorship is absent. Especially in a society such as the United States with enduring press freedoms (the First Amendment is bruised and battered but still on its feet), the ultimate propaganda war zone is between people's ears. So much has been surrendered, often unwittingly and unknowingly. Waving the white flag at dominant propaganda onslaughts can only help democracy to expire.

Julian Assange has effectively insisted that another media world is possible and the corporate warfare state is unacceptable. Not coincidentally, the U.S. government wants to capture Assange and put him away, incommunicado, in a prison cell.

Last week, in Sweden, most but not all of the sexual-assault allegations against Assange expired. Still, Assange notes, "I haven't even been charged." And Sweden's government— while claiming that it is strictly concerned about adhering to its laws— has refused to limit the legal scope to its own judicial process.

As the BBC reports, "Assange sought asylum three years ago to avoid extradition to Sweden, fearing he would then be sent to the U.S. and put on trial for releasing secret American documents." Closely aligned with Washington, the Swedish government refuses to promise that it would not turn Assange over to the U.S. government for extradition.

"Julian Assange has spent more time incarcerated in the small rooms of the embassy, with no access to fresh air or exercise and contrary to international law, than he could ever spend in a Swedish prison on these allegations," says one of his lawyers, Helena Kennedy.

While government leaders have ample reasons to want to impale his image on a media spike and put him in prison for decades, many corporate titans— including venerated innovator billionaires of Silicon Valley— are not much more kindly disposed. The extent of their relentless commitments to anti-democratic greed has been brilliantly deconstructed in Assange's 2014 book "When Google Met WikiLeaks."

"Google's geopolitical aspirations are firmly enmeshed within the foreign-policy agenda of the world's largest superpower," Assange wrote. "As Google's search and internet service monopoly grows, and as it enlarges its industrial surveillance cone to cover the majority of the world's population, rapidly dominating the mobile phone market and racing to extend internet access in the global south, Google is steadily becoming the internet for many people. Its influence on the choices and behavior of the totality of individual human beings translates to real power to influence the course of history."

As for courage— which too often is the stuff of mystifying legends about heroes on pedestals— Assange's observations might help us to grasp how it can gradually be summoned from within ourselves. Worth pondering: "Courage is not the absence of fear. Only fools have no fear. Rather, courage is the intellectual mastery of fear by understanding the true risks and opportunities of the situation and keeping those things in balance."

Assange added: "It is not simply having prejudice about what the risks are, but actually testing them. There are all sorts of myths that go around about what can be done and what cannot be done. It's important to test. You don't test by jumping off a bridge. You test by jumping off a footstool, and then jumping off something a bit higher, and a bit higher."

While visiting him last fall and a couple of months ago, I found Assange no less insightful during informal conversations. This is a dangerous person, in words and deeds— dangerous to the overlapping agendas of large corporations and governments in service to each other— dangerous to those who constantly make a killing from war, vast inequities and plunder of the planet.

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SvD: 2015-08-21

## Därför är alla sura på Julian Assange

*Av Adam Svanell*

Överåklagare Marianne Ny var besviken på Julian Assange när hon nyligen preskriberade tre av de fyra brott som han misstänkts för. Hon är inte ensam. **Det börjar bli svårt att hitta någon som inte har anledning att hysa agg mot Wikileaks-grundaren.**

Vad man än tycker om Assange som person så **kan ingen förneka att han tillhör världens främsta inom sitt specialområde: att kosta andra människor pengar**— om det är så är borgenärerna som förlorade miljoner när han flydde till Ecuadors ambassad, bokförlaget som betalade ut ännu fler miljoner i förskott för en självbiografi han aldrig skrev klart, eller den brittiska polisen vars lurpassande utanför ambassaden går på 130 000 kronor om dagen.

För fem år sedan **ansågs Julian Assange rent objektivt vara den bästa människan på jorden.** Han umgicks med filmstjärnor. Han utsågs till Man of the Year. Malou von Sivers erbjöd honom sin förstfödda dotters hand. Dalai Lama smörjde hans fötter med belugakaviar. Det är med andra ord **många som skäms i dag, när hans framtoning ligger någonstans mellan Billy Butt och ett Flashback-troll.**

Ryssland gav asyl till Edward Snowden. Ecuador, den sydamerikanska republiken mest känd från 90-talsdiscolåten med samma namn, erbjöd en fristad åt Julian Assange. Nätaktivister är ju lite som sommarkatter— vem känner inte frestelsen att ta hand om

en medelålders sexbrottsmisstänkt hackare som riskerar fängelse i USA? Men döm om ecuadorianernas besvikelse när de istället för en spinnande abessinier **fick en övercurlad, krävande tonåring som aldrig flyttar hemifrån.**

Nu riskerar Julian Assange att bli avskydd också inom den enda grupp som fortfarande älskar honom: hackare och datanördar. Detta sedan The Times i veckan gav en inblick i hans liv i exil på Ecuadors ambassad. Det visar sig att Assange bor i ett rum nästan utan möbler, bara sitter framför datorn, kăkar hämtmat, är uppe hela nätterna och aldrig går ut. **En drömtillvaro** som kommer att skapa missunnsamhet bland hans likar.

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## Sweden and Ecuador to begin Julian Assange talks next week

*Ecuador seeking formal agreement on judicial cooperation before Swedish prosecutors can interrogate WikiLeaks founder*

David Crouch  
The Guardian  
28 August 2015

Sweden will begin talks with Ecuador about Julian Assange on Monday, after Stockholm moved to break the deadlock over five-year-old ~~rape~~ ["minor rape", which is not rape --A.B.] allegations against him.

Sweden initially rejected a demand by Ecuador that the two countries establish a formal agreement on judicial cooperation before Swedish prosecutors could interrogate the WikiLeaks founder in Ecuador's embassy in London, saying it did not negotiate bilateral treaties.

But this month the government agreed to talks specifically to address the stalemate over Assange, who claimed asylum in the embassy in 2012.

Two women made allegations against Assange five years ago in Stockholm [No, the police and prosecution did "on their behalf". --A.B.], but no charges were brought because the prosecutor said she was unable to interrogate him. Assange says he had no choice but to seek asylum as Sweden declined to guarantee that he would not be extradited to the US to face espionage charges if he travelled to Stockholm.

The political intervention by Sweden marks a new development in the case. Swedish politicians have, with very few exceptions, insisted they must not interfere, saying it is a purely judicial matter.

"We have agreed to what the Ecuadorians asked for," said Cecilia Riddselius, the Swedish justice ministry official responsible for the case. "It was a political decision to have this discussion.

"Normally ministers cannot interfere in individual cases, it is part of our legal system, this is a strict rule. **At the same time, it is under the competence of the government to**

**enter into agreements with other states. A decision was taken to actually raise it to the level of the cabinet.** *[Presumably, it is "within the competence of the government" to guarantee Assange's safety, which it has previously denied was possible, and could have done so five years ago. --A.B.]*

Riddselius said the state secretary, Anne Linde, would open the negotiations on Monday on behalf of the justice ministry. The justice ministry's director general for international affairs, Anna-Karin Svensson, the foreign ministry's director general for legal affairs, Anders Rönquist, and Riddselius herself would also be involved. She said Ecuador's under-secretary of state Fernando Yopez Lasso would lead the talks for Ecuador.

Ecuador's embassy in Stockholm declined to comment, but said the makeup of its delegation was still being discussed.

"We do not normally enter into bilateral agreements and encourage states to enter multilateral ones instead," Riddselius said. "But considering this specific case and our willingness to move the case forward, we are open to discuss this. It will be a general agreement but we hope it will be applicable to the Assange case."

Sexual assault accusations against Assange, who has not been formally charged with any crime, expired this month under Sweden's statute of limitations. In March Swedish prosecutors had pledged to interrogate Assange in London while the allegations were still current.

Assange condemned the "incompetence" of Swedish authorities in failing to meet this deadline after he consistently demanded that prosecutors interview him in London so he could protest his innocence. The outstanding ~~rape~~ allegation can be prosecuted until August 2020.

The UK accuses Ecuador of preventing the proper course of justice by granting Assange asylum in London and is frustrated at the mounting costs of policing the embassy.

**As recently as July, Sweden turned down a request from the UN to consider a guarantee that political refugees wanted for questioning would not face extradition to a third country.**

Riddselius said that in her 20 years at the justice ministry she had never encountered a bilateral agreement of the kind that would be negotiated on Monday. "It is new ground, very unusual, it is something we try to avoid," she said.

The negotiations would be complex, she said, and it was impossible to say how long they might take. She said Sweden had drafted an agreement and respected Ecuador's need to examine it thoroughly and propose changes.

## **FBI demanded Scandinavian countries arrest Edward Snowden should he visit**

*The whistleblower will not travel to Norway next week to accept award after national broadcaster released letters US sent in 2013 requesting extradition*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
28 August 2015*

The FBI demanded that Scandinavian countries arrest and extradite Edward Snowden if he flew to any of those countries and claimed asylum, newly released official documents reveal.

In the summer of 2013 the whistleblower had left his hotel in Hong Kong and was holed up in Moscow airport applying to various countries, including Norway, for asylum after leaking to the Guardian a massive cache of documents disclosing the shocking extent of US and British surveillance of digital communications.

Suspecting that Snowden might seek asylum in Scandinavia, the FBI wrote from the US embassy in Copenhagen to the police forces of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland to inform them that the US Department of Justice had charged Snowden with theft and espionage, and issued a provisional warrant for his arrest, according to documents released by Norway's national broadcaster NRK.

"The US Department of Justice is prepared to immediately draft the necessary paperwork to request the extradition of Snowden to the US from whichever country he travels to from Moscow," the letter, dated 27 June, states. "The FBI expresses its gratitude... for any assistance that can be provided on this important matter."

In a separate letter to the Norwegian foreign ministry on the same day, the US embassy in Oslo spelled out its request that the government of Norway should "effectuate the return of Mr Snowden to the United States by way of denial of entry, deportation, expulsion or other legal means".

In a subsequent letter dated 4 July the embassy repeated its request that Snowden be arrested and extradited to the US under the 1977 extradition treaty between the two countries.

**Snowden's lawyer Ben Wizner told NRK he suspects that the US sent similar documents to most of Europe and other countries at the time.**

Snowden has been invited to Norway next week to receive the Bjørnson Prize from the Norwegian Academy of Literature and Freedom of Expression, but he decided not to travel because **he could not receive guarantees from the Norwegian government that he would not be extradited**, the academy told NRK.

The Norwegian government said it had not replied to the requests from the FBI and the US embassy in Oslo to extradite Snowden because he had not come to Norway.



Julian Assange, the whistleblowing journalist wanted by the US for leaking thousands of diplomatic and military communications, sought asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy in London three years ago because of his fears of extradition to the US should he comply with Swedish demands to travel to Stockholm for interrogation over sexual assault allegations. Sweden has declined to issue a guarantee of his safety, arguing that Assange would be adequately protected by human rights legislation.

**Informed by the Guardian about the NRK revelations, Thomas Olsson, one of Julian Assange's legal team in Stockholm, said: "This shows the Americans are very determined to get their hands on people that they think have damaged their security or a threat to security policy, and that includes of course Julian Assange."**

A spokesperson for the Swedish police said the FBI's request was a matter for the Prosecution Authority, which stated: "Normally the Swedish Prosecution Authority gets involved after a person is apprehended and the police need to contact a prosecutor in order to get the suspected under detention. The decision regarding extradition is taken by the Swedish government."

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### **Julian Assange 'told Edward Snowden not to seek asylum in Latin America'**

*WikiLeaks founder says he told the NSA whistleblower he could be kidnapped or killed, and that he was better off sheltering in Russia despite 'negative PR'*

*Damien Gayle  
29 August 2015*

Julian Assange has said he advised the NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden against seeking asylum in Latin America because he could have been kidnapped and possibly killed there.

The WikiLeaks editor-in-chief said he told Snowden to ignore concerns about the "negative PR consequences" of sheltering in Russia because it was one of the few places in the world where the CIA's influence did not reach.

In a wide-ranging interview with the Times, Assange also said he feared he would be assassinated if he was ever able to leave the Ecuadorean embassy in London, where he sought asylum in 2012 to avoid extradition.

He accused US officials of breaking the law in their pursuit of him and his whistleblowing organisation, and in subjecting his connections to a campaign of harassment.

WikiLeaks was intimately involved in the operation to help Snowden evade the US authorities in 2013 after he leaked his cache of intelligence documents to Glenn Greenwald, then a journalist with the Guardian.

Assange sent one of his most senior staff members, Sarah Harrison, to be at Snowden's side in Hong Kong, and helped to engineer his escape to Russia— despite his discomfort with the idea of fleeing to one of the US's most powerful enemies.

"Snowden was well aware of the spin that would be put on it if he took asylum in Russia," Assange told the Times. "He preferred Latin America, but my advice was that he should take asylum in Russia despite the negative PR consequences, because my assessment is that he had a significant risk he could be kidnapped from Latin America on CIA orders. Kidnapped or possibly killed."

However, Assange's story appears to be at odds with reports from the time, which detail a plan hatched to whisk Snowden from Russia, where he was stuck in the transit area of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after his US passport was revoked, and into political asylum in Ecuador.

In a statement issued as the drama unfolded, WikiLeaks said of Snowden: "He is bound for the republic of Ecuador via a safe route for the purposes of asylum, and is being escorted by diplomats and legal advisers from WikiLeaks."

But the plan unravelled after Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa, declared invalid a temporary travel document issued by his London consul— in collaboration with Assange— after other Ecuadorean diplomats said in leaked correspondence that the Wikileaks founder could be perceived as "running the show".

Correa went on to criticise the consul, Fidel Narvaez, telling the Associated Press that to have issued the document— which was thought to have been used by Snowden to travel from Hong Kong to Moscow— without consulting Quito was a serious error.

In his Times interview, Assange also outlined his own fears of being targeted. He said that even venturing out on to the balcony of Ecuador's embassy in Knightsbridge posed security risks in the light of bomb and assassination threats by what he called "unstable people".

He said he thought it was unlikely he would be shot, but that he worried that if he was freed he could be kidnapped by the CIA.

"I'm a white guy," Assange said. "Unless I convert to Islam it's not that likely that I'll be droned, but we have seen things creeping towards that."

Ecuador granted the Australian political asylum in 2012 under the 1951 refugee convention. He believed he risked extradition to the US from the UK and Sweden, where he is under investigation for his involvement with WikiLeaks. He also faces extradition to Sweden for an investigation into an alleged rape.

He has remained in the embassy for nearly three years, with a round-the-clock police guard thought to have cost more than £11 m. Assange believes his situation will be resolved in the next two years.

*[Compare following headline with source cited in preceding article: "'Unless I convert to Islam it's not that likely that I'll be droned....' — A.B.]*

**JULIAN ASSANGE has spoken about his fears he will be assassinated or even "DRONED" by the American intelligence services if he leaves his hideout within the Ecuadorean embassy.**

*Tom Batchelor  
Express (U.K.)  
Aug 30, 2015*

The controversial Wikileaks founder is so fearful that someone will try to take his life that he no longer uses the property's balcony, despite having had no fresh air or sunlight for THREE YEARS.

The Australian faces extradition to Sweden on sexual assault charges— which he denies— and has been living at the central London diplomatic residence since 2012, at a cost of £12million to UK taxpayers.

The reclusive [???] figure fears he will ultimately be sent to the US where he could face the death penalty.

In an interview with The Times magazine, Mr Assange claimed it had become too dangerous to even poke his head out the embassy's balcony doors. *[Compare with following paragraph — what he actually said. — A.B.]*

He said: "There are security issues with being on the balcony. There have been bomb threats and assassination threats from various people."

Asked if he thought there was a chance he would be shot, the 44-year-old replied that it was "not likely".

"But I'm a public figure and a very controversial one, including in the United States. As a result, there have been quite a number of threats by unstable people," he said.

However, he does worry that if he is ever free he could be kidnapped or even targeted by a CIA drone.

"I'm a white guy," Mr Assange said. "Unless I convert to Islam it's not that likely that I'll be droned, but we have seen things creeping towards that."

Earlier this month, Swedish prosecutors dropped their investigations into sexual assault allegations against Mr Assange after failing to question him within a five-year period.

He still faces the more serious allegation of rape but prosecutors have run out of time to investigate Mr Assange for sexual assault because the claims have reached their five-year expiry under the country's statute of limitations.

Under Swedish law charges cannot be laid without interviewing the suspect.

Mr Assange's long spell at the Ecuadorean embassy is thought to have cost the Met Police close to £12million due to the ~~need for~~ *[government decision to impose]* a round-the-clock police guard.

He believes his situation will be resolved in the next two years, by which point he will have spent five years living in the embassy.

The paranoid computer programmer also warned CIA whistleblower Edward Snowden about assassination attempts if he opted to seek asylum in South America rather than Russia.

Mr Assange said: "He preferred Latin America, but my advice was that he should take asylum in Russia despite the negative PR consequences, because my assessment is that he had a significant risk he could be kidnapped from Latin America on CIA orders. "Kidnapped or possibly killed."

Mr Snowden is a former CIA employee and government contractor who leaked classified information from the National Security Agency in 2013. He is living in an undisclosed location in Russia while seeking asylum elsewhere.

[www.express.co.uk/news/uk/601672/Julian-Assange-Wikileaks-drone-attack-assassination-balcony](http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/601672/Julian-Assange-Wikileaks-drone-attack-assassination-balcony)

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## **Julian Assange: documents show 'fancy dress' escape plan**

*Ecuadorian officials considered a number of plots to help WikiLeaks chief evade police, according to leaked documents*

Jamie Grierson  
The Guardian  
2 September 2015

Ecuadorian officials reportedly considered smuggling Julian Assange out of their embassy in London by disguising him in fancy dress, in one of a number of potential plots to evade police stationed outside.

It was also suggested the WikiLeaks editor-in-chief, who has been holed up in the embassy since 2012, could hop across the Kensington rooftops to a helipad, or become lost in the crowds in Harrods, according to documents seen by Ecuadorian news site Focus Ecuador and Buzzfeed UK.

Another option for getting Assange out was to appoint him Ecuador's representative to the UN and hustle him out in an official car under the protection of diplomatic immunity.

A WikiLeaks representative declined to comment on the articles, while representatives for Assange and the Ecuadorian government have been approached for comment and the Guardian awaits a response.

Ecuador granted political asylum in 2012 to Assange, an Australian national, who faces extradition to Sweden over an investigation into allegations of rape and sexual assault. He has chosen to remain in the embassy since then.

According to Focus Ecuador, the Ecuadorian intelligence services, known as Senain, spied on Assange in the embassy and compiled a report based on updates from internal staff.

As well as the various escape plots, the documents detail alleged clashes between Assange and embassy security staff and concerns raised about his mental health.

In September 2012, three months after Assange first took up residency, it is said that a guard discovered him in the embassy's off-limits secure control room, leading to a scuffle between the two men. The guard and Assange both gave conflicting accounts of what happened.

In January 2013, the security guard reported hearing a loud crash from Assange's room and later discovered a large, smashed bookshelf. Images of the room's condition are included within the report.

The documents also note incidents when Assange would "shout and talk incoherently" at night and attributes this to stress.

The documents acknowledge Assange's situation and the "emotional imbalance" it may cause but says officials can not allow attacks against personnel or equipment to occur. "Counselling may be recommended," the report adds.

Ecuadorian officials acknowledged the heavy Met police presence at the embassy when considering smuggling Assange out in a diplomatic car. It notes officers in the hall, on the stairs and at the exits of the lifts.

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## **US, Saudi Arabia planned to stir up sectarian conflict in Syria: WikiLeaks**

*Nudrrat Khawaja*  
*Daily Pakistan*  
*September 1, 2015*

In his book, "The WikiLeaks Files: The World According to US Empire", Julian Assange claims that United States had called Saudi Arabia and Egypt to promote sectarian conflict in Syria by destabilizing its government.

By 2014, the sectarian Sunni-Shia character of the civil war in Syria was bemoaned in the United States as an unfortunate development. But in December 2006, the man heading the US embassy in Syria advocated in a cable to the Secretary of State and the White House that the US government collaborate with Saudi Arabia and Egypt to promote sectarian conflict in Syria between Sunni and Shia as a means of destabilizing the Syrian government. At that time, no one in the US government could credibly have claimed innocence of the possible implications of such a policy. This cable was written at the height of the sectarian Sunni-Shia civil war in Iraq, which the US military was unsuccessfully trying to contain. US public disgust with the sectarian civil war in Iraq unleashed by the US invasion had just cost Republicans control of Congress in the November 2006 election. The election result immediately precipitated the resignation of Donald Rumsfeld as secretary of defense. No one working for the US government on foreign policy at the time could have been unaware of the implications of promoting Sunni-Shia sectarianism.

Robert Naiman  
*The WikiLeaks Files*

<http://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/world/us-saudi-planned-to-stir-up-sectarian-conflict-in-syria-wikileaks-903>

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## **Assange says French president 'stabbed me in back'**

*Agence France Presse*  
Sept. 18, 2015

PARIS: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange claimed in an interview published Friday that President Francois Hollande "stabbed me in the back" by rejecting his request for asylum in France.

The head of the whistleblowing website told *Society* magazine that France's rejection of his request in July followed discussions at the highest levels.

"There had been direct contact between Francois Hollande and me. Text messages were exchanged through my French legal advisor. The French president gave encouraging signs," Assange said, in comments translated from French.

"In a way, his (final) response was a stab in the back," Assange said. "What pushed him to change his mind between the first exchanges and his final public response?" Assange asked.

He said: "Perhaps he wanted to look strong, not to the French, but to the United States and the United Kingdom, to be loyal to them. Publicly rejecting such a request was a way of doing that."

Assange has been holed up in the Ecuador embassy in London since 2012, having taken refuge there because Sweden wanted him to be extradited to answer questions about an allegation of rape. He insists Sweden wants to pass him on to US authorities over the release of hundreds of thousands of classified cables.

In turning down his asylum request, Hollande's office had said Assange's situation "does not present an immediate danger". It added: "Furthermore, he is subject to a European arrest warrant."

The French presidency had no comment on Assange's claims Friday.

Swedish officials said last month they hope to reach a judicial cooperation deal with Ecuador by the end of the year that would clear the way for Swedish prosecutors to question Assange.

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### **Julian Assange: police removed from outside Ecuadorian embassy**

*Scotland Yard says it still intends to arrest WikiLeaks founder if he leaves embassy but it is 'no longer proportionate' to monitor building*

Jamie Grierson  
The Guardian  
12 October 2015

Scotland Yard has called off its multimillion pound 24-hour surveillance of the Ecuadorian embassy where Julian Assange has been living for 40 months, having decided the operation is "no longer proportionate".

The WikiLeaks founder, an Australian national, sought political asylum at the embassy in June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden, where prosecutors want to question him over rape allegations. In August they dropped their investigation into two other claims— one of sexual molestation and one of unlawful coercion— because they ran out of time to question him.

Metropolitan police officers have maintained a constant watch of the embassy in Knightsbridge, central London, at a cost of at least £11.1m, according to figures released by Scotland Yard in June.

A statement from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on Monday said the operation to arrest Assange continued but it was "no longer proportionate to commit officers to a permanent presence".

"The MPS will not discuss what form its continuing operation will take or the resourcing implications surrounding it," it continued. "Whilst no tactics guarantee success in the event of Julian Assange leaving the embassy, the MPS will deploy a number of overt and covert tactics to arrest him."

Kristinn Hrafnsson, a spokesman for WikiLeaks, said he did not know why the police had abandoned its 24-hour presence. "My interpretation is that it has not been lifted. They are calling off the uniformed presence but escalating the covert operation and will arrest him if he steps out off the embassy."

A reduced police presence "does not fundamentally change the situation". Hrafnsson speculated that the move might be a way of moving the costs of the uniformed presence, which infuriated the public, to the covert operation.

He added that the move comes ahead of an expected ruling by the UN working group on arbitrary detention, which he expected to find in favour of Assange.

In its statement, Scotland Yard said there was no "imminent prospect of a diplomatic or legal resolution to this issue".

"Like all public services, MPS resources are finite," the statement said. "With so many different criminal, and other, threats to the city it protects, the current deployment of officers is no longer believed proportionate."

Two women made allegations against Assange five years ago in Stockholm, but no charges were brought because the prosecutor said she was unable to interrogate him. Julian Assange: key events leading up to WikiLeaks founder seeking asylum  
[Read more](#)

A European arrest warrant was issued in December 2010 and he is now subject to arrest under the Bail Act for failing to surrender to custody on 29 June 2012 for removal to Sweden.

Assange believes he had no choice but to seek asylum as Sweden declined to guarantee that he would not be extradited to the US to face espionage charges related to WikiLeaks if he travelled to Stockholm.

Ecuadorian officials reportedly considered smuggling Assange out of the embassy by disguising him in fancy dress, allowing him to hop across the Kensington rooftops to a helipad, or become lost in the crowds in Harrods, according to documents seen by the Ecuadorian news website Focus Ecuador and BuzzFeed UK.

Another possibility for getting Assange out was purportedly to appoint him Ecuador's representative to the UN and hustle him out in an official car under the protection of diplomatic immunity.

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## **After Nearly \$20 Million Spent Watching Assange, Scotland Yard Ends 24-Hour Guard Outside Embassy**

*Nadia Prupis, staff writer  
Common Dreams  
October 12, 2015*



UK police have withdrawn from their round-the-clock cordon outside of the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has lived under asylum for the past three years.

Metropolitan police said the stakeout project had cost a total of £12.6 million (\$19.4 million) and was "no longer proportionate," but said they would still try to arrest Assange, who is wanted in Sweden for questioning over sexual assault allegations.

Instead of posting uniformed guards at the embassy, police said they would employ "overt and covert tactics" to nab the Australian journalist. But as Wikileaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson told the BBC, the change in operation will not affect Assange. "They will still arrest Julian if he steps outside the embassy so there is no real change to the situation, other than the removal of uniformed police officers," Hrafnsson said.

In remarks to Sputnik News, he added, "I don't think I'd call anything a victory unless the siege was called off and Julian is allowed to enjoy the political asylum that he was granted fully in compliance with international law by the Ecuadorian government. So this doesn't make a huge difference in my mind, it's obvious that the Metropolitan police is somewhat reacting to the outrage among the public for spending over £12 million on this ridiculous attempt to arrest him."

Assange, who helped publish a cache of U.S. military and State Department documents in 2010, has said he fears his arrest would lead to extradition to the U.S., where WikiLeaks has been under investigation and where he could face trial for his role in the leaks. He has invited Swedish prosecutors to interview him at the embassy, but they have repeatedly rejected his offers.

The logjam has prompted squabbles between the UK and Ecuadorian governments, each of which has accused the other of blocking progress on the case. Ecuador's acting Foreign Minister Xavier Lasso in August rejected a formal complaint from the UK's Foreign Office over the legal gridlock, stating, "The republic of Ecuador will not take lessons from any foreign government, least of all those that are unaware of the institution of political asylum, its legitimacy, attached and enshrined in international law, and its humanitarian nature based on the sovereign equality of nations."

"The British government has the sole responsibility for such an invasive and unnecessary police deployment," Lasso said.

[www.commondreams.org/news/2015/10/12/after-nearly-20-million-spent-watching-assange-scotland-yard-ends-24-hour-guard](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/10/12/after-nearly-20-million-spent-watching-assange-scotland-yard-ends-24-hour-guard)

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## **Ingen fri lejd för Assange— får inte gå till läkare**

*TT/SVT*

*15 oktober 2015*

Ecuador anklagar den brittiska regeringen för att neka Julian Assange grundläggande mänskliga rättigheter, eftersom han inte får fri lejd för medicinsk vård.

Wikileaksgrundaren tog för över tre år sedan sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London, för att undgå att gripas och utlämnas till Sverige där han är misstänkt för sexbrott.

I tre månader har Assange plågats av djupa smärtor i en skuldra, och skulle behöva genomgå magnetröntgen, enligt Ecuadors utrikesminister Ricardo Patino. Han säger att den brittiska regeringen har avvisat en begäran om garantier för att Assange inte grips i samband med läkarbesöket.

Londonpolisen meddelade nyligen att bevakningen av ambassaden har dragits in, men att försöken att gripa Assange kommer att fortsätta.

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## **Vanligt med förhör av misstänkta utomlands**

*Journalisten*  
9 november 2015

Svenska åklagare har under flera år vägrat att förhöra den våldtäktsmisstänkte Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange i Storbritannien. Myndigheten har hävdat att det är "mycket ovanligt att svenska åklagare förhör misstänkta utomlands". Journalisten kan i dag visa att den uppgiften är felaktig.

Journalisten berättade i augusti att totalt 44 andra personer förhörts av svenska åklagare i Storbritannien mellan den 18 november 2010 och den 31 mars 2015.

Under samma tidsperiod var Julian Assange brottsmisstänkt och befann sig i Storbritannien, men svenska åklagare begärde under den perioden ingen handräckning från den brittiska staten för att kunna genomföra ett förhör med honom i Storbritannien.

Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på Åklagarmyndigheten, sade då till Journalisten att siffrorna var missvisande.

"Det är mycket ovanligt att svenska åklagare förhör misstänkta utomlands. Däremot är det inte ovanligt att vittnen förhörs utomlands. Jag undrar om uppgifterna i artikeln möjligen kan komma från Storbritannien. Det låter inte osannolikt att man där registrerar samtliga begäran om rättslig hjälp som avser förhör", sade Karin Rosander till Journalisten.

Men dokumentationen som Journalisten nu har fått tillgång till visar att det inte alls är så ovanligt att svenska åklagare genomför förhör med misstänkta i Storbritannien.

**Av de 44 förhören genomfördes 16 med misstänkta personer och 28 med vittnen. Ungefär var tredje månad åkte en svensk åklagare till Storbritannien för att förhöra en person som var misstänkt för brott under perioden.**

Det framgår av uppgifter Journalisten begärt ut från brittiska inrikesministeriet.

Journalisten har sökt Åklagarmyndigheten för en kommentar.

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PRESS RELEASE

Justice for Assange

October 15, 2015

Contact: Trevor FitzGibbon, [trevor@fitzgibbonmedia.com](mailto:trevor@fitzgibbonmedia.com), 202.406.0646

## **UK refuses Julian Assange hospital visit for MRI and diagnosis**

LONDON— In a press conference today, Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino read out a letter from Assange's UK doctor who conducted a medical examination in August. The letter says that he is in constant and severe pain, which is growing worse and has been present since June 2015. The doctor stated that an MRI scan needs to be performed. This can only be carried out in a hospital.

Dr. Wood's letter dated 14 August 2015 states: "He has been suffering with a constant pain to the right shoulder region for the past three months [since June 2015]. There is no history of acute injury to the area.... I examined him and all movements of his shoulder (abduction, internal rotation and external rotation) are limited due to pain. I am unable to elicit the exact cause of his symptoms without the benefit of further diagnostic tests, [including] MRI."

The cause is unknown. There was no fall or injury. The source of the medical condition can only be diagnosed with hospital equipment that cannot be brought into the embassy due to size and weight.

Ecuador wrote to the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on 30 September 2015 to request that Mr. Assange be permitted to go to the hospital under conditions agreed upon by UK and Ecuador ("they can guard the car with 10.000 police officers if they wish"). The safe passage would be for a few hours in order to allow Mr. Assange to be able to have medical tests undertaken and in order to diagnose the cause.

The UK FCO replied on 12 October that it would not permit the safe passage to the hospital for purposes of medical tests.

Assange's US lawyer Carey Shenkman said: "By claiming that Mr. Assange must give up his asylum in order to receive medical treatment, the UK government is forcing him to choose between the human right to asylum and the human right to medical treatment. No one should ever have to face that choice.

Sweden and the United Kingdom have the responsibility to ensure that Assange's basic rights are respected. They should agree without further delay to permit Mr. Assange's safe passage to a hospital on humanitarian grounds."

The Foreign Minister said that even in times of war and conflict, safe passage are given for humanitarian reasons to ensure that persons are given the medical attention they need.

For three years both the UK and Swedish governments have failed to grant Mr. Assange safe passage or a guarantee of no onward extradition to the United States. For three years Mr. Assange has been denied liberty, adequate medical treatment, and access to sunlight. Three years is longer than any sentence Mr. Assange would serve in Sweden if he were actually charged and tried in Sweden; to date, he has never been charged.

<https://ccrjustice.org/home/press-center/press-releases/after-uk-asylum-protest-wikileaks-attorneys-urge-uk-honor-vienna>

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## **Lifting the 24 Hour Siege: Julian Assange, London's Metropolitan Police and Continued Detention**

*Binoy Kampmark  
Global Research  
October 15, 2015*

While things tend to get murky, sometimes by design, regarding the police presence outside the Ecuadorean embassy in London, the announcement that the city's Metropolitan Police would be lifting their twenty-four hour surveillance did surprise some.

This was hardly to suggest that the police forces had lost interest in capturing Julian Assange. What mattered here was that the costs in guarding Assange from a literal flight of fancy had simply become disproportionate, requiring a change of tact. Over £12m in costs had been incurred since he skipped bail to avoid his Swedish sojourn, and irrespective of which side of the Assange side one was on, anger was mounting at a very conspicuously bloated project.

The statement from the Metropolitan Police was cool in its language. "Like all public services, MPS resources are finite. With so many different criminal, and other, threats to the city it protects, the current deployment of officers is no longer believed proportionate" (The Guardian, Oct 12).

The siege, according to WikiLeaks spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson, had not been lifted so much as reconstituted. "My interpretation is that it has not been lifted. They are calling off the uniformed presence but escalating the covert operation and will arrest him if he steps outside off the embassy." **Costs, in other words, were going to be moved off the books to un-uniformed personnel.**

Indeed, the MPS was even good enough to concede that it had used a range of measures against Assange during its extensive vigil, and would continue to do so. "The MPS will not discuss what form its continuing operation will take or the resourcing implications surrounding it. Whilst no tactics guarantee success in the event of Julian Assange leaving the embassy, the MPS will deploy a number of overt and covert tactics to arrest him."

Having been granted political asylum for fears that he might be carted off to the US via Sweden to face the findings of an empanelled grand jury, he remains confined to the cramped quarters of the embassy. Nor can he rely on new laws in the form of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that make an “accusation”— in this case, claims of sexual assault on two Swedish nationals in Sweden— insufficient to require extradition. As the laws were passed after the fact, precisely motivated by the Assange imbroglio, the foreign and commonwealth office has deemed it inapplicable retrospectively. **Assange, as ever, continues to be the legal exception, a singular target of juridical manipulation.**

In the meantime, the UN working group on arbitrary detention (WGAD) has been considering Assange’s case, and it likely to find in his favour given its previous rulings of a deprivation of liberty when a person is forced to choose between confinement or the forfeiture of a fundamental right such as asylum.[1]

It is also a principle that holds for the European Court of Human Rights and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The latter defines detention as confinement “within a narrowly bounded or restricted location, including prisons, closed camps, detention facilities or airport transit zones, where freedom of movement is substantially curtailed, and where the only opportunity to leave this limited area is to leave the territory.”

Assange’s written submission to the WGAD outlined the various grievances he has had with his period of confinement. “For the last 816 days, he has been confined to the Embassy of Ecuador in London, in an area of 30m2, he has no access to fresh air or sunlight, his communications are restricted and often interfered with, he does not have access to adequate medical facilities, he is subjected to continuous and pervasive form of round the clock surveillance, and he resides in a constant state of legal and procedural insecurity.”[2]

Such insecurity was again compounded by the FCO response to a request made by Assange on September 30 to be allowed safe passage from the embassy to a nearby hospital to examine his shoulder. Ecuador’s foreign ministry also got on the case. Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño had told state TV that Britain should allow Assange to “benefit from the right of asylum that we have granted him, as should be done in a respectful international relationship” (Andes, Oct 14).

The response hedged more than clarified: by all means Assange was free to leave the premises, but no guarantees about safe passage would be offered. “There is no question that the British authorities would in any way seek to impede Mr Assange receiving medical advice or care. We have this clear to the govt of Ecuador.” What the police did, however, was another matter.

Little wonder, then, that embassy officials have considered various ways of breaking the impasse, considering everything from concealing him in fancy dress, enabling him to move across Kensington rooftops to a helipad, or getting lost in the shopping crowds of Harrods.[3] These, at the very least, provide some mirth in the otherwise serious efforts to nab this bushranger of the information age.

- Dr. Binoy Kampmark was a Commonwealth Scholar at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He lectures at RMIT University, Melbourne. Email: bkampmark@gmail.com

## Notes

[1] *Abdi v United Kingdom* [2013] Application no. 27770/08, paras. 55-75; *Mikolenko v Estonia* [2009] Application no. 10664/05.

[2] Submission to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention by Mr. Julian Assange, available at: <https://justice4assange.com/IMG/pdf/assange-wgad.pdf>

[3] Focus Educador, "Assange espiado por la inteligencia de Ecuador," 17 Aug. 2015, <http://focusecuador.net/2015/08/17/assange-espiado-por-la-inteligencia-de-ecuador/>



*Telesur*, 2015-10-16

## Five years confined: New Foia documents shed light on the Julian Assange case

*The role of the Crown Prosecution Service lawyers in advising the Swedish prosecutors, their comments on the extradition case as not being handled as just another extradition request, the questioning in the embassy that never took place. Files obtained by l'Espresso under the Freedom of Information Act provide a five-year account of the Swedish case against the WikiLeaks founder*

*L'Espresso*  
19 October 2015

The Scotland Yard agents encircling the embassy and guarding Julian Assange night and day have been removed. But the police siege which is estimated to have cost 12 million pounds over the last three years is far from over, as the Metropolitan police admits in its press release: Scotland Yard «will make every effort to arrest him», deploying «a number of overt and covert tactics».

He has been confined in the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightsbridge since June 19th, 2012. Next December 7th will mark five years since the founder of WikiLeaks lost his freedom, ending up first under house arrest and then confined in the embassy in a roughly 20 square-meter room. «Despite the efforts of many people», wrote Scotland Yard last week, «there is no imminent prospect of a diplomatic or legal resolution to this issue». A clear admission that the judiciary case against Julian Assange has become a legal and diplomatic quagmire.

*L'Espresso* has filed two comprehensive Freedom of Information Act (Foia) requests in Sweden and Britain to access the Assange file and reconstruct the case. We have requested documents from the Swedish Prosecution Authority in Stockholm— which has been conducting a criminal investigation for the last five years on Assange, still in its preliminary phase— and from the "Crown Prosecution Service" in London, the principal prosecuting authority for England and Wales, which has provided support to the Swedish Prosecution Authority on the Assange case. **While the British have rejected all of our Foia requests, the Swedish released 226 pages of documents to l'Espresso.**

Whether these pages represent a major portion of the Assange file or only a small set of documents is hard to say. To our request on the exact number of pages held by the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish replied that it was impossible to say, as many documents only exist as individual electronic documents, requiring too many resources to count all the pages. Instead the Crown Prosecution Service replied that the task was not possible for the opposite reason: the information is voluminous and mostly held in paper format, hence ascertaining the exact number of pages would be too time-consuming and expensive.

**The files obtained under Foia reveal that from the very beginning, the "Crown Prosecution Service" in London advised the Swedish prosecutors against the investigative strategy that could have led to a quick closure of the preliminary investigation: questioning Assange in London — as he has requested on many**

occasions— rather than extraditing him to Stockholm, as the Swedish prosecutors have always tried to do.

In January 2011, not even two months after Julian Assange had been arrested in London, **a lawyer at the Crown Prosecution Service, Mr. Paul Close, strongly advised the Swedish magistrates against questioning the WikiLeaks' founder in London.**

According to Close, the appropriate strategy was to interview him «only on his surrender to Sweden and in accordance with Swedish law». Writing to the Swedish prosecutors, Mr. Close sustains that «it is simply amazing how much work this case is generating. It sometimes seems like an industry. It is certainly non stop. Please do not think that the case is being dealt with as just another extradition request».

The documents also reveal that in April 2015— a month after Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny had changed her mind and finally agreed, after almost five years of legal paralysis, to question Assange in London at the Ecuadorian embassy— WikiLeaks' founder promptly agreed to the questioning and to providing a DNA sample. The questioning was supposed to take place in London the 17th and 18th of June, as agreed upon by the parties, but the Swedish contacted the Ecuadorian authorities for permission and assistance only at the last minute, so the questioning, awaited by Assange and the Swedish prosecutors for years, was ultimately aborted.

### **Five months that shook the world**

It all began in August 2010, less than a month after WikiLeaks had published the US secret documents on the Afghan War, infuriating the Pentagon and the US government. On August 20, 2010 the Swedish prosecutors opened an investigation on Julian Assange, requesting his arrest for the suspected rape and sexual molestation of two Swedish women. The case immediately collapsed, however: the Swedish prosecutor, Eva Finne, revoked the arrest and terminated the preliminary investigation on rape, whilst preserving the investigation on sexual molestation. Assange was questioned by the Swedish police about this episode the 31st of August. The next day a different prosecutor, Marianne Ny, reopened the rape investigation after Mr. Claes Borgström, the lawyer for the two women, asked Marianne Ny to review the case.

On September 27, Assange flew for Berlin to meet, among other journalists, *l'Espresso*. Two weeks before Assange left Sweden, his Swedish lawyer at that time, Björn Hurtig, had asked Marianne Ny whether there were any problems with Assange leaving Sweden. **«By telephone», writes Ny in a document handed over to *l'Espresso*, «Mr. Hurtig was informed that there were some investigative measures still outstanding before a new interview with Julian Assange would be relevant and that there was no arrest warrant issued for him».**

Since there was no hindrance, Assange left Sweden, flying to Berlin where he met *l'Espresso* the 27th of September, late in the evening. When he arrived at our appointment, he explained that his luggage had been lost in the direct flight from Stockholm: only his shoulder bag containing his laptop was left. As a matter of fact, he arrived at our appointment with only the shoulder bag, laptop and a clear plastic bag containing a t-shirt, a toothbrush, and some small bottles of soap, as *l'Espresso* immediately reported in an article. It was that 27th September that the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny ordered the arrest of Julian Assange in absentia.



The preliminary investigation conducted by Marianne Ny focused on three alleged crimes: rape (less serious crime), unlawful coercion and sexual molestation. In the documents released to *l'Espresso*, Ny reconstructs the difficulties in interviewing Assange in 2010, when in five short months Assange and his organization were publishing a deluge of secret US documents never seen before. While Ny reconstructs these difficulties, Björn Hurtig reminds prosecutor Ny that he had suggested various dates for the questioning of his client: «Neither the times we had then suggested nor another occasion suggested were acceptable to you; on some occasions, our proposed times were too far in the future (a few weeks time); another occasion, one of your investigator was ill», Hurtig writes, **adding that it seems «strange that a hearing could not take place because an investigator was ill».**

Marianne Ny forges ahead, ordering the detention of Julian Assange: «this measure is taken as it has been impossible to interview him during the investigation», writes the Swedish Prosecution Authority in its website. To execute the detention, Ny issues a European arrest warrant for Assange and on December 1st, 2010, an Interpol red notice makes him wanted all around the world. Six days later, Assange turns himself over to the police while in London, where he had just started publishing 251.287 cables of the US diplomacy in collaboration with the *Guardian* and with a team of international media. A few days after his arrest, Assange is granted bail, sent to Ellingham Hall under house arrest with an electronic bracelet tracking his every move. Since 2010, Julian Assange has always opposed the extradition to Sweden requested by Marianne Ny to perform an interview with him. Ny has always insisted that questioning him in the embassy «would lower the quality of the interview», whereas Assange has always fought extradition to Sweden, convinced that it paves the way to extradition to the US, where there is an ongoing investigation on the publication of the US secret documents by WikiLeaks.

### **A special extradition?**

To put on paper that the extradition case of Julian Assange is not an ordinary extradition is a lawyer at the Crown Prosecution Service in London: Mr. Paul Close. In an email to the Swedish prosecutors dated 13 January 2011, Close writes: «It is simply amazing how much work this case is generating. It sometimes seems like an industry. It is certainly no stop. Please do not think that the case is being dealt with as just another extradition request». What makes the Assange case special? Mr. Close does not explain this. However, in his email exchange with the Swedish, he seems pleased that two days earlier, the 11th of January 2011, the extradition hearing at the Belmarsh Magistrates' Court was not exactly an exciting event for journalists: «It was all rather boring and technical, which of course is precisely what I wanted to happen».

Two weeks after these comments, January 25th 2011, Paul Close is even more straightforward with the Swedish prosecutors: «My earlier advice remains, that in my view it would not be prudent for the Swedish authorities to try to interview the defendant in the UK». «Any attempt to interview him under strict Swedish law», Close continues, «would invariably be fraught with problems». He therefore concludes: «Thus I suggest you interview him only on his surrender to Sweden and in accordance with the Swedish law. As we have discussed your prosecution is well based on the existing evidence and is sufficient to proceed to trial, which is the prosecution's

intention». The following couple of paragraphs of this email were censored and not released under the Foia.

Two things are interesting in this email exchange between the Crown Prosecution Service' lawyer and the Swedish prosecutors: Paul Close uses the word "defendant" in referring to Assange, a term which under English law indicates an individual who has already been charged with a crime, whereas in January 2011 the WikiLeaks' founder had not been charged, nor has he been charged with a crime in the last five years. In addition, Close claims that the Swedish prosecutors already intended to bring Julian Assange to trial, even before any questioning had taken place. It should be noted that just six days before this email, Marianne Ny had sent a letter to Mr. Paul Close explaining: «According to the Swedish law, a decision to prosecute may not be taken at the stage that the preliminary investigation is currently at. The decision concerning prosecution, i.e. legal proceedings, may not be made until the preliminary investigation has been concluded».

*L'Espresso* filed a comprehensive Foia request to the Crown Prosecution Service asking for access to the entire Assange file, including the full correspondence, if any, with the US Department of Justice and with the US State Department. Our Foia has been rejected in full. To our request to acquire any correspondence with the US authorities, the Crown Prosecution Service replied: «we neither confirm nor deny whether we hold any relevant information». Whereas the Swedish Prosecution Authority and the Swedish Ministry of Justice replied that «there has been no correspondence between Sweden and the US regarding the Assange case». *[But there almost certainly have been discussions. --A.B.]*

### **A diplomatic impasse that joins a judicial paralysis**

From 2010 until March 2015, the Swedish investigation remained at a standstill: Stockholm prosecutors have always insisted on extradition as the only solution to question Assange and decide whether or not to charge him once and for all. Assange has always opposed extradition tooth and nail, fighting it in the UK and Swedish courts without success. When, in June 2012, he exhausted all his legal options to resist extradition, he took refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, Knightsbridge, where Ecuador granted him political asylum, as the Ecuadorian authorities judged that the risk of Assange being extradited to the US and prosecuted for his journalistic work is well-founded.

Since June 19, 2012, Assange is confined to the embassy in precarious conditions: he has no access to a garden or even to a small courtyard where he could enjoy a breath of fresh air and sunlight, so indispensable for his health. This turn of events has added a diplomatic impasse to the judicial paralysis, as the British authorities have always declared that under no conditions will they offer a safe passage to allow the WikiLeaks' founder to leave the embassy and enjoy asylum. Last week, Assange's lawyers and the Ecuadorian authorities denounced that the British are denying him safe passage to a hospital for an MRI scan to diagnose the causes of severe pain. As for Sweden, it has always rejected the idea that Assange took refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy because the risk of extradition to the US is real: Sweden considers his confinement in the embassy as a merely voluntary choice, which he could reverse any time.

This diplomatic impasse seems as intractable as the judicial paralysis. In November 2012, as revealed by a document released to *l'Espresso* under Foia, a British diplomat tried to meet Marianne Ny. «I have no idea why the Brit Vice-Ambassador wants to meet with you," writes the Crown Prosecution Service's lawyer, Paul Close, to Marianne Ny, who apparently had asked him about the diplomat: «I can but assume that as you mix in those social circles it is hardly surprising!».

### The very long-awaited questioning

Only in March 2015, the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny agreed to question Assange in London, at the Ecuadorian embassy. What made Ny suddenly change her mind after almost five years? According to the Swedish Prosecution Authority, two facts made Ny accept this possibility: the incumbent statute of limitations for two of the alleged crimes— sexual molestation and unlawful coercion, due to expire in August 2015— and the fact that in November 2014, the Stockholm Court of Appeal, while rejecting Assange's request to lift the arrest warrant, had criticized Marianne Ny for lack of progress in the criminal case, issuing a clear press release: «The Court of Appeal notes, however, that the investigation into the suspected crimes has come to a halt and considers that the failure of the prosecutors to examine alternative avenues is not in line with their obligation— in the interests of everyone concerned— to move the preliminary investigation forward».

Asked by the Swedish prosecutors whether he consented to questioning in the embassy on the 16th of April 2015, Julian Assange confirms, through his current Swedish lawyers, Thomas Olsson and Per Samuelsson, that he agreed to be questioned in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London and to provide a DNA sample.

**The parties agree that the questioning and the acquisition of DNA should take place the 17th and 18th of June. However, the documents released to us under Foia reveal that the Swedish authorities contacted the Ecuadorian ambassador in London, Juan Falconi Puig, at the very last minute to ask him for permission and assistance. The 12th of June, Marianne Ny realized that the Ecuadorian ambassador has not yet received «any communication from the Swedish authorities».**

As a matter of fact, the long waited interrogation aborted. Assange's lawyer, Per Samuelsson, explains to *l'Espresso* what he thinks made the questioning collapse: «One prosecutor travelled to London together with a police-officer. When they were in London Marianne Ny, their boss, cancelled the whole thing due to the fact that Sweden had not gotten the permission from Ecuador. Sweden applied way too late». The documents obtained by *l'Espresso* confirm that the Swedish investigative team sent to London did not get access to the embassy because the Ecuadorian authorities had been contacted by Sweden too late. «I am sure you are informed that a diplomatic procedure has to be followed. At this point I have to inform you that I am being transferred to a new post as Ambassador», Juan Falconi writes to Ny the 19th of June, adding: «Therefore, as from July this affair will be handled by the new Ambassador, Mr. Carlos Abad Ortiz».

Last August, Marianne Ny discontinued the investigation on ~~two~~ [three --A.B.] of the alleged crimes: unlawful coercion and sexual molestation due to statute of limitations. On that occasion, the Swedish prosecutor declared: «Julian Assange, on his own accord, has evaded prosecution by seeking refuge in the Embassy of Ecuador», and

adding: «Since the autumn of 2010, I have tried to gain permission to interview Julian Assange, but he has consistently refused to appear. When the statute of limitation approached, we chose to attempt to interview him in London. A request to interview him on the premises of the Embassy of Ecuador was submitted in the beginning of June, but a permission has yet to be received». **No mention at all of the Swedish authorities' tardiness in contacting Ecuador.**

With the statute of limitations, both the two Swedish women and Julian Assange lost any opportunity to obtain justice for ~~two of the three~~ [three of the four --A.B.] alleged crimes under investigation since 2010. Under Swedish law, a person under investigation cannot oppose the statute of limitations, as the Swedish Prosecution Authority confirmed to l'Espresso. So the WikiLeaks' founder cannot reject the statute of limitations in an attempt to prove his innocence and clear his name. The Swedish preliminary investigation on Julian Assange is proceeding with respect to what Swedish law considers the less serious category of rape: Assange allegedly had unprotected sex with one of the two Swedish women while she was asleep. Apparently, they had had sexual intercourse before that episode and she had expressed wish that a condom be used. The statute of limitations for this alleged crime will expire in August 2020. Will Assange ever be questioned?

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## **Julian Assange lawyers may launch new appeal against extradition in light of CPS emails**

*Team for Wikileaks founder says correspondence shows prosecutors 'more interested in winning the case than finding the truth'*

*David Crouch and Esther Addley  
The Guardian  
19 October 2015*

Lawyers for Julian Assange say they are considering launching a fresh appeal against his Swedish arrest warrant, following the publication of correspondence between prosecutors in Britain and Sweden.

The Wikileaks founder's legal team say the documents show Britain's Crown Prosecution Service and Marianne Ny, the prosecutor in Sweden seeking Assange's extradition, were "more interested in winning the case [against him] than finding the truth" following Assange's arrest in 2010.

Sweden sought Assange's extradition following allegations of rape and sexual assault against two women in Stockholm in August 2010. He sought asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy in London in June 2012, after losing his appeal against extradition. The statute of limitations on several of the alleged crimes has since expired, leaving only one allegation outstanding. Assange denies the accusations and has not been charged.

The correspondence was among a number of documents obtained by the Italian newspaper *L'Espresso* following freedom of information requests in Sweden. In one email, dated 25 January 2011, a CPS lawyer called Paul Close writes to Ny's office

repeating his advice that “in my view it would not be prudent” for Swedish prosecutors to question Assange in the UK over the accusations, rather than insisting on his extradition to Sweden.

**“Even if the defendant was to consent to such an interview on a mutually agreed basis, the defence would without any doubt seek to turn the event to its advantage,” he writes.**

**“It would inevitably allege it was conclusive proof that the Swedish authorities had no case whatsoever against him, and hence the interview was in the hope he would make a full and frank confession... Thus I suggest you interview him only on his surrender to Sweden and in accordance with Swedish law.”**

In another email dated 13 January, Close had assured Ny and a colleague, Ola Lofgren, “please do not think that the case is being dealt with just as another extradition request”.

Per Samuelsson, who represents Assange in Sweden, told the Guardian he believed the emails were a “significant development”, because they were “an apparent **example of a prosecutor giving another prosecutor advice in order to diminish the rights of the defendant**”.

He said they exposed what he argued was Sweden’s true motivation in refusing to interview Assange in the UK at that stage.

**“The official explanation was that the quality of the interrogation would be too poor,” he said. “We never believed in that, and consistently questioned it. Now we suspect ... the true reason was they were afraid to interrogate Assange was because it would give him a platform to defend himself.”**

He said they were considering whether to ask for Ny to be replaced as prosecutor.

A spokeswoman for Ny said she was on holiday and her deputy, Ingrid Isgren, had “no information” on the case before 2013. *[A preposterous assertion. ---A.B.]*

But a CPS spokesman said that, when the advice was given in 2011, “we were following due process and advice was being given to facilitate that request. We could not have anticipated later developments, and in particular that Mr Assange would fail to surrender when the courts ordered his extradition to Sweden.”

He said it was “entirely proper that the CPS, when acting for requesting authorities, advise them on all relevant aspects of their extradition request, which can include judicial cooperation.”

Asked what Close had meant when he wrote that this was not “just another extradition case”, the spokesman said some of its cases “stand out because of the nature of the offence, the identity of the requested person, or the complexity of the case, for example. These cases may require greater resources in terms of time and expertise.”

Assange has still not been questioned over the allegations. Ny attempted to interrogate him in the embassy in June, but Ecuador said it could not facilitate the visit because it had not been notified in time, and because it required a bilateral agreement to be in place between the two countries.

After a long period of stalemate, the two countries' judicial authorities are now in discussions over the arrangements by which they could agree access to the embassy for Swedish prosecutors.

In August the Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said the government was "frustrated that the interview has not yet taken place. This remains a deeply unsatisfactory and costly situation." A spokesman for the Foreign Office said Swire had been referring to the circumstances after Assange entered the embassy, rather than to the period covered by the emails.

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### **Game for privacy is gone, mass surveillance is here to stay — Assange on #RT10 panel**

*RT*

*11 Dec, 2015*

Humanity has lost its battle for privacy and must now learn to live in a world where mass surveillance is becoming cheaper for governments to implement, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said during a panel dedicated to RT's 10th anniversary.

Assange addressed the panel on security and surveillance hosted by RT in central Moscow on Thursday via video conference from the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he has remained holed up for the last three years in order to avoid extradition to Sweden.

When offered a chance to comment on the session's topic— "Security or Surveillance: Can the right to privacy and effective anti-terror security coexist in the digital age?"— the whistleblower asked the moderator, and host of The Big Picture Show on RT American, Thom Hartmann: "How long have you got, Tom?" implying he has a lot to say on the issue.

But it was Assange's only joke during the event, as his reply turned out to be gravely serious and in many respects depressing.

"In thinking about this issue I want to take quite a different position, perhaps, from what you would expect me to have taken... I think that we should understand that the game for privacy is gone. It's gone. The mass surveillance is here to stay," he said.

**Mass surveillance is already being implemented not only by major world powers, but also by some medium and small-sized countries, he added.**

"The Five Eyes intelligence arrangement [of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US]... is so evasive in terms of mass surveillance of domestic and international

telecommunications that **while some experts can achieve practical privacy for themselves for limited number of operations... it's gone for the rest of the populations,"** the WikiLeaks founder stressed.

**International terrorists are among those "experts" capable of making their communications invisible for security agencies, he added.**

Privacy "will not be coming back, short of a very regressive economic collapse, which reduces the technological capacity of civilization," Assange said.

**"The reason it will not come back is that the cost of engaging in mass surveillance is decreasing by about 50 per cent every 18 months,** because it's the underlying cost that's predicated on the cost of telecommunications, moving surveillance intercepts around and computerization and storage— all those costs are decreasing much faster at a geometric rate than the human population is increasing," he explained.

**Mass surveillance and computerization are "winning" the competition with humanity and human values and they're "going to continue to win at an ever-increasing rate.** That's the reality that we have to deal with," the WikiLeaks whistleblower added.

**The focus should now switch from defending privacy to understanding what kind of society will be built in these new, changed conditions, he said.**

The WikiLeaks founder reminded the panel of the historic examples of East Germany and other societies, in which people adapted to living under the scrutiny of the authorities.

"If you look at societal behavior in very conformist, small, isolated societies with reduced social spaces— like Sweden, South Korea, Okinawa in Japan and North Korea— then you'll see that society adapts. *[Assange is clearly out for revenge by lumping Sweden together with these other countries. --A.B.]* Everyone becomes incredibly timid, they start to use code words; use a lot of subtext to try and sneak out your controversial views," he said.

According to Assange, the modern world is currently moving "towards that kind of a society."

**Privacy is among values "that simply are unsustainable... in the face of the reality of technological change; the reality of the deep state with a military-industrial complex and the reality of Islamic terrorism, which is legitimizing that sector in a way that it's behaving,"** he stressed.

**Assange encouraged those present on the panel as well as the general public to "get on the other side of the debate where it's going" and stop holding on to privacy.**

The panel discussion was part of an RT conference titled 'Information, messages, politics: The shape-shifting powers of today's world.' The meeting brought together politicians, foreign policy experts and media executives from across the globe, among them former director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency Michael Flynn, the Green

Party's Jill Stein and former vice president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, Willy Wimmer.

[www.rt.com/news/325524-assange-privacy-rt-10/](http://www.rt.com/news/325524-assange-privacy-rt-10/)

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## **Ecuador vill "samarbeta" om Assange**

TT/SVT

14 januari 2016

Efter Sveriges förfrågan om att förhöra Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London meddelar landets utrikesminister nu att man "kommer att samarbeta". Men att det inte är säkert att den svenska åklagaren får leda något förhör.

"Det går inte att bedöma när ett svar är att vänta", konstaterade den svenska åklagarmyndigheten i en lägesrapport på sin sajt på onsdagen. I den offentliggjordes det att en begäran om att förhöra den sexbrottsmisstänkte Wikileaksgrundaren skickats från justitiedepartementet till riksåklagarämbetet i Ecuador.

Men svaret dröjde inte.

–Vi kommer att samarbeta med det svenska rättsväsendet så att de kan få ställa frågor. Det har vi sagt från början. Men det kommer att göras utifrån ecuadoriansk lagstiftning, säger Ecuadors utrikesminister Ricardo Patiño i en intervju med nyhetssajten Ecuador Inmediato.

När alla tillstånd och arrangemang är klara ska utredningsåtgärderna genomföras av biträdande chefsåklagaren Ingrid Isgren tillsammans med en utredare från polisen, enligt åklagarmyndigheten. Men att döma av Ricardo Patiños beskrivning av den väntande proceduren är det långt från solklart att det blir så.

–Det innebär vanligtvis att de skickar frågor till Ecuadors åklagarmyndighet, och att en representant från myndigheten sedan är den som ställer frågorna. Troligen med en representant från Sverige närvarande, säger han.

Julian Assange är misstänkt för sexbrott i Sverige. Han tog sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London i augusti 2012. Ecuador och Sverige kom nyligen överens om ett avtal som ger Sverige möjlighet att förhöra honom.

**Ricardo Patiño ifrågasätter i intervjun med Ecuador Inmediato varför en förfrågan om att genomföra ett förhör dröjt så länge.**

–Det gäller att vara lite misstänksam, säger utrikesministern.

–Vi tror att det rör sig om förföljelse, och därför gav vi honom politisk asyl.



## **Julian Assange to be questioned by Swedish prosecutors in London**

*The Ecuadorean foreign minister said a request to interrogate the WikiLeaks founder would be accepted as long as Ecuador's law was respected.*

*Kevin Rawlinson  
The Guardian  
15 January 2016*

Swedish prosecutors will be allowed to question the WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, at the Ecuadorean embassy in London, the South American nation's foreign minister, Ricardo Patino, has said.

Assange has been living in the west-London building since seeking refuge in 2012 as he awaited extradition to Sweden to face prosecutors over rape allegations.

Patino told the Ecuadorean radio station Publica that the country was accepting Sweden's request to interrogate Assange "as long as the sovereignty of the Ecuadoran state and the laws in the constitution are respected", the Associated Press reported.

He suggested that Swedish authorities could provide their Ecuadoran counterparts with the questions and they could be asked in the presence of a Swedish prosecutor.

Later on Friday, Kristinn Hrafnsson, a spokesman for WikiLeaks, told the Guardian that Assange welcomed the "opportunity to deliver his statement to the prosecutor. Julian has been offering his statement to the prosecutor by various means for five years [in total] and for three-and-a-half years since he went into the embassy— whether via videolink or by the prosecutor coming to London," he said.

"Let's hope [the interview] can be carried out as soon as possible. Julian is very eager to get his point of view into the investigation."

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## **Ecuador Gives Sweden Green Light for Assange Interrogation**

*Telesur  
15 January 2016*

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño confirmed Friday that his country granted the request submitted by Swedish authorities to interrogate Julian Assange in London, which could possibly result in the dropping of any future criminal charges against him.

"Before (the Swedish authorities) file three of the possible trials, they asked to go to the Ecuadorean embassy in London in order to collect his declarations," said the state official in an interview with Radio Publica. "Julian Assange benefits from our protection for being exiled, and remains under the Ecuadorean jurisdiction."

Patiño explained that the procedure was the result of a two-month negotiation between the whistleblower and Swedish authorities.

"There is an international agreement of criminal cooperation and we have discussed this over the past two months, we had it endorsed by both parts, so now they can request an interrogation, as they have already done," he added.

For instance, the Swedish prosecutor could hand questions to their Ecuadorean counterpart, and the interrogation would be carried out with the presence of a Swedish attorney, he said.

Once Assange's declarations are collected, Swedish authorities will be able to decide whether to proceed with criminal charges against Assange or not, meaning Assange could be able to finally leave the embassy where he has been forced to stay in since June 19, 2012.

"We hope there won't be any issues with United Kingdom," added Patiño, explaining Ecuador would then ask British authorities a letter of safe-passage, so Assange could head to the airport without fearing arrest. "Supposedly (Assange) should go straight to Ecuador, where he was granted asylum."

Swedish prosecutors have not indicated yet when they plan to visit the Ecuadorean Embassy in London to question Assange. They dropped their investigation of sexual assault last August when the five-year limitation on bringing charges expired, but a rape allegation still could be brought.

Assange has denied all allegations of sexual assault and rape, claiming they are fabricated and part of a smear campaign to facilitate his extradition to the United States to face trial for WikiLeaks whistleblowing.

[www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ecuador-Gives-Sweden-Green-Light-for-Assange-Interrogation-20160115-0023.html](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ecuador-Gives-Sweden-Green-Light-for-Assange-Interrogation-20160115-0023.html)

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## **Ecuador: Someone Must Pay for Assange's Suffering**

*Telesur*  
20 January 2016

Someone must pick up the tab for Julian Assange's asylum in Ecuador's U.K. Embassy, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa told the international media in Quito, Wednesday.

The president informed the media that Assange will be questioned by Sweden in coming days.

Telesur's Pablo Vivanco, reporting from the event, said that Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patiño said that now that Sweden has accepted Ecuador's long-standing offer to question him in the embassy, it must swiftly move toward a legal process of whether to try or free him.

Patiño also reiterated to journalists that Assange's case could have been resolved sooner had the Swedish authorities accepted the offer of questioning earlier and if it has processed the necessary paperwork more swiftly. The foreign minister reiterated Ecuador's respect for the Swedish legal system.

Assange, who has been holed up in Ecuador's London Embassy for over three years after appealing for asylum, is wanted for questioning by Sweden. Ecuador granted him asylum due to Assange's fears he would be extradited to the United States to spend up to 45 years in prison after his website, WikiLeaks, leaked classified documents.

[www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ecuador-Someone-Must-Pay-for-Assanges-Suffering-20160120-0014.html](http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Ecuador-Someone-Must-Pay-for-Assanges-Suffering-20160120-0014.html)

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## Justice will prevail...

*Justice for Assange*  
4 February 2016

On Friday 5 February 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) will publicly announce its decision in the case of Assange v UK & Sweden. If it finds that the detention is unlawful, the WGAD will order that he be released immediately and compensated.

WHAT IS THE UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION (WGAD)?  
Under the authority of the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, the WGAD was established in 1991 to investigate and adjudicate whether states are in compliance with their international human rights obligations. It receives submissions from the individual complainant and the respondents (the states), and decides whether the case amounts to arbitrary (that is to say unlawful, or prohibited) detention. **The European Court of Human Rights draws on judgments of the WGAD** in cases concerning deprivation of liberty (violations against Article 5).

WHAT IS THE DECISION ABOUT?  
The WGAD decides, according to pre-defined criteria:  
Whether a person is 'detained'  
Whether that detention is 'arbitrary' (unlawful).

IF THE WGAD FINDS IN FAVOUR OF JULIAN ASSANGE — WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?  
If the WGAD finds in Julian Assange's favour, it will declare that Julian Assange is arbitrarily detained. In this case the UK and Sweden must immediately release and compensate him.

WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD ABOUT THIS BEFORE?  
The UN encourages the adjudicators to carry out its task with "discretion, objectivity and independence" until it reaches a conclusion. The defendants (Sweden and UK) submitted their defences on a confidential basis.

#### WHAT TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW DIRECT WGAD INVESTIGATIONS?

The international laws looked to by the WGAD include:

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the most universally-ratified human rights treaty;

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners;

The UN Declaration on Human Rights;

The European Convention on Human Rights.

#### WHICH OTHER IMPORTANT CASES HAS THE UN WGAD DECIDED?

Against Myanmar: WGAD found that Aung San Suu Kyi (2007) had been arbitrarily detained while under house arrest. The regime released her in 2010. Last year her party won 86% of the vote in democratic elections.

Iran: (December 2015) for arbitrarily imprisoning Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian. Iran released him on 16 January 2016.

Maldives (October 2015) for illegally imprisoning former pro-democracy president Mohamed Nasheed, who was promptly released. On 23 January 2016 Nasheed visited 10 Downing Street with his lawyers Amal Clooney and Ben Emerson QC.

Malaysia: for the arbitrary imprisonment of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in a politically motivated sodomy case.

Egypt (April 2014) for arbitrarily imprisoning former president Mohamed Morsi, deposed by current President al-Sisi. He has not been released.

#### WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE WGAD?

Sètondji Adjovi (Benin, Second Vice-Chair) Adjovi, an academic and practitioner specialising in international criminal procedure and judicial reform, worked at the International Criminal Court and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda before his appointment to the UN WGAD.

Mads Andenas (Norway, Chair and member until mid-2015) Chair of UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention until mid-2015. Has previously held positions as Director of the Centre of European Law at King's College, University of London and Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, London.

Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Oslo.

Mr. José Guevara (Mexico, First Vice-Chair) Guevara is a legal academic and practitioner who focuses on Human Rights Protection and International Criminal Law. Prior to joining the WGAD, worked in the NGO sector, Mexico City's Ombudsman's office and in government in the area of human rights. Guevara is the recipient of the Open Society Foundation's New Executives Fund leading the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights.

Seong-Phil Hong (Chair-Rapporteur, Republic of Korea) An expert member of the Asian Council of Jurists of the Asia Pacific Forum and legal academic, Seong-Phil Hong has specialised in the case for reparations regarding Japan's Enforced Sex Slavery during the Second World War and accountability for human rights violations by the North Korean regime.

Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) A legal academic and practitioner whose expertise lies in international criminal justice and procedure. Tochilovsky was part of the Preparatory Committee and Commission that drafted the guidelines on criminal procedure for the International Criminal Court.

Leigh Toomey (Australia) An expert in the UN Human Rights system, Toomey has taught at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and has served as a UN human rights expert both in the capacity as an NGO representative

and as a representative for Australia at the UN General Assembly and Commission for Human Rights.

WHO SUBMITTED THE COMPLAINT ON JULIAN ASSANGE'S BEHALF?

On behalf of Julian Assange's international legal team:

Baltasar Garzon (ILOCAD SL, Spain)

John Jones, QC (Doughty Street Chambers, UK)

Melinda Taylor (External Defence Counsel, ICC, The Hague)

<https://justice4assange.com/UN-Working-Group-on-Arbitrary.html>

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## Freeing Julian Assange: The Last Chapter

*John Pilger*

*February 4, 2016*

Assange is now closer to justice and vindication, and perhaps freedom, than at any time since he was arrested.

One of the epic miscarriages of justice of our time is unravelling. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention — an international tribunal that adjudicates and decides whether governments comply with their human rights obligations — has ruled that Julian Assange has been detained unlawfully by Britain and Sweden.

After five years of fighting to clear his name — having been smeared relentlessly yet charged with no crime — Assange is closer to justice and vindication, and perhaps freedom, than at any time since he was arrested and held in London under a European Extradition Warrant, itself now discredited by Parliament.

The U.N. Working Group bases its judgements on the European Convention on Human Rights and three other treaties that are binding on all its signatories. Both Britain and Sweden participated in the 16-month long U.N. investigation and submitted evidence and defended their position before the tribunal. It would fly contemptuously in the face of international law if they did not comply with the judgement and allow Assange to leave the refuge granted him by the Ecuadorean government in its London embassy.

**Previous celebrated cases ruled upon by the Working Group include: Aung Sang Suu Kyi in Burma, imprisoned opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia, detained *Washington Post* journalist Jason Rezaian in Iran, for which both Britain and Sweden have given support to the tribunal.** The difference now is that Assange's persecution and confinement endures in the heart of London.

The Assange case has never been primarily about allegations of sexual misconduct in Sweden — where the Stockholm Chief Prosecutor, Eva Finne, dismissed the case, saying, "I don't believe there is any reason to suspect that he has committed rape." Also, one of the women involved accused the police of fabricating evidence and "railroading"

her, protested that she "did not want to accuse JA of anything." And a second prosecutor mysteriously re-opened the case after political intervention, then stalled it.

The Assange case is rooted across the Atlantic in Pentagon-dominated Washington, obsessed with pursuing and prosecuting whistleblowers, especially Assange for having exposed, in WikiLeaks, U.S. capital crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq: the wholesale killing of civilians and a contempt for sovereignty and international law. None of this truth-telling is illegal under the U.S. Constitution. As a presidential candidate in 2008, Barack Obama, a professor of constitutional law, lauded whistleblowers as "part of a healthy democracy [and they] must be protected from reprisal."

Obama, the betrayer, has since prosecuted more whistleblowers than all the US presidents combined. The courageous Chelsea Manning is serving 35 years in prison, having been tortured during her long pre-trial detention.

Telling us this truth alone earns Assange his freedom, whereas justice is his right.

The prospect of a similar fate has hung over Assange like a Damocles sword. According to documents released by Edward Snowden, Assange is on a "Manhunt target list." Vice President Joe Biden has called him a "cyber terrorist." In Alexandria, Virginia, a secret grand jury has attempted to concoct a crime for which Assange can be prosecuted in a court. Even though he is not an American, he is currently being fitted up with an espionage law dredged up from a century ago when it was used to silence conscientious objectors during World War I; the Espionage Act has provisions of both life imprisonment and the death penalty.

Assange's ability to defend himself in this Kafkaesque world has been handicapped by the U.S. declaring his case a state secret. A federal court has blocked the release of all information about what is known as the "national security" investigation of WikiLeaks.

The supporting act in this charade has been played by the second Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny. Until recently, Ny had refused to comply with a routine European procedure that required her to travel to London to question Assange and so advance the case that James Catlin, one of Assange's barristers, called "a laughing stock .. it's as if they make it up as they go along."

Indeed, even before Assange had left Sweden for London in 2010, Ny made no attempt to question him. In the years since, she has never properly explained, even to her own judicial authorities, why she has not completed the case she so enthusiastically re-ignited — just as she has never explained why she has refused to give Assange a guarantee that he will not be extradited on to the U.S. under a secret arrangement agreed between Stockholm and Washington. In 2010, the Independent in London revealed that the two governments had discussed Assange's potential extradition.

Then there is tiny, brave Ecuador.

One of the reasons Ecuador granted Julian Assange political asylum was that his own government, in Australia, had offered him none of the help to which he had a legal right and so abandoned him. Australia's collusion with the United States against its

own citizen is evident in leaked documents; no more faithful vassals has America than the obeisant politicians of the Antipodes.

Four years ago, in Sydney, I spent several hours with the Liberal Member of the Federal Parliament, Malcolm Turnbull. We discussed the threats to Assange and their wider implications for freedom of speech and justice, and why Australia was obliged to stand by him. Turnbull is now the Prime Minister of Australia and, as I write, is attending an international conference on Syria hosted by the Cameron government - about 15 minutes cab ride from the room that Assange has occupied for three and a half years in the small Ecuadorean embassy just along from Harrod's.

The Syria connection is relevant if unreported; it was WikiLeaks that revealed that the United States had long planned to overthrow the Assad government in Syria. Today, as he meets and greets, Prime Minister Turnbull has an opportunity to contribute a modicum of purpose and truth to the conference by speaking up for his unjustly imprisoned compatriot, for whom he showed such concern when we met. All he need do is quote the judgement of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. Will he reclaim this shred of Australia's reputation in the decent world?

What is certain is that the decent world owes much to Julian Assange. He told us how indecent power behaves in secret, how it lies and manipulates and engages in great acts of violence, sustaining wars that kill and maim and turn millions into the refugees now in the news. Telling us this truth alone earns Assange his freedom, whereas justice is his right.

*www.JohnPilger.com*

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### **The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Deems the deprivation of liberty of Mr. Julian Assange as arbitrary**

*United Nations  
5 February 2016*

On 4 December 2015, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) adopted Opinion No. 54/2015, in which it considered that Mr. Julian Assange was arbitrarily detained by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In that opinion, the Working Group recognized that Mr. Assange is entitled to his freedom of movement and to compensation. **The application was filed with the Working Group in September 2014.** The Opinion 54/2015 was sent to the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 22 January 2016 in accordance with the Working Group's Methods of Work.

Given that Mr. Assange is an Australian citizen, one of the members of the Working Group who shares his nationality recused herself from participating in the deliberations. **Another member of the Working Group disagreed with the position of the majority and considered that the situation of Mr. Assange is not one of detention** and therefore falls outside the mandate of the Working Group.

In mid-2010, a Swedish Prosecutor commenced an investigation against Mr. Assange based on allegations of sexual misconduct. On 7 December 2010, pursuant to an international arrest warrant issued at the request of the Swedish Prosecutor, Mr. Assange was detained in Wandsworth Prison for 10 days in isolation. Thereafter, he was subjected to house arrest for 550 days. While under house arrest in the United Kingdom, Mr. Assange requested the Republic of Ecuador to grant him refugee status at its Embassy in London. The Republic of Ecuador granted asylum because of Mr. Assange's fear that if he was extradited to Sweden, he would be further extradited to the United States where he would face serious criminal charges for the peaceful exercise of his freedoms. Since August 2012, Mr. Assange has not been able to leave the Ecuadorian Embassy and is subject to extensive surveillance by the British police.

**The Working Group considered that Mr. Assange has been subjected to different forms of deprivation of liberty: initial detention in Wandsworth prison which was followed by house arrest and his confinement at the Ecuadorian Embassy.** Having concluded that there was a continuous deprivation of liberty, the Working Group also found that the detention was arbitrary because he was held in isolation during the first stage of detention and because of the lack of diligence by the Swedish Prosecutor in its investigations, which resulted in the lengthy detention of Mr. Assange. The Working Group found that this detention is in violation of Articles 9 and 10 of the UDHR and Articles 7, 9(1), 9(3), 9(4), 10 and 14 of the ICCPR, and falls within category III as defined in its Methods of Work.

The Working Group therefore requested Sweden and the United Kingdom to assess the situation of Mr. Assange to ensure his safety and physical integrity, to facilitate the exercise of his right to freedom of movement in an expedient manner, and to ensure the full enjoyment of his rights guaranteed by the international norms on detention. The Working Group also considered that the detention should be brought to an end and that Mr. Assange should be afforded the right to compensation.

Check the Working Group's Opinion on Julian Assange's case (No. 54/2015), adopted in December:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/A.HRC.WGAD.2015.docx>

[www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17012&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=17012&LangID=E)

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## **UN panel calls on UK and Sweden to end Julian Assange's 'deprivation of liberty'**

*UN working group says WikiLeaks founder should be offered compensation for being confined to Ecuadorian embassy.*

Owen Bowcott & David Crouch  
The Guardian  
5 February 2016



The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been arbitrarily detained by the UK and Sweden for more than five years and should be released immediately with compensation, according to a United Nations report.

As anticipated, the finding by the Geneva-based UN working group on arbitrary detention criticises legal action against Assange by both European governments and blames them for preventing him from leaving the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightsbridge, central London.

The panel calls on the Swedish and British authorities to end Assange's "deprivation of liberty", respect his physical integrity and freedom of movement and offer him compensation.

The report says: "The working group considered that Mr Assange has been subjected to different forms of deprivation of liberty: initial detention in Wandsworth prison, which was followed by house arrest and his confinement at the Ecuadorian embassy.

"Having concluded that there was a continuous deprivation of liberty, the working group also found that the detention was arbitrary because he was held in isolation during the first stage of detention **and because of the lack of diligence by the Swedish prosecutor** in its investigations, which resulted in the lengthy detention of Mr Assange."

It adds: "The working group therefore requested Sweden and the United Kingdom to assess the situation of Mr Assange to ensure his safety and physical integrity, to facilitate the exercise of his right to freedom of movement in an expedient manner, and to ensure the full enjoyment of his rights guaranteed by the international norms on detention.

"The working group also considered that the detention should be brought to an end **and that Mr Assange should be afforded the right to compensation.**"

**A UK government spokesperson said: "This changes nothing.** We completely reject any claim that Julian Assange is a victim of arbitrary detention. The UK has already made clear to the UN that we will formally contest the working group's opinion.

"Julian Assange has never been arbitrarily detained by the UK. The opinion of the UN working group ignores the facts and the well-recognised protections of the British legal system. He is, in fact, voluntarily avoiding lawful arrest by choosing to remain in the Ecuadorian embassy. An allegation of rape is still outstanding and a European arrest warrant in place, so the UK continues to have a legal obligation to extradite him to Sweden. As the UK is not a party to the Caracas convention, we do not recognise 'diplomatic asylum'.

"We are deeply frustrated that this unacceptable situation is still being allowed to continue. Ecuador must engage with Sweden in good faith to bring it to an end. Americas minister Hugo Swire made this clear to the Ecuadorian ambassador in November, and we continue to raise the matter in Quito."

The UN committee said one of its members, Leigh Toomey, had declined to take part in the inquiry because she, like Assange, is an Australian citizen. One of the other members, **Vladimir Tochilovsky, a Ukrainian lawyer, had disagreed with the finding.**

The statement said: "Given that Mr Assange is an Australian citizen, one of the members of the working group who shares his nationality recused herself from participating in the deliberations. Another member of the working group disagreed with the position of the majority and considered that the situation of Mr Assange is not one of detention and therefore falls outside the mandate of the working group."

Only three of the five-member panel therefore supported the finding against the UK and Sweden.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said: "In light of this decision, it's clear that any criminal charges against Mr Assange in connection with Wikileaks' publishing operations would be unprecedented and unconstitutional.

"Indeed, even the prolonged criminal investigation of Wikileaks itself has had a profound chilling effect. The justice department should end that investigation and make clear that no publisher will ever be prosecuted for the act of journalism."

**Much of the criticism in the panel's full report is directed at the methods adopted by the Swedish prosecutors.** The report states: "There has been a substantial failure to exercise due diligence on the part of the concerned states [Sweden and the UK] with regard to the performance of the criminal administration ... After more than five years of time lapse, [Assange] is still left even before the stage of preliminary investigation with no predictability as to whether and when a formal process of any judicial dealing would commence.

**"Despite that, it is left to the initial choice of the Swedish prosecution as to what mode of investigation would best suit the purpose of criminal justice. The exercise and implementation of the investigation method should be conducted in compliance with the rule of proportionality, including undertaking to explore alternative ways of administering justice."**

The report continues: "The working group is convinced that ... the current situation of Mr Assange staying within the confines of the embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in London has become a state of an arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

**"The duration of such detention is, *ipso facto*, incompatible with the presumption of innocence.** Mr Assange has been denied the right to contest the continued necessity and proportionality of the arrest warrant in light of the length of this detention. It defeats the purpose and efficiency of justice and the interest of the concerned victims to **put this matter of investigation to a state of indefinite procrastination."**

**The report implies that insisting on Assange's extradition to Sweden before any charges have been made amounts to disproportionate pressure in a criminal investigation. Greater efforts should have been made to interview him in the UK.**

The panel received representations about the danger of “political persecution” if Assange is removed from Sweden to the US.

The Swedish foreign ministry said: “The [Swedish] government does not agree with the assessment made by the majority of the working group. In light of the safeguards contained in the Swedish extradition and [European arrest warrant] procedures against any potential extradition in violation of international human rights agreements, the government reiterates its position that Mr Assange does not face a risk of refoulement [removal] contrary to international human rights obligations to the United States from Sweden.

“In any case, no request for extradition regarding Mr Assange has been directed to Sweden. Moreover, Mr Assange has chosen, voluntarily, to stay at the Ecuadorian embassy and Swedish authorities have no control over his decision to stay there. *[But they do have control over whether or not to expedite their inquiries, as pointed out in the U.N. ruling. --A.B.]* Mr Assange is free to leave the embassy at any point. Thus, he is not being deprived of his liberty there due to any decision or action taken by the Swedish authorities. *[He has never made that claim. The Swedes know very well that it was the threat of persecution by the U.S. to seek asylum. So, here, they are being dishonest yet again.--A.B.]*”

[www.theguardian.com/media/2016/feb/05/julian-assange-un-panel-uk-sweden-deprivation-of-liberty](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/feb/05/julian-assange-un-panel-uk-sweden-deprivation-of-liberty)

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## Julian Assange hails 'sweet victory' of UN report — as it happened

Matthew Weaver  
The Guardian  
5 February 2016

### Live update

*Yesterday*

On whether the panel’s finding was legally binding Peschoux answer was also nuanced. He said: “The working group is issuing an opinion, because it is working group it is not a court, so it is not issuing rulings. The working group is the highest UN authoritative body to deal with disputes between a person who is in detention and authorities detaining them... **The opinion is legally binding to the extent that it is based on international human rights norms which have been ratified by states.**”

*Yesterday*

Here’s audio of that UN press conference in Geneva. Peschoux opened with the cryptic statement: “The panel has decided that the detention [of Assange] maybe legal but it is arbitrary.” Baffled reporters were told to look at the details of the opinion to understand what that meant.

*Yesterday*

Peschoux said it was “very unusual” for such a panel ruling not to be unanimous. He said they were usually based on consensus. Three of the five member panel supported

the ruling. One member [*a Ukrainian --A.B.*] dissented, an Australian member of the panel absented herself as she shares Assange's nationality.

Yesterday

Peschoux said the UK and Sweden had two months to contest the panel's 3 to 1 ruling.

Yesterday

Christophe Peschoux, a senior official at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, insists that the panel's finding is in effect legally binding because its based on international human rights law. Speaking in Geneva he said it was up to Britain and Sweden to decide on what level of compensation Assange should be offered.

Yesterday

The former chair of the UNWGAD panel, the Norwegian lawyer Professor Mads Andenas, told Owen Bowcott that the expert lawyers and members of **the group had come under considerable political pressure from the US and UK when compiling the highly critical report.**

Andenas completed his term in office last summer but was involved in earlier stages of compiling the report on Assange's arbitrary detention. He endorsed the broad result of the findings released on Friday.

"I'm absolutely convinced that [the panel] has been put under very string political pressure," he said. "This is a courageous decision which is important for the international rule of law.

"This is a clear, and for people who read it, an obvious, decision. It's an outcome of a judicial process in which Sweden and the UK have taken part. It was before a specialist body at the UN, the only UN body dealing with arbitrary detention."

There was a clear finding under Article Nine of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Assange is subject to arbitrary detention, he explained. "If this finding had been made against any other country with a human rights record that one does not wish to compare oneself with, then these states [Sweden and UK] would have made it clear that the [offending] country should comply with the ruling of the working group. It's not a good thing for any country to get a ruling for arbitrary detention against it.

**"For the international human rights system to function, states must abide by the rulings. There's no other way to deal with it.** If the state is in violation of international law, it's for the state to find ways to give effect to the [panel's] decision."

Yesterday

Sweden's ministry for foreign affairs has released a three-page letter rejecting the panel's findings. It seized on the dissenting opinion from one of the panel's five members. Here are the key passages:

In its opinion, the Working Group considers that the current situation of Mr. Assange, staying within the confines of the Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in the United Kingdom, has become a state of an arbitrary deprivation of liberty in contravention of international human rights obligations.

To begin with, the Government notes that one of the five members of the Working Group has expressed an individual dissenting opinion, arguing that Mr. Assange fled the bail in June 2012 and since then stays at the premises of the Ecuadorian Embassy using them as a safe haven to evade arrest. According to the

dissent, such premises of self-confinement cannot be considered as places of detention for the purposes of the mandate of the Working Group. In addition, it is contended that the Working Group is not competent to consider situations that do not involve deprivation of liberty and that issues related to fugitives' self-confinement, such as asylum and extradition, do not fall into the mandate of the Working Group.

The Government does not agree with the assessment made by the majority of the Working Group. As elaborated in the Swedish Government's communication to the Working Group, the main reasons for this are the following.

In light of the safeguards contained in the Swedish extradition and EAW procedures against any potential extradition in violation of international human rights agreements, the Government reiterates its position that Mr. Assange does not face a risk of refoulement contrary to international human rights obligations to the United States from Sweden. In any case, no request for extradition regarding Mr. Assange has been directed to Sweden. Moreover, Mr. Assange has chosen, voluntarily, to stay at the Ecuadorian Embassy and Swedish authorities have no control over his decision to stay there. Mr. Assange is free to leave the Embassy at any point. Thus, he is not being deprived of his liberty there due to any decision or action taken by the Swedish authorities. The Government therefore refutes the opinion by the Working Group that Sweden has violated articles 9 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 7, 9(1), 9(3), 9(4), 10 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Furthermore, in Sweden any decision regarding the preliminary investigation, for example regarding detention in absentia, is taken by independent judicial authorities. The Swedish Government may therefore not interfere in an ongoing case handled by a Swedish public authority. This follows from the Swedish Instrument of Government and basic principles of the rule of law. The Swedish Office of the Prosecutor and the courts are thus independent and separated from the Government.

As to the request by the Working Group that the Government of Sweden and the Government of the United Kingdom assess the situation of Mr. Assange (para. 100 of the opinion), it should be emphasised that regular contacts between the two countries take place, primarily in order to facilitate the preliminary investigation by the Swedish Office of the Prosecutor. It should also be pointed out that an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between Ecuador and Sweden entered into force on 22 December 2015.

It may finally be noted that the Government has transmitted the opinion of the Working Group to the Office of the Prosecutor and relevant courts, for their information.

#### *Yesterday*

Former British diplomat Craig Murray points out that Sweden and the UK are in dodgy company by challenging the UN panel. In a blogpost he writes:

Julian Assange has never been charged with any offence. His detention has been unlawful since his very first arrest in the United Kingdom in 2010. **There has never been any genuine attempt by the Swedish authorities to investigate the allegations against him.** Those are the findings of the United Nations.

**The UK and Swedish governments both participated fully, and at great expense to their taxpayers, in this UN process which is a mechanism that both recognise. States including Iran, Burma and Russia have released prisoners**

**following determination by this UN panel, which consists not of politicians or diplomats but of some of the world's most respected lawyers, who are not representing their national governments. [Not officially, in any event. --A.B.]**

**Countries who have ignored rulings by this UN panel are rare. No democracy has ever done so.** Recent examples are Egypt and Uzbekistan. The UK is putting itself in pretty company.

It would be an act of extraordinary dereliction by the UK and Swedish governments to accept the authority of the tribunal, participate fully in the process, and then refuse to accept the outcome.

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## Julian Assange: 'sweet' victory soured by British and Swedish rejection

*No release in sight despite UN panel deciding WikiLeaks founder is being arbitrarily detained at Ecuador embassy*

*Esther Addley, Owen Bowcott, David Crouch & Jessica Elgot  
The Guardian  
5 February 2016*

A UN panel may have found that Julian Assange is subject to “arbitrary detention” and called for him to be allowed to walk free, but the WikiLeaks founder remains exactly where he has been for the past 44 months — inside Ecuador’s London embassy and locked in a three-nation war of words.

Britain and Sweden immediately rejected the UN report, which declared that Assange had been “arbitrarily detained” since his arrest in 2010 and during his lengthy stay in the embassy, where he sought asylum in June 2012. The British foreign secretary, Philip

Hammond, described the findings as “ridiculous” and the Australian as a “fugitive from justice”.

However, the panel’s findings, leaked on Thursday and published in full on Friday morning, were a welcome victory for Assange, and a moment he intended to savour fully. At 4.01pm he emerged on to the balcony of the west London embassy to greet a crowd of several hundred supporters and journalists, pausing first, just briefly, to glance at the sky he has rarely seen for more than three years.

“How sweet it is,” said Assange, holding aloft a copy of the UN report while supporters shouted: “We love you, Julian!” It had been, he said, “a victory of historical importance”, and a decision reached after a process to which both Britain and Sweden had made submissions. “They lost. UK lost; Sweden lost.”

The Swedish government, however, has insisted the report changes nothing, and that it cannot interfere in an independent prosecutor’s ongoing attempt to extradite Assange for questioning over an allegation of rape dating from 2010, which he denies.

Meanwhile, for Ecuador — the Australian’s (mostly) willing host — the findings meant it was time for the two countries to allow Assange to walk free, and to compensate both him and them for the lengthy period he has been holed up in one of its few rooms.

At times, Assange was in magnanimous mood. Having initially accused Hammond of insulting the UN with comments that were “beneath the stature that a foreign minister should express in this situation”, he later described him as a “perfectly nice person” whose comments were “merely rhetoric”. Britain had not appealed against the findings of the UN working group on arbitrary detention, he said, “because they knew they would lose”.

But there were dark warnings for those he said were responsible for “depriv[ing] my children of their father for five and a half years. A lot of people have very long memories about the parties that have committed injustices in this case. Inevitably, those people will face the consequences of their actions.”

Only a single, persistent heckler interrupted the mood. “Can someone close that person up?” asked Assange. Shouts of “Yes!” came in response.

After exhausting all his legal options in the UK and Sweden some time ago, there is no question that the report represents a boost for Assange’s legal team.

Reaching their conclusion by a three-to-one majority after a fifth member recused herself, the panel called on the Swedish and British authorities to end Assange’s “deprivation of liberty”, respect his physical integrity and freedom of movement, and offer him compensation.

**Assange, they found, had been unable “to access the full-intended benefit” of the asylum status granted by Ecuador, and “the continuing and disproportionate denial to him of such access ... had become cumulatively harsh and disproportionate”.**

In particular, the panel offered an excoriating critique of Sweden's prosecution process, which they said had been in a state of "indefinite procrastination". With Quito and Stockholm still unable to agree on arrangements to allow Swedish prosecutors access to the London embassy, Assange has yet to be interviewed over the alleged offences. Britain said on Thursday it was "deeply frustrated" by the deadlock.

But for all Assange's jubilation, he remains in the embassy, the extradition warrant still stands, and Britain and Sweden remain adamant that the report changes nothing.

Assange also remains fearful of a potential future extradition to the US, where a secret grand jury has been looking into whether to prosecute him over WikiLeaks's publishing activities.

British lawyers lined up on Friday to dismiss the panel's findings, with Dominic Grieve, who was attorney general in 2012 when Assange entered the embassy, calling it "an extraordinary document" and "very far-fetched".

Ken Macdonald QC, the former director of public prosecutions, described the findings as "beyond parody.... Julian Assange is wanted in connection with a grave sexual offence in a country that has a fair-trial justice system consistent with the highest international standards. Instead of cooperating with the Swedish authorities, as he should have done, Mr Assange has chosen to hole up in a foreign embassy, deliberately frustrating a serious criminal investigation. To describe his situation as 'arbitrary detention' is ludicrous."

Elisabeth Massi Fritz, the lawyer for the Swedish woman whom Assange is accused of raping, said the UN panel had "a lack of understanding" that rape "is one of the most serious abuses and violations of human rights". It was "insulting and offensive", she said, to her client to suggest a rape suspect should be compensated for withholding himself from justice for more than five years.

But the former chair of the UN working group, Mads Andenas, defended its finding, saying: "There is no doubt that the normal course of action for the Swedish authorities would have been to interview Assange in London. The extradition request was disproportionate."

So what happens next in the extraordinary, seemingly irresolvable drama of Julian Assange? At a press conference earlier in the day, one of his lawyers, Melinda Taylor, said that if Sweden and Britain were not prepared to act, Assange might consider applying again to the Swedish courts, "to see how they will enforce or apply the findings of the working group".

The European court of human rights was another option, she said, although the Strasbourg court confirmed on Friday that an application lodged by Assange in November against the UK and Sweden had been declared inadmissible the following month.

Speaking on the balcony, Assange dropped heavy hints about breaches of the convention against torture. "If this illegal, immoral, unethical detention continues, there will be criminal consequences for the parties involved."



## "A Significant Victory": Julian Assange Hails U.N. Panel Calling for His Freedom

*Will Julian Assange of WikiLeaks Go Free After U.N. Finds He Is Being Arbitrarily Detained?*

*Democracy Now!*  
FEBRUARY 5, 2016

A United Nations panel has officially concluded WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been "arbitrarily detained" and should be allowed to walk free. Assange has been holed up in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London for more than three years. He wants to avoid extradition to Sweden over sex crimes allegations, which he has repeatedly denied and for which he has never been charged. He fears Sweden would extradite him to the United States, where he could face trial for WikiLeaks' revelations. We air reaction to the U.N. decision from Assange and his attorney, Melinda Taylor, and speak with Mads Andenæs, U.N. special rapporteur on arbitrary detention.

### TRANSCRIPT

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: A United Nations panel has officially concluded WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been "arbitrarily detained" and should be allowed to walk free. Assange has been holed up in Ecuadorean Embassy in London for more than three years. He wants to avoid extradition to Sweden over sex crimes allegations, which he has repeatedly denied and for which he has never been charged. He fears Sweden would extradite him to the United States, where he could face trial for WikiLeaks' revelations.

AMY GOODMAN: Seong-Phil Hong, the rapporteur of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, spoke this morning.

SEONG-PHIL HONG: The working group maintains the arbitrary detention of Mr. Assange should be brought to an end. And his physical integrity and his freedom of movement should be respected. And finally, if necessary, he should be entitled to an enforceable right to remedy—for example, compensation.

AMY GOODMAN: The U.N. panel's judgment is not legally binding. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond dismissed it as "ridiculous."

PHILIP HAMMOND: Well, I reject the finding of this working group. It's a group made up of laypeople, not lawyers, and they are—their conclusion is flawed in law. Julian Assange is a fugitive from justice. He's hiding from justice in the Ecuadorean Embassy. He can come out onto the pavement any time he chooses. He's not being detained by us. But he will have to face justice in Sweden, if he chooses to do so. And it's right that he should not be able to escape justice. This is a—frankly, a ridiculous finding by the working group, and we reject it.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: At a press conference at the Frontline Club in London this morning, Julian Assange's attorney, Melinda Taylor, discussed the significance of the ruling.

MELINDA TAYLOR: So, finally, we have the verdict of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. And they issued a very detailed opinion, which considers all arguments from Sweden and the United Kingdom. And this decision dispels the myth that Mr. Assange is either a fugitive from justice or that he could just walk out of the embassy. It is a damning indictment of the manner in which this case has been handled. It further affirms that Mr. Assange is a victim of a significant miscarriage of justice that is attributable to the action and inaction of both Sweden and the United Kingdom. It further emphasized Julian's continued willingness to cooperate with the investigations in this case at all stages of the procedure.

Now, today I'm going to first address why we brought a complaint before the United Nations working group and, secondly, what are the findings of this working group. In terms of why we brought the complaint, there are two main reasons. First, he is and has been detained now for five years, one month and 29 days. And to put it bluntly, that's a hell of a long time to detain someone, someone who has never been charged and has never even been questioned by the Swedish authorities.

AMY GOODMAN: Julian Assange also responded to the ruling just before our broadcast today. He spoke at that news conference at the Frontline Club in London via video stream from the Ecuadorean Embassy in London.

JULIAN ASSANGE: Well, I've been detained now without charge in this country, the United Kingdom, for five-and-a-half years. That's five-and-a-half years where I've had great difficulty seeing my family and seeing my children. Today that detention without charge has been found by the highest organization in the United Nations—that is, has the jurisdiction for considering the rights of detained persons—to be unlawful.

AMY GOODMAN: That's Julian Assange speaking just minutes before we went to broadcast through a video stream at the Frontline Club. He's been holed up at the embassy in—the Ecuadorean Embassy in London for three-and-a-half years, where he got political asylum.

Joining us now is Mads Andenæs. He is the former U.N. special rapporteur on arbitrary detention and the chair of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. He's a professor at the University of Oslo and a visiting professor at All Souls College in Oxford. And that's where we're speaking to him right now.

Mads Andenæs, thanks so much for joining us. Can you explain the ruling of the U.N. committee?

MADS ANDENÆS: So, the U.N. committee holds that this is a violation of the prohibition against arbitrary detention. Mr. Assange has been deprived of his liberty for a five-year—more than a five-year period. He was initially arrested and detained in isolation. The isolation was completely groundless. He was afterwards in house arrest under, again, very strict restrictions. He was then threatened with actually being extradited to Sweden. And you've spoken about the consequences of that. And that would negate his basic human rights. He had no other choice than to go and seek refuge, and he did that in the Ecuadorean Embassy. **That was not his choice.** That was not his volition. It was the only way he could uphold his own rights in this situation.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Mads Andenæs, I wanted to ask you— *The Guardian* newspaper had an editorial basically not backing— not backing Julian Assange, and saying that the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, that this latest opinion, is simply wrong. It says, "He is not being detained arbitrarily. Three-and-a-half years ago, he sought refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in order to avoid extradition to Sweden to face allegations of sex offences. ... 'Arbitrary' detention," *The Guardian* says, "means that due legal process has not been observed. It has. This is a publicity stunt." What do you say to that?

MADS ANDENÆS: Well, first of all, **due process has not been upheld, and that's what the U.N. working group very clearly shows**— a series of procedural mistakes on the Swedish side, no proportionality review on the U.K. side. And the alternatives here— there were alternatives. Under the European Arrest Warrant system, he could have been interviewed, interrogated in England, in London. That's how we normally do these things in Europe. In these kind of cases, Swedish officers could have traveled to the U.K. He would— Mr. Assange would have been interviewed in an English police station. That's how we usually do it, and it wasn't done here. It was a highly irregular procedure. This was nothing like due process. And it is obvious to the U.N. group and, after this ruling, obvious that this did not serve the purposes of the case, the way it was explained. **This was to achieve other aims and illegitimate aims. And it was clearly not a part of a due process.**

AMY GOODMAN: I want to go back to Julian Assange speaking this morning after the U.N. ruling became public.

JULIAN ASSANGE: It is now the task of the states of Sweden and the United Kingdom, as a whole, to implement the verdict. Now, while there can be attempts for the media, for the popular press, to look tough and attempt to undermine that, a serious attempt, not just for show, would have the effect of undermining the U.N. system. And there are consequences of doing that. And **Sweden and the U.K. know full well that there are consequences. Those consequences include not merely weakening a human rights and international law instrument to which both countries have signed binding treaties, but rather it will have the diplomatic effect— and diplomats know it.** The diplomatic effect will be to make life difficult for Sweden and the United Kingdom to be treated seriously as international players that obey their international legal obligations.

Their attempts, if they proceed to undermine the U.N. system, will see various enforcement measures that can be taken by the U.N. Those, initially, of course, can include their removal from U.N. committees, the movement against those states in various voting processes, and, ultimately, up to and including sanctions. Now that's, of course, a matter for the U.N. to decide about how it's going to enforce its decisions, and a matter for Sweden and the U.K. to think, do they really want to go down that path?

AMY GOODMAN: So, that is Julian Assange speaking at the news conference today, albeit by video stream because he is in the Ecuadorean Embassy. If he steps foot outside, he'll be arrested by British authorities. We're talking to the former U.N. rapporteur on arbitrary detention, Mads Andenæs. **I was watching CNN this morning, and a reporter was standing outside the Ecuadorean Embassy and saying,**

**"Despite Sweden's efforts to question Julian Assange in the embassy, Ecuador has prevented them from doing this." This was exactly the opposite.** This was not true, what the reporter said. Ecuador has said that the Swedish authorities could come in. Even a court in Sweden has reprimanded the prosecutor for not questioning Julian Assange. Mads Andenæs, can you say what happens from here?

MADS ANDENÆS: Well, it's now for the U.K. and the Swedish authorities to find some way of abiding by this opinion. This U.N. body is the only body or the one U.N. body dealing with arbitrary detention. And they come with this very clear ruling. Sweden and the U.K. are bound by the U.N. Convention on Civil and Political Rights. And it's now for them to find a way of complying.

And what you mentioned there is part of the substance of the case. There are, of course, lesser—much lesser measures, less intrusive measures that could have been chosen. For instance, they could have interviewed him in the U.K. And it's not true that Assange has not offered that, as far as I—well, I think it's absolutely clear, although you have this reporter that you just mentioned. To the contrary, **it's absolutely clear that Assange and his team has offered to answer**—that he should offer—he had offered to answer questions by Swedish police in the U.K. That's beyond dispute. And that offer has not been taken up. And as you mentioned, Swedish courts have been very critical of the prosecutor, of the Swedish prosecutor, for this. And if you read those judgments closely—they're in Swedish, of course—you will see that it is as strong a criticism as you can expect possible from a Swedish court against the way that the prosecutors have proceeded here.

JUAN GONZÁLEZ: And, Mads Andenæs, we only have about 30 seconds or so, but your sense of how public opinion, both in Britain and in Sweden, is in respect to how their governments are dealing with the Julian Assange case?

MADS ANDENÆS: Well, it's split. It's split. But no country likes to get a ruling for arbitrary detention, to be censured by the U.N. like this. But if you don't abide by it, you fall into the category of countries we don't like to compare ourselves with, who do not abide by these rulings. And it's very important for the international human rights systems that countries like the U.K. and Sweden do actually go for—show a good example and do follow these rulings, because, in the end, they are bound by the conventions. And there's no more authority body to interpret and apply the Convention on Arbitrary Detention than this working group, which is established by the U.N.

AMY GOODMAN: Mads Andenæs, we're going to have to leave it there, but I thank you so much for being with us. He is the former U.N. special rapporteur on arbitrary detention and chair of the U.N. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, now professor at University of Oslo, a visiting professor at All Souls College in Oxford, where we just spoke to him.

[www.democracynow.org/2016/2/5/a\\_significant\\_victory\\_julian\\_assange\\_hails](http://www.democracynow.org/2016/2/5/a_significant_victory_julian_assange_hails)

## Julian Assange hails 'sweet victory' of UN report — as it happened

*We are now closing this blog after Julian Assange's impromptu victory celebration on the balcony of the Ecuadorian embassy, his home for the past five and a half years.*

*The Guardian*  
2016-02-05

### Jessica Elgot

Julian Assange has declared he is “tough” enough to withstand longer confinement in the Ecuadorian Embassy, but demanded the UK and Sweden heed the UN’s opinion that he is arbitrarily detained in an impassioned speech to supporters and media crowded around the balcony of the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightbridge.

In the 12-minute speech, Assange said his legal team would now examine if there were “criminal consequences” for the parties who he said continue to deny him his freedom, citing the UN Convention Against Torture.

Activists and supporters played peace songs as a warm up act for the WikiLeaks founder, as the rumour spread that he would be appearing on the embassy balcony. He appeared a minute past 4pm, in the grey suit and yellow tie he wore at an earlier press conference. “How sweet it is,” he said. “This is a victory that cannot be denied.”

In the fading afternoon light, he thanked the jurists and the legal team that decided in his favour, before pausing for several moments to collect his thoughts, staring into the crowd.

“The UN had made a statement that is legally binding,” he said, to shouts of ‘yes!’ from the supporters who had linked arms and formed a protective barrier in front of the balcony between Assange and the media. “There have been comments made by Hammond, foreign minister of this country, that this changes nothing,” Assange continued. “Hammond may be a perfectly nice person but his comments are merely rhetoric.

“He doesn’t state that the UK will refuse to accept the authority of the Working Group of arbitrary detention. The UK and Sweden were party to a 16-month process, we made submissions, the UK responded to those submissions. They lost!”

Assange described himself as having been arbitrarily detained for five and a half years, a comment which provoked the ire of a passer-by, who yelled repeatedly will you be here for another five and a half years?” The heckler persisted for a minute or two before Assange said: “can someone close that person up?” to cheers from his supporters. “This is a free country mate,” the man shouted back.

Assange ended his speech with an appeal to authorities to consider the impact the last five years had had on his family. “I am tough, I can take it. But what right does the government have to deny my children their father for five and a half years? My children are completely innocent. They are not in the business of holding governments to account, they are in the business of being children. They need their father back.”

“There are good people in the UK government, in the Foreign Office, in the British police, the Swedish foreign ministry, the US state department and even the US military, and it is partly due to these good people and their ongoing support that has led to this victory. These people understand that history is on their side and I am very grateful.”

Assange’s appearance lasted about 10 minutes. When he first appeared, his supporters shouted: “We love you.” and “Julian your friends are here.” He held up a copy of the UN as he spoke as **if it was a badge of vindication**. His first words were: “How sweet it is. This is a victory that cannot be denied. It is a victory of historical importance for me, my family, my children and for the independence of the UN system.”

The UN document was not just a visual prop. He read its conclusion declaring that deprivation of his liberty was arbitrary, which was greeted by cheers. And then he asked what right the British, Swedish and US governments had to deny his children of their father.

### Mark Tran

Assange has appeared on the balcony of the Ecuadorian embassy clutching a copy of the UN report — there had been rumours that he would. He repeats much of what he said before in the videolink, **but then goes into quite an emotional tirade** about how his children have been deprived of their father for five and a half years.

“My children are completely innocent parties, they are not in politics, they are not into holding governments to account. It’s time they had their father back. That will happen,” he says to cheers from the crowd below and to the odd heckler. At one point he says: “can anyone close that person down”.

He went on to say that there would consequences for the governments that have put him in his predicament. “There will be criminal consequences for those parties involved,” he said.

### *(Selected updates)*

The online book maker Paddy Power is offering **odds of 14-1** for Julian Assange to walk away from the Ecuadorean Embassy a free man this month. Paddy Power is also taking bets on how Assange will make his exit from the Embassy. “A tenner on a Taxi at 13-2 would return more than enough to cover his fare!,” it says....

Ecuador has welcomed the UN panel’s finding. Foreign minister, Ricardo Patiño, said Assange must be allowed to go free. “It is time for both governments (Britain and Sweden) to correct their mistake, time for them to allow Julian Assange his freedom, time for them to end this arbitrary detention and furthermore compensate the damage done to this man,” Patiño told a press conference according to AFP.

He added: “We’ve said it from the beginning, but now we’re not the only ones. This is obvious political persecution. That has been absolutely demonstrated.”

**“What more do they want to be accused of before they start to rectify their error?”** he told South American broadcaster Telesur, in reference to Britain and Sweden. Patino said Ecuador was analysing its next steps....

On Thursday Ecuador said it deserved compensation for housing Assange in its London embassy. “That shows we were right, after so many years,” Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa told a news conference in Quito in reference to the panel’s anticipated finding. “But who is going to compensate the harm that has been done to Julian Assange and to Ecuador? Do you know how much it costs to maintain security at the embassy?” he asked. “We experienced spying attempts and lots of other things.”

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recommended that Assange be entitled to compensation, but it said nothing about Ecuador’s costs of housing him.

Patino said Assange was welcome to remain in the embassy. “The basis on which we granted him asylum remains in place,” Patino told reporters....

Roland Adjovi Sètonджи from Benin, one of the three members of the UN panel who backed the finding has defended the opinion. Speaking on BBC Radio 4’s World at One programme he said: “We saw this time he has been in the embassy as a continuation of two obvious detention situations. He [Assange] was detained first in a British prison for 10 days, before being released on house arrest for almost two years.”

Sètonджи added: **“In any criminal justice there is an obligation of timely process.** This investigation has been going on for five years and there is no charges, there is no indictment of Julian Assange until now. The working group was of the view that this was a lengthy process that jeopardised his right to a fair trial.”

Asked to respond to the foreign secretary’s claim that finding was “ridiculous”, Sètonджи said “obviously I can’t share that view, but I don’t have to comment on state authority’s views....”

Peter Tatchell, the prominent human rights activist, has joined the swelling numbers of Assange supporters outside the Ecuadorian embassy, writes Jessica Elgot. He was highly critical of the Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny and the delay in questioning Assange at the embassy. Swedish and Ecuadorian legal teams only last month reached agreement which would allow the interview to take place.

Tatchell said: “The Swedish prosecutor kept imposed many unreasonable conditions. It is a key principle of justice that it should not be delayed. If the Swedish prosecutor decides to interview him here and finds there is credible evidence to charge him, then he should of course face justice, but if there isn’t...”

Tatchell, who has visited Assange on several occasions, called the WikiLeaks founder “a realist” about his prospects of leaving the embassy a free man. “But he is hopeful that justice will eventually prevail. David Cameron is consistently condemning, rightly, countries who do not respect the UN. Now his government is doing exactly the same.”

*More at*

<http://www.theguardian.com/media/live/2016/feb/05/julian-assange-is-being-arbitrarily-detained-un-panel-finds-live-updates?page=with:block-56b4bcb0e4b05d432381a3fc#block-56b4bcb0e4b05d432381a3fc>

2016-02-06

## E-mail from a member of the "Assange team" in London

There are lots of interesting items coming out of this story [the U.N. ruling].

The immediately former head of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention — a Norwegian Professor of International Law and visiting fellow at All Souls College, Oxford — says that UK and US put pressure on the Working Group. His mandate ended a few months ago but [handled] the Assange case while he was still chair:

"I'm absolutely convinced that [the panel] has been put under very string political pressure," he said. "This is a courageous decision which is important for the international rule of law.

"This is a clear, and for people who read it, an obvious, decision. It's an outcome of a judicial process in which Sweden and the UK have taken part. It was before a specialist body at the UN, the only UN body dealing with arbitrary detention."

*[The U.K. and Swedish decisions had two weeks to appeal the decision, but did not. --A.B.]*

There was a clear finding under Article Nine of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that Assange is subject to arbitrary detention, he explained...."

**In light of this pressure being applied by two members of the UN Security Council on the UN Working Group, it's unsurprising that there was a dissenting opinion (from Ukraine, no less). US, UK, and Sweden are also major funders of the UN organs.**

The US, who is not a party to the proceedings (it's Assange v UK and Sweden), attempted to interfere with this independent panel of experts. It's even more improper for the UK as a party to attempt to improperly influence the panel. If anything, it validates JA's arguments of political persecution.

The Met police admitted today to The (London) Times that the withdrawal of overt police from in front of the embassy in October was influenced by concerns that the Working Group might rule in Julian's favour ("a decision by Scotland Yard last year to end the costly overt policing operation outside the embassy **may have been influenced by fears that officers from the diplomatic protection group standing guard were thought to resemble jailers.**").

There's also a recognition in last night's Evening Standard by 'lawyers' (it's understood, not JA's lawyers), that JA may be entitled to a six-figure compensation from UK (and presumably, separately, from Sweden).

Sweden should come under pressure, not just the UK - they are the originators and their preliminary investigation is extremely weak — the extradition request would have been thrown out under the corrective legislation — something the Working Group acknowledged.

The behind the scenes duress by the US and UK on the UN Working Group in Geneva, and their open attacks against the credibility of the group and the UN to the UK media, show that the UK is highly invested in this. It seems they knew about the result in December and have had the decision for two weeks (as have Sweden) and have been able to line up their response and get the Guardian to back them.



I recommend reading the Working Group's opinion. It is very strong.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/A.HRC.WGAD.2015.docx>

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## **Julian Assange and the UN get short shrift from national newspapers**

*Roy Greenslade  
The Guardian  
5 February 2016*

The declaration of the UN working group on arbitrary detention that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is being detained arbitrarily finds no support from the British press.

The Times, the Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mirror and the Sun carried leading articles on Friday all gave the decision short shrift.

Assange, who has spent the best part of four years holed up in Ecuador's London embassy, "is not the victim of a cruel British judiciary or a vindictive Swedish prosecutor," said the Times.

It argued that Assange, in seeking to avoid questioning in connection with an alleged rape in Sweden, has no right to claim political asylum.

The UN body had "naively swallowed Mr Assange's cock-and-bull version of his voluntary withdrawal from the world", said the Times, going on to criticise the UN's human rights record.

The Telegraph through the UN had been "hijacked by the Julian Assange circus" and, in so doing, had placed Britain "in the same bracket as Saudi Arabia, Burma and Egypt for adopting a cavalier approach to incarceration."

It believed Assange's supporters, who "would normally insist that any allegation of sexual assault should be thoroughly investigated, "subscribe to the fanciful notion that Mr Assange is effectively a prisoner of conscience escaping the proxy clutches of the Americans, who want to pursue him for leaking their state secrets."

The Guardian contended that it "is simply wrong" to say that Assange is being detained arbitrarily and viewed the man's latest manoeuvre as "a publicity stunt."

Assange will hope that the UN's findings will allow him to claim some kind of moral victory, and strengthen his call that the Swedish authorities drop their investigations, said the paper, but he would still face arrest in the UK for breaking his bail conditions.

Conscious of its part in publishing the Wikileaks revelations, the paper said it was possible to applaud Assange's role in the exposure of embarrassing and sometimes illegal US activity, "without accepting his right to evade prosecutors' questions about

the allegation that he committed a serious criminal offence" *[and without acknowledging The Guardian's own serious offenses against Assange and WikiLeaks. --A.B.]* It concluded:

"WikiLeaks was founded on exposing those who ignored the rule of law. Surely its editor-in-chief should recognise his duty to see it upheld."

The Mirror thought the UN had "lost the plot" in perversely deciding that Assange had been unlawfully detained. It "does itself a disservice with this ridiculous finding," said the paper, arguing that Assange "should still go to Sweden."

**The [Murdochian --A.B.] Sun called Assange "a cowardly egomaniac" and "snivelling creep" while urging the government to treat the UN decision with contempt. It continued: "Only leftie conspiracy loons believe the Swedes are chasing him on behalf of the US. In 2020, the rape claims expire. Long before then, we hope, the deteriorating health he has brought on himself will smoke him out of his dingy hidey-hole."**

As for the Daily Mail, it made its view known through its news report headline: "Now meddling UN says Britain has 'held Assange illegally'".

Cartoonists in both the Times and the Mail, Peter Brookes and Mac respectively, came up with the same joke by imagining that Lord Lucan was also hiding in the Ecuadorian embassy.

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*The Guardian*, 2016-02-05

## Svensk åklagare: Ingen formell påverkan

Johan Juhlin

SVT

4 februari 2016

Svenska utrikesdepartementet bekräftar att FN-panelen UNWGAD bedömer att Julian Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad. Regeringen konstaterar att arbetsgruppen gjort en annan bedömning än svenska myndigheter. Inte heller den svenska Åklagarmyndigheten låter sig påverkas.

UNWGAD, FN:s oberoende arbetsgrupp för godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, ställer sig på Wikileaks-grundaren Julian Assanges sida och menar att han varit olovligt frihetsberövad under åren på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

Den svenska åklagaren i Assange-fallet låter sig inte påverkas av FN-arbetsgruppens ställningstagande. Häktningen av Assange i hans frånvaro är fastställd i Högsta domstolen, påpekar Åklagarmyndigheten i ett pressmeddelande *[utan att nämna att HD även riktade samma sorts kritik som UNWGAD mot åklagaren --A.B.]*.

Åklagaren vill förhöra Assange men har ännu inte fått klartecken av Ecuador om det. "En åklagare ska kontinuerligt överväga om ett häktningsbeslut ska kvarstå", skriver myndigheten.

Den påpekar också att FN-gruppens utlåtanden inte "har någon formell påverkan på den pågående utredningen enligt svensk lag". Vidare är åklagaren bortrest och kan inte kommentera.

**– Regeringen lägger sig inte i den rättsliga bedömningen och där har bland annat Högsta domstolen gjort en annan bedömning än den här panelen [fel --A.B.], sade Stefan Löfven till TT i anslutning till givarkonferensen om Syrien i London.**

Under ett möte som svenske statsministern hade med sin brittiske kollega David Cameron togs Assange-fallet inte heller upp, berättade Löfven.

När FN-granskningen nu verkar ge honom rätt förväntar sig den australiske medborgaren Assange att få tillbaka sitt pass och att alla försök att gripa honom avslutas.

Samtidigt uppger brittisk polis att de kommer att gripa Julian Assange om han lämnar den ecuadorianska ambassaden i London.

– Häktningsordern ligger fortfarande fast. Om han lämnar ambassaden kommer vi att göra ett försök att gripa honom, säger en talesperson för den brittiska polisen, enligt Reuters

– Vi förväntar oss att Sverige och Storbritannien genast vidtar nödvändiga åtgärder, men det förmodar jag att de gör eftersom de är demokratier som vill följa internationell rätt, säger Assanges advokat Melinda Taylor till TT.

Han borde genast få sitt pass tillbaka och garantier av brittiska myndigheter att han inte grips om han lämnar ambassaden, anser Taylor.

– Sverige och Storbritannien borde vidta åtgärder redan i dag, inte vänta till i morgon. Godtyckligt frihetsberövande är ett brott, och varje dag med godtyckligt frihetsberövande är ett fortsatt brott. Nu borde detta genast rättas till, säger hon.

– Skulle vi få rätt i morgon, då är ju Julian Assange frihetsberövad av Sverige sedan 3, 5 år tillbaka. Jag ser ingen annan möjlighet för åklagaren än att upphäva häktningsbeslutet, alltså försätta honom på fri fot, och lägga ned förundersökningen. För då har ju han varit inlåst och frihetsberövad långt längre tid än vad han skulle få i fängelsestraff om han blev dömd mot sitt nekande här i Sverige, sade Assanges svenska Advokat Per E Samuelsson till SVT inför dagens besked från UNWGAD.

I september 2014 lämnade Assange in en begäran att experter på mänskliga rättigheter i den oberoende FN-panelen UNWGAD skulle utreda Sveriges och Storbritanniens hanterande av hans fall, skriver AFP. Det panelen kommer fram till är inte juridiskt bindande [*jo, det är det --A.B.*] men tidigare har andra personer, som Aung San Suu Kyi, blivit släppta efter beslut som baserats på gruppens utslag, hävdar gruppen Justice for Assange.

Tidigare i morse sade Assanges andra svenska advokat Thomas Olsson följande till SVT Nyheter:

– Vi har, till skillnad från åklagarna, gjort gällande att tiden Assange suttit på ambassaden ska betraktas som ett frihetsberövande. Om FN-panelen ställer sig på hans sida finns det förstås all anledning att begära en förnyad prövning av häktningsbeslutet.

Den svenska regeringen informerades redan för två veckor sedan om FN-panelen UNWGAD:s utslag om Assange [*men avböjde att överklaga --A.B.*].

– Det stämmer och vi kommer att skicka ett svar i morgon, sade Anna Ekberg på UD:s presstjänst till TT.

Hon ville inte kommentera vad FN-panelen kommit fram till eller vad den svenska regeringen kommer att svara.

– Deras rekommendationer är inte juridiskt bindande. Men sedan kan de ändå ha viss juridisk betydelse beroende på innehållet och kvalitén och hur juridiskt övertygande de är, sade Ekberg.

– **Men Sverige är ju som land bundet av FN-konventionen om medborgerliga och politiska rättigheter, och det är ju i enlighet med den som den här gruppen har arbetat, sade Anna Ekberg.**

## Ygeman om Assange: Finns häktningsgrund

TT/SVT

5 februari 2016

Både den brittiske utrikesministern Philip Hammond och Sveriges inrikesminister Anders Ygeman ifrågasätter slutsatserna i den utredning som FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, gjort om Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange. Utredningen kallas för "löjlig" av Philip Hammond och Anders Ygeman säger att det finns häktningsgrund för Assange.

– Jag konstaterar att **man kommit fram till en annan slutsats** än svenska Högsta domstolen. Det finns häktningsgrund för Assange och det är han själv som valt att bosätta sig på ambassaden, säger Anders Ygeman.

Storbritanniens utrikesminister Philip Hammond menar att Wikileaks-grundaren är "på flykt från rättvisan". Anders Ygeman säger att han inte vet hur utredningen kommer att påverka en eventuell rättegång.

– Det är för tidigt att säga. Det är möjligt att advokaten begär en ny rättslig prövning och då får vi se vad den kommer fram till. Men spontant tror jag inte att det kommer att påverka.

Inrikesministerns säger att regeringen inte kan göra något mer i den här frågan nu.

- Nej, den bollen ligger hos åklagaren. Vi har gjort vad vi kunnat för att möjliggöra för svenska myndigheter att förhöra honom på ambassaden, men hittills har ju det inte varit möjligt. **Det är upp till Ecuador och Assange nu, säger Anders Ygeman.**

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### Advokat: Assange borde stanna kvar på ambassaden

Jonas Ohlssonjonas

SVT

5 februari 2016

Under torsdagen kom beskedet att FN-panelen UNWGAD bedömt att Julian Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad. Beskedet får Julian Assanges svenske försvarare Tomas Olsson att vädra morgonluft.

– Ska Sverige som stat kräva av andra länder att de följer FN:s deklarationer om mänskliga rättigheter, så måste vi vara beredda att göra det själva, säger advokat Tomas Olsson i SVT Gomorron Sverige.

Men FN-bedömningen inte bindande på något sätt, enligt advokat Thomas Bodström som är tidigare kompanjon till målsägarbiträdet Claes Borgström.

– Ett FN-organ kan inte stå över en svensk eller brittisk domstol [!!!]. De kan så klart föra fram sina argument, men det tror jag att Assanges advokater redan gjort, säger advokat Thomas Bodström.

Julian Assange tog sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London 2012 och fick asyl. Han är misstänkt för sexuella övergrepp i Sverige och en svensk åklagare har begärt honom häktad och vill att han överlämnas till Sverige.

– Han befinner sig på ambassaden för att det är det enda sättet han kan utöva sin rätt till asyl, säger Tomas Olsson.

Grunden handlar om Julian Assange ska förhöras. Frågan är om fallet kan komma att leda till några juridiska förändringar.

– Jag tycker nog att det är rätt att Assange får fortsätta vara kvar på ambassaden. Det blir en konstig praxis om man kan hålla sig undan, själv ta sig till en ambassad och sedan säga att man är frihetsberövad, säger Thomas Bodström.

Julian Assange väntas själv framträda på en presskonferens i London under fredagen.

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## **Professor i folkrätt kritisk till FN-rapport om Assange**

*Kaj Söderinka  
SVT  
5 februari 2016*

Den rapport som FN-gruppen presenterade under fredagen bedömer att Julian Assanges vistelse på Ecuadors ambassad var ett godtyckligt frihetsberövande. Men FN rapportens argument ifrågasätts.

– Det är låg kvalitet på resonemangen, säger Pål Wrange, professor i folkrätt vid Stockholms universitet.

Pål Wrange är även kritisk till huruvida Julian Assanges frivilliga vistelse på den ecuadorianska ambassaden är en fråga om frihetsberövande över huvudtaget.

– Assange har vid flera tillfällen haft möjlighet att avbryta sin husarrest och överlämna sig till det svenska rättsväsendet, säger Pål Wrange.

Enligt Pål Wrange är det svenska rättsväsendet ett av världens mest rättssäkra, men han känner heller inte till någon domstol som tidigare har bedömt en situation som den som Julian Assange befinner sig i.

– Arbetsgruppen utför ett värdefullt arbete som förtjänar stöd och dess rapporter ska tas på allvar, men de är inte juridiskt bindande. Enligt min bestämda uppfattning har detta utlåtande inte någon större tyngd, argumenten övertygar inte. En annan domstol eller liknande organ skulle ha motiverat ett beslut mer ingående, särskilt vad ett frihetsberövande utgör.

Vad som händer med Julian Assange nu är oklart.

– Förutsatt att han lämnar ambassaden, så tror jag inte att han utelämnas till USA. Både Sverige och Storbritannien har utlämningsavtal med USA som de måste följa, men det finns undantag då det gäller politiska brott, spioneri och så vidare. I så fall måste USA bygga ett åtal baserat på andra brott, säger Pål Wrangé.

FN:s tidigare rättschef Hans Corell delar Pål Wrangés uppfattning om att det är ett komplicerat fall, men beskriver FN-rapportens utlåtande som "mycket välformulerad", och han delar inte slutsatsen.

– Man får vara försiktig i bedömningen men jag blev rätt förvånad att arbetsgruppen kom fram till att det här är ett godtyckligt frihetsberövande, säger Hans Corell.

**Han tycker även att det är "obehagligt" att arbetsgruppen har en annan ståndpunkt än de inblandade staterna.**

Hans Corell förstår inte varför åklagaren inte förhört Julian Assange under alla de år som han befunnit sig på den ecuadorianska ambassaden.

Åklagarsidan överväger nu hur den ska göra sedan Ecuador sagt att dess myndigheter ska hålla eventuella förhör.

– Om Ecuador vill hålla i det utgår jag från att svensk polis och åklagare kan medverka och ställa de frågor som är relevanta för utredningen, säger Hans Corell.

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## **Svenska åklagarna: FN-gruppens rapport betydelselös**

*Erik Grönlund  
TT/SVT  
5 februari 2016*

Yttrandet från FN-gruppen UNWGAD, som menar att Sverige borde släppa fallet Assange och upphöra med att beröva honom sin frihet, saknar betydelse. Det skriver svenska Åklagarmyndigheten i ett pressmeddelande.

"Den ansvariga åklagaren har sedan mars 2015 försökt få till stånd ett förhör med Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambasad i London. Något förhör har ännu inte kunnat genomföras eftersom den behöriga myndigheten i Ecuador inte har lämnat sitt tillstånd till det [*p.g.a brister i åklagarens ansökan hävdar Ecuador --A.B.*]."

Så skriver Åklagarmyndigheten i sitt uttalande med anledning av den rapport om fallet Assange som UNWGAD presenterade under fredagsförmiddagen.

Även regeringen uttalar sig nu om rapporten. Man avfärdar de slutsatser som UNWGAD drar, och UD:s rättschef Anders Rönquist skriver i ett uttalande till FN-gruppen att Assange inte riskerar att överlämnas till USA.

"I vilket fall har inte någon förfrågan om överlämning rörande Mr Assange riktats till Sverige."

Rönquist skriver vidare: "Mr Assange har valt, frivilligt, att vara på den ecuadorianska ambassaden och svenska myndigheter har ingen kontroll över hans beslut att vara där. Mr Assange är fri att lämna ambassaden när som helst. Således är han inte berövad sin frihet där på grund av något beslut som fattats eller någon åtgärd som vidtagits av svenska myndigheter."

En liknande inställning till rapporten har det brittiska utrikesdepartementet. I ett pressmeddelande skriver man att UNWGAD:s utlåtande inte förändrar någonting i sak: "Vi tillbakavisar alla påståenden om att Julian Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad. Storbritannien har redan klargjort för FN att vi kommer att bestrida panelens slutsats."

Brittiska UD påpekar att Assange undvikit att gripas av brittiska myndigheter "genom att välja att stanna kvar på den ecuadorianska ambassaden".

"Misstanken om våldtäkt kvarstår och det finns en europeisk arresteringsorder så Storbritannien har ett juridiskt ansvar att utlämna honom till Sverige", heter det i uttalandet från talespersonen som enligt brittisk praxis inte namnges.

Wikileaksgrundaren har i tre och ett halvt år suttit inne på Ecuadors ambassad – han fruktar att han kommer överlämnas till USA om han går ut från ambassaden, där han med största sannolikhet kommer gripas av brittiska myndigheter och sedan föras till Sverige där en förundersökning fortfarande pågår.

Men FN-gruppen uppmanar i sin rapport Storbritannien och Sverige att upphöra med vad de beskriver som berövande av Assanges frihet. Wikileaksgrundaren bör också få ekonomisk compensation, menar UNWGAD.

Rapporten betyder dock ingenting när det kommer till den pågående förundersökningen i Sverige, enligt Åklagarmyndigheten. Det snart ett år gamla häkttningsbeslutet kvarstår.

Myndigheten skriver i sitt pressmeddelande att den ansvariga åklagaren inte hunnit ta ställning till händelseutvecklingen och för närvarande inte vill kommentera händelseutvecklingen.

Från Thomas Olsson, en av Assanges svenska advokater, är dock FN-panelens yttrande glasklart och borde få omedelbara konsekvenser för hur ärendet ska bedömas i Sverige.

– Det är min bestämda åsikt att den här bedömningen måste ligga till grund för hur åklagarmyndigheten och domstolarna agerar framöver, säger Olsson.

Eftersom Assange tillflykt till ambassaden ses som en form av godtyckligt frihetsberövande bör beslutet om att Assange ska vara häktad i sin frånvaro omprövas, enligt Olsson.



Åklagarmyndigheten meddelade i går att panelens slutsatser inte har någon "formell betydelse för den pågående förundersökningen enligt svensk lagstiftning". Olsson tycker att den inställningen är uppseendeväckande.

– Sverige är ju naturligtvis bundet av de regler som handlar om individens grundläggande fri- och rättigheter och det finns ingen anledning att inte följa FN:s egen tolkning av hur de här reglerna ska tillämpas, säger han.

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[SVT-Opinion](#): 2016-02-05



## "Julian Assange – packa väskan och möt rättvisan!"

**ASSANGE · Elisabeth Massi Fritz om Julian Assange** "Julian Assange är sedan 2010 på sannolika skäl häktad och misstänkt för våldtäkt, en prövning av häktningsskäl som domstolar har gjort. Assange borde packa ihop sin väska, kliva ut genom ambassadens dörr och börja samarbeta med polis och åklagare. Det borde ligga i hans intresse om det nu är som han själv hävdar – att han är oskyldig."

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DN: 2016-02-05

## "Ständigt nya överraskningar i fallet Assange— men läget fortsatt låst"

*Stefan Lisinski: Kommentar*

Turerna kring Julian Assange och de svenska sexbrottsutredningarna bjuder ständigt på nya överraskningar, men utan att någonting egentligen händer. Fredagens uttalande från FN-panelen om godtyckligt frihetsberövande verkar vara en sådan överraskning.

I grunden är det en sorglig historia för alla inblandade. Två kvinnor får inte anklagelser prövade om att de har utsatts för sexbrott.

Inte heller den anklagade Assange, som nekar till brottsanklagelserna, har fått saken prövad. Att Wikileaksgrundaren fortsätter att leva på Ecuadors ambassad kan bara tolkas som att han själv är helt övertygad om det som andra menar är rena konspirationsteorier. Sverige framhåller att USA inte har någon begäran om att Assange ska överlämnas, men det hjälper inte.

En del anser att Wikileaksgrundaren har sig själv att skylla. **Hur man än ser på den saken så har livet på Ecuadors trånga ambassad varit en långvarig inskränkning av friheten, mycket längre än det eventuella straff han skulle få i Sverige.**

I dagsläget finns alltså inget som tyder på någon sorts genombrott i denna sega historia. Den svenska regeringen lär inte lägga sig i hur de svenska åklagarna sköter utredningen. Åklagarna vill fortsätta att driva brottsutredningen och kommer försöka genomföra de planerade förhören med Assange på Ecuadors ambassad.

Att åklagarna i fjol ändrade sig och ville förhöra Assange på ambassaden i London såg ändå ut som ett slags genombrott. Men nu är det tveksamt om förhören går att genomföra, nu när Wikileaksgrundaren fått stöd för sin uppfattning att han är olagligt frihetsberövad.

Mycket talar alltså för att allt fortsätter som förut. Åklagarna lär inte lägga ner fallet. Det skulle se mycket konstigt ut om en brottsutredning lades ner för att den misstänkte lyckades hålla sig undan. Inget talar heller för att Assange frivilligt kommer att lämna ambassaden.

Så kanske detta fortsätter ända fram till augusti 2020. Då preskriberas de sista brottsanklagelserna mot Julian Assange.

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DN: 2016-02-05

## **FN-rapport: Släpp Assange fri**

*Julian Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad, anser FN-gruppen UNWGAD och manar Sverige och Storbritannien att släppa honom fri. Men Sveriges regering är kallsinnig.*

I dag blev det officiellt: FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, har i en utredning slagit fast att Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange är "godtyckligt frihetsberövad i strid med internationella åtaganden", närmare bestämt olika FN-konventioner.

Både Sverige och Storbritannien bär ansvar för det godtyckliga frihetsberövandet anser UNWGAD. FN-gruppen riktar kritik mot att Assange hållits isolerad i brittiskt fängelse, suttit i husarrest samt påtvingats situationen på ambassaden.

Även den svenska Åklagarmyndigheten kritiseras. Eftersom den inte har ansträngt sig tillräckligt har han "långvarigt berövats sin frihet".

Sydkoreanen Seong-Phil Hong, UNWGAD ordförande, skriver att "det godtyckliga frihetsberövandet av Mr Assange bör avbrytas, hans fysiska integritet och rörelsefrihet respekteras, och att han bör ha rätt till (...) compensation".

I sitt svar till UNWGAD skriver den svenska regeringen att den avfärdar dess slutsatser.

**Assange riskerar inte att överlämnas till USA, skriver UD:s rättschef Anders Rönquist till FN-gruppen. "I vilket fall har inte någon förfrågan om överlämning rörande Mr Assange riktats till Sverige." ["Men vi lämnar ingen försäkran att så inte skall ske" glömde han att tillägga. --A.B.]**

Rönquist skriver vidare "Mr Assange har valt, frivilligt, att vara på den ecuadorianska ambassaden och svenska myndigheter har ingen kontroll över hans beslut att vara där. Mr Assange är fri att lämna ambassaden när som helst. Således är han inte berövad sin frihet där på grund av något beslut som fattas eller någon åtgärd som vidtagits av svenska myndigheter."

Vad gäller önskemålet om att hanteringen av Assanges fall ska bedömas på nytt understryker Rönquist att Sverige och Storbritannien har regelbundna kontakter, "i synnerhet för att underlätta för den svenska Åklagarmyndighetens förundersökning." Han påpekar också att Ecuador och Sverige den 22 december 2015 ingick ett avtal om rättshjälp

Med beskedet hoppades Assange att snart, efter tre och ett halvt år på Ecuadors ambassad i London, kunna ta sin första promenad i frihet. Men frågan är om det brittiska och svenska rättsväsendet är redo att låta honom gå.

– Insatsen för att gripa Julian Assange fortsätter och skulle han lämna ambassaden så kommer polisen göra allt för att gripa honom, säger en talesman för den brittiska polisen enligt The Guardian.

Om FN-panelen hade gått emot honom lovade Assange att överlämna sig till polisen. Hans advokater anser nu att Sverige och Storbritannien genast ska släppa honom fri.

Thomas Olsson, en av Assanges svenska advokater, har sin uppfattning klar.

– Det är min bestämda åsikt att den här bedömningen måste ligga till grund för hur åklagarmyndigheten och domstolarna agerar framöver, säger han om FN-panelens slutsatser.

Eftersom Assange tillflykt till ambassaden ses som en form av godtyckligt frihetsberövande bör beslutet om att Assange ska vara häktad i sin frånvaro omprövas, enligt Olsson.

Den svenska Åklagarmyndigheten har påpekat att häktningen av Assange är fastställd i Högsta domstolen och skriver i ett pressmeddelande att "Yttrandet från

arbetsgruppen har ingen formell betydelse för den pågående förundersökningen enligt svensk lagstiftning”.

Den ansvariga åklagaren uppges vara på resande fot och ”har ännu inte haft möjlighet att ta ställning till händelseutvecklingen”.

UNWGAD var inte enigt i sitt utlåtande. En av de fem medlemmarna anser inte att Assange är frihetsberövad och att ärendet därför inte faller under UNWGAD:s mandat. En annan medlem är liksom Assange australier och deltog därför inte i överläggningarna.

Panelen går i sitt utlåtande inte in på våldtäktsmisstankarna mot Assange, även om FN-gruppen anser att han bör återfå sin rörelsefrihet. FN-gruppen anser att svenska och brittiska myndigheter på nytt ska bedöma hans fall men berör det i övrigt inte närmare.

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DN: 2015-02-05

## **Hanne Kjöllér: Assange-nummer hos Cirkus FN**

Jag skriver denna artikel på en DN-toalett där jag sedan tre timmar låst in mig själv. Har försökt att komma i kontakt med FN:s generalsekreterare Ban Ki-Moon för att få honom att förstå att DN, alternativt svenska staten, håller mig frihetsberövad här på toan. Och att mina mänskliga rättigheter kränks.

Men Ban Ki-Moon svarar inte. Han är måhända upptagen med Julian Assange, vars rättigheter på motsvarande sätt kränks, enligt världsorganisationens ”oberoende arbetsgrupp för godtyckliga frihetsberövanden”, UNWGAD. Denna är så oberoende att de fem medlemmarna varken är anställda av FN, någon stat eller organisation. Uppdraget är oavlönat.

Det låter mer som en beskrivning av en grupp aktivister än experter. Och det var också så det lät på presskonferensen som inleddes med en uppräknings av allt fantastiskt som Wikileaks och Julian Assange har gjort. Men som förstås också innehöll ett visst strösslande med juridiska paragrafer.

UNWGAD hänvisar till artikel 9 och 10 i FN:s deklaration om mänskliga rättigheter samt artiklarna 7, 9(1), 9(3), 9(4), 10 och 14 i International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Enligt mänskliga rättighetsstadgan får ingen ”godtyckligt anhållas, hållas fängslad eller landsförvisas” (artikel 9). Vidare är var och en ”berättigad till en rättvis och offentlig förhandling vid en oberoende och opartisk domstol” (artikel 10). De övriga paragrafhänvisningarna handlar bland annat om rätten att slippa tortyr, omänsklig behandling och godtyckligt frihetsberövande.

FN-gruppen invänder inte bara mot Assanges självvalda isolering på Ecuadors ambassad utan också mot att han under tio dagar hölls häktad. Det är alltså ett brott

mot mänskliga rättigheter att häkta personer som misstänks för våldtäkt. Kanske menar FN-gruppen att det gäller alla häktade. Och alla som låst in sig själva.

Den tidigare överåklagaren Sven-Erik Alhem hävdade i torsdagens Aktuellt att det kunde få "förödande effekter på Sveriges anseende" om femmannagruppens icke-bindande åsiktsyttring lämnades utan hänsyn. Jag tror nog att det är FN som har större skäl att fundera över sin trovärdighet.

Advokat Per E Samuelson lanserade för övrigt i samma inslag en oortodox syn på rättsskipning. Assange har redan suttit av sin tid, menade han. Om jag ställs inför rätta någon gång ska jag sannerligen se till att försöka få avräkning för mina toatimmar.

Men nu går jag ut. Har förstått av FN att jag har ett skadestånd att casha in.

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SvD: 2016-02-05

Fallet Julian Assange



# Nej, i UNWGAD sitter inte världens fem mäktigaste

VÄRLDEN **Teresa Kuchler:** FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, bedömer att Julian Assange bör gå...



DN: 2016-02-06

## FN-rapport: Släpp Assange fri

I dag blev det officiellt: FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, har i en utredning slagit fast att Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange är "godtyckligt frihetsberövad i strid med internationella åtaganden", närmare bestämt olika FN-konventioner.

Både Sverige och Storbritannien bär ansvar för det godtyckliga frihetsberövandet anser UNWGAD. FN-gruppen riktar kritik mot att Assange hållits isolerad i brittiskt fängelse, suttit i husarrest samt påtvingats situationen på ambassaden.

Även den svenska Åklagarmyndigheten kritiseras. Eftersom den inte har ansträngt sig tillräckligt har han "långvarigt berövats sin frihet".

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I sitt svar till UNWGAD skriver den svenska regeringen att den avfärdar dess slutsatser. Assange riskerar inte att överlämnas till USA, skriver UD:s rättschef Anders Rönquist till FN-gruppen. "I vilket fall har inte någon förfrågan om överlämning rörande Mr Assange riktats till Sverige."

Rönquist skriver vidare "Mr Assange har valt, frivilligt, att vara på den ecuadorianska ambassaden och svenska myndigheter har ingen kontroll över hans beslut att vara där. Mr Assange är fri att lämna ambassaden när som helst. Således är han inte berövad sin frihet där på grund av något beslut som fattas eller någon åtgärd som vidtagits av svenska myndigheter."

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— Insatsen för att gripa Julian Assange fortsätter och skulle han lämna ambassaden så kommer polisen göra allt för att gripa honom, säger en talesman för den brittiska polisen enligt The Guardian.

Om FN-panelen hade gått emot honom lovade Assange att överlämna sig till polisen. Hans advokater anser nu att Sverige och Storbritannien genast ska släppa honom fri.

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DN: 2016-02-06

## **Ifrågasatt FN-panel dömer likadant i nästan 100 procent av fallen**

*Panelen som på fredagen presenterade den hårt kritiserade rapporten om att våldtäktsanklagade Julian Assange frihetsberövats godtyckligt har satts under lupp. De senaste fem åren har UNWGAD landat i samma slutsats i 99,8 procent av fallen.*

Julian Assange har frihetsberövats godtyckligt i tre år och förtjänar kompensation från Storbritannien och Sverige, var FN-panelens slutsats som presenterades på fredagen. Bara en av arbetsgruppens fem ledamöter tycker att Assange-fallet inte alls handlar om frihetsberövande och därför inte ens ska behandlas av dem.

Vem som helst kan anmäla fall till FN:s arbetsgrupp för godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, som instiftades 1991. **Iögonfallande ofta** fattar gruppen beslut som ligger i linje med anmälan.

Av UNWGAD:s egna årsrapporter att döma rör det sig närmare bestämt om nästan 100 procent av de senaste fem årens 1.325 behandlade ärenden. Enligt DN:s genomgång har endast tre av besluten gått mot anmälarens önskemål.

2013 godkände panelen att Schweiz frihetsberövat en mordmisstänkt man och 2009 nekade man en mexikansk mans önskan om att utreda huruvida det är ok att dömas till flera påföljande fängelsestraff. I ett fall från 2012 bedömde man det som rimligt att sociala myndigheter i Filippinerna förhörde fem minderåriga om deras föräldrar. [*Men på vilka grunder? --A.B.*]

FN-panelens fem ledamöter byts ut regelbundet och leds för tillfället av sydkoreanske Seong-Phil Hong som undervisar i internationell rätt och investeringsetik. De andra är José Guevara (människorättsforskare från Mexiko), Sètondji Roland Adjovi (Afrikastudier- och människorättslärare från Benin), Leigh Toomey (tidigare knuten till Raoul Wallenberg-institutet människorättslärare från Australien, liksom Assange varför hon avstod att delta) och panelens enda skiljaktiga ledamot Vladimir Tochilovsky (människorättsforskare från Ukraina).

Tochilovsky tycker, i likhet med många externa experter, att Assange-fallet ligger utanför UNWGAD:s mandat. Dessutom, påpekar han som också många andra gjort, att Assange inte alls är frihetsberövad utan att han sökt sig till Ecuadors ambassad själv. [*Finns det inte några externa experter som stödjer beslutet? --A.B.*]

Ukrainaren skriver i sin skiljaktiga mening att Assange är på Ecuadors ambassad bara för att undvika ett gripande, precis som många andra misstänkta flyr till platser där de kan undkomma rättvisan. "Men sådana platser för självvald isolering kan inte betraktas som frihetsberövande i arbetsgruppens mening", skriver Tochilovsky som menar att ärendet hellre skulle behandlas av FN:s eller Europadomstolens organ för mänskliga rättigheter.

Läs hela UNWGAD:s beslut inklusive Tochilovskys skiljaktiga mening.

- *Ossi Carp*

- - - - -

DN: 2016-02-06

## Assange och FN-panelen döms ut i pressen

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange uppmärksammas i dag stort i de brittiska tidningarna — både på nyhetsplats och av flera krönikörer. Och det är inga positiva ord han möts av.

"Så, det verkar som att alla är skyldiga utom Assange", skriver The Guardians krönikör Marina Hyde som tycker att han är ynkelig. "Det är värt att notera att ju högre han försöker nå i sin 'kamp för rättvisan' desto mindre verkar han", skriver hon och "min känsla är att det inte är de skarpaste juridiska hjärnorna som dras till en FN-panel som karriärväg".

The Independents krönikör Siobhan Fenton skriver: "Vi vet inte om Julian Assange är en våldtäktsman— så varför är vi så emot att ta reda på om han är det? Det är talande hur samhället vägrar att ens överväga tanken att en vit, socialt och ekonomiskt privilegierad man ens skulle svara på anklagelser som kvinnor gjort.



”Det verkar som om att många tycker att arbetet han har gjort med Wikileaks får honom att stå över lagen och att det skulle vara omöjligt att han gjort sig skyldig till ett sexuellt övergrepp”, skriver hon. ”Tråkigt nog är det också talande hur sexbrottsanklagades rättigheter alltid trumfar målsägandenas rättigheter.”

The Daily Telegraph har på nyhetsplats en artikel om att FN har gjorts till åtlöje genom panelens resultat— inte minst slutsatsen att han skulle ha frihetsberövats godtyckligt. Flera personer citeras med påpekanden om att han faktiskt aldrig frihetsberövats och att det är Assanges eget beslut att använda sig av Ecuadors ifrågasatta asyl.

Tidningen har också granskat FN-panelens arbete under de fem senaste åren. I 99,7 procent av 1.325 fall har UNWGAD landat i försvar till den tilltalade. Bara fyra gånger har panelen uteslutit godtycklighet i undersökta frihetsberövanden.

The Times påminner också om att den aktuella panelen tidigare har anklagat Ecuador— som gett Assange asyl och låtit honom stanna på ambassaden i London— för rutinmässig tortyr och godtyckliga frihetsberövanden.

Tabloiden The Suns rubrik lyder: ”Hur vågar de? Ilska när FN-panel kräver brittisk kompensation till Assange sedan han flytt rättvisan i tre år”.

Under fredagen kom beskedet att FN-panelen UNWGAD anser att Julian Assange är ”godtyckligt frihetsberövad”. Assange själv höll ett kortare tal för det samlade pressupbådet och några jublande anhängare.

– Om det här illegala, omoraliska och oetiska kvarhållandet fortsätter kommer det att bli konsekvenser för de inblandade parterna, sade han bland annat.

Sverige och Storbritannien har avfärdat FN-gruppens slutsatser.

- *Ossi Carp*

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SvD: 2016-02-06

## **Människorättsgrupp: Sverige har skadat sitt rykte**

Ovärdigt en demokratisk stat, brist på respekt för konventioner och förlorad global trovärdighet. Det anser Human Rights Watch om Sveriges och Storbritanniens sätt att bemöta FN-kritiken i Assange-ärendet.

Under fredagen offentliggjorde FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, sin kritik mot Sveriges hantering av våldtäktsanklagelserna mot Julian Assange. Enligt gruppen är Wikileaksgrundaren ”godtyckligt frihetsberövad i strid med internationella åtaganden”.

Såväl svenska som brittiska myndigheter har tillbakavisat rapportens slutsats.

Människorättsorganisationen Human Rights Watch, HRW, anser att Sverige och Storbritannien agerat klandervärt. **Organisationen menar att UNWGAD är en "viktig auktoritativ FN-röst" vars synpunkter inte bara borde viftas bort. Att inte ta till sig av kritiken är att svika de åtaganden länderna tagit på sig genom att skriva under FN:s konvention om medborgerliga och politiska rättigheter, anser HRW.**

**Organisationen menar att USA:s behandling av spioneridömde Chelsea Manning visar att Assanges rädsla att lämna ambassaden är befogad.** Därför borde de svenska åklagarna ha förhört Assange på plats i London, anser HRW.

Sverige och Storbritannien har "allvarligt skadat sina rykten genom att så ivrigt vifta undan obekväma åtaganden om mänskliga rättigheter", skriver HRW på sin hemsida.

• *Per Kudo*

[www.svd.se/manniskorattsgrupp-sverige-har-skadat-sitt-rykte/om/fallet-julian-assange](http://www.svd.se/manniskorattsgrupp-sverige-har-skadat-sitt-rykte/om/fallet-julian-assange)

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AB: 2016-02-05

## **Sverige borde tagit Assanges rädsla på större allvar**

Sverige borde ha tagit Julian Assanges rädsla för att bli utlämnad till USA på betydligt större allvar och tagit hänsyn till att han på grund av denna rädsla faktisk fått asyl i Ecuador. Och man borde, när hela affären nu drog ut så på tiden, ha sett om det inte gick att förhöra honom på annat vis än att nödvändigtvis skeppa honom till Sverige, exempelvis genom ett videoförhör.

Det är några av de bra argumenten som FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden lägger fram. Men det betyder inte, menar jag nog, att Assange varit godtyckligt frihetsberövad. Han försatte sig onekligen själv i denna situation när han bröt mot reglerna för sin husarrest och sökte skydd på Ecuadors ambassad.

**FN:s utlåtande kommer inte att övertyga någon som redan bestämt sig.** Positionerna är ju sedan länge låsta mellan fansen och hatarna. Och den som läser arbetsgruppens hela sammanställning kan hitta argument som både stödjer och motsäger Assanges sak.

**Tyngst väger, menar jag, det faktum att han fått asyl, eftersom det aktualiserar det absoluta förbudet i Flyktingkonventionen mot att utvisa folk till förföljelse.**

Sverige har besvarat detta med man har inte ens fått en begäran från USA och att det finns säkerhetsspärrar i det svenska systemet som ska hindra att någon lämnas ut om det finns risk för tortyr och annat.

Visst. **Men ingenting, annat än våra goda relationer med supermakten, hade så vitt jag förstår hindrat Sverige att utfärda en garanti mot utlämning.** Det är ju regeringen

som fattar de besluten, inte domstolarna. Samma sak kan för övrigt göras med Edward Snowden. Okonventionellt, men förmodligen möjligt.

Det är svårt att se att svenska myndigheter nu helt skulle ignorera FN:s bedömning. Men därifrån till att häva arresteringsordern är steget långt, eftersom det vore liktydigt med att låta en misstänkt våldtäktsman gå fri utan prövning.

Men det minsta man kan begära är att FN:s kritik sätter fart på åklagarmyndigheten att få till ett förhör i London. Det faller på svenska myndigheter att bryta dödläget.

• *Petter Larsson*

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Date: 7 Feb. 2016

To: Al Burke <editor@nnn.se>

From a correspondent in Uppsala:

"On the public service radio 'God morgon världen' this Sunday morning the panel of three journalists, headed by Hanne Köller, discussed the recent Assange ruling by the UN. As the commentator concluded: 'Rarely has a panel been more in agreement'. All three condemned Assange as a criminal fleeing from law and justice and ridiculed the UN-committee as being incompetent and without any authority to pronounce on the case.

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## **No fair hearing for Assange at the Guardian**

*Jonathan Cook*

5 FEBRUARY 2016

At what point do we cry foul when we witness the abuse of a political dissident, one who dares to take on mighty vested interests?

When his own state, the local legal system and the media all turn on him? When he is forced to seek sanctuary in a foreign embassy for many years, surrounded by state security forces threatening to arrest him if he leaves? When the world's highest arbiter on the matter of his confinement, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, supports his case? When the state, legal authorities and the media ignore the ruling and continue to demand his arrest?

**If this were China or Russia, at some point along this trajectory most of us would have been forced to concede that this was a clear case of political persecution; that the best he could hope for was a show trial; and that the local media were failing in their role as watchdogs on power.**

But this is not China or Russia. This is the UK, the dissident is Julian Assange and it suddenly seems that the world's leading experts on arbitrary detention have no clue what they are talking about.

Today the UN panel on arbitrary detention ruled that Assange, who has spent more than three years confined to a tiny room in the Ecuadorean embassy in London, is being arbitrarily detained and that he should be allowed to walk free.

The panel comprises leading experts in international human rights law from around the world who have been studying his case since 2014. It is probably safe to assume they know much more about the details of the case than most journalists.

Assange was convicted by the British corporate media, including its supposedly liberal outfits, from the moment allegations of sexual offences in Sweden surfaced six years ago. **August media outlets like the BBC, which carefully presume innocence in prosecutions of those accused of everyday crimes, repeatedly made grossly erroneous claims about Assange, including that he had been charged with rape when no charges have yet been laid.** Assange is being investigated.

Even now, when the UN panel is on his side, it seems the British media are not about to stop.

What has been so infuriating about the coverage of Assange's case is that supposedly critical journalists have simply peddled allegations and arguments advanced by the parties involved — the UK, Sweden, and the United States — **without making even cursory efforts to check them.**

Film-maker Alex Gibney, for example, spent many months putting together a cinema-released documentary on the Assange case that made such elementary mistakes that anyone who had spent even a little time watching the case unfold could pick apart basic flaws in Gibney's argument, as I did [here](#).

Although the UN panel has backed Assange, as it has other prominent dissidents such as Aung Sang Suu Kyi in Burma and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia, Britain's most esteemed liberal mainstream newspaper, the Guardian, has barely paused for breath in continuing to pursue its campaign against him.

An editorial today dismisses the UN ruling as a "publicity stunt". It ignores the weight of the UN panel's decision, and yet again makes claims and assertions about the case that are patently false.

The core of its argument is this: Assange cannot have been arbitrarily detained because, by denying Swedish prosecutors the chance to interview him, he has blocked their efforts to advance the case. In other words, his detention is self-inflicted.

The Guardian puts it this way: "Since Mr Assange left Sweden in 2010 before he could be questioned and has resolutely refused to return, no such interview has taken place."

That short sentence contains two deceptions. Assange was interviewed in Sweden when the allegations were initially made. And he was allowed to leave the country

after the first prosecutor, Eva Finne, dismissed the case, saying: "I don't believe there is any reason to suspect that he has committed rape."

It is not even true that an interview cannot take place because Assange will not return to Sweden. Remember Assange has not returned because he is seeking asylum in Ecuador's embassy to prevent his extradition to Sweden and what he fears will be an onward extradition to the US, where he is likely to be tried for Wikileaks' activities, which have deeply embarrassed the White House.

It is quite possible for Marianne Ny, the Swedish prosecutor who revived the case after Finne dismissed it, to travel the short distance to London to interview him. It has happened before in much less high-profile cases. She knows where to find him, after all.

But despite Ny's aggressive pursuit of other angles to this case, she has dragged her feet for years over this simple and essential stage of her investigation to determine whether there is any substance to the claims against Assange.

Now judge for yourself the Guardian's seriousness in considering Assange's plight from this single sentence: "[Assange] was granted bail [in the UK] while he fought extradition to Sweden and he broke his bail conditions, at great expense to those friends and supporters who had backed him financially, by fleeing to the Ecuadorian embassy."

Assange is claiming asylum from political persecution, and has been backed by the world's authority on the matter -- the UN panel whose similar rulings in the the detentions of Aung Sang Suu Kyi in Burma and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia have been enthusiastically supported by the Guardian.

Assange is not paranoid. A grand jury has been secretly convened in Virginia, the home of the CIA, that is dredging up long-discarded laws to charge him with espionage, even though he is not a US citizen.

**And in spite of all this, the Guardian thinks that the most pressing matter is Assange violating his bail conditions.** Should this argument not be considered risible? Would the Guardian have dared raise it in relation to Suu Kyi, Anwar Ibrahim or the dissident Chinese artist Ai Weiwei? Had they sought asylum in a foreign embassy from political persecution, as the UN panel's ruling at the very least implies is the case for Assange, would the Guardian be arguing that they should still have handed themselves over to the authorities so as not to break their bail terms?

The Guardian's truly Kafka-esque worldview is revealed in its editorial's concluding line: "WikiLeaks was founded on exposing those who ignored the rule of law. Surely its editor-in-chief should recognise his duty to see it upheld."

Wikileaks was most certainly not founded to expose those who have violated local, state-based law. Wikileaks does not believe Suu Kyi should have spent many years under house arrest because she broke Burma's laws, or that Anwar Ibrahim should be in jail because he violated Malaysian laws. Or that George Bush and Tony Blair should

live as respected multi-millionaires rather than face long jail sentences as war criminals because their local legal systems do not function properly.

Wikileaks was founded on another idea: that a fairer world requires transparency.

The secret machinations of the US grand jury, the endless obfuscations and hidden agenda of Sweden's second prosecutor, and the Guardian's own financial reliance on major corporations are all relevant to understanding why Assange remains arbitrarily detained — and why the Guardian won't give him a fair hearing.

[www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-05/no-fair-hearing-for-assange-at-the-guardian](http://www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-05/no-fair-hearing-for-assange-at-the-guardian)

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## UK and Swedish governments continue their persecution of Julian Assange

*Robert Stevens*  
*World Socialist Web Site*  
*6 February 2016*

On Friday, the United Nations issued a public statement finding that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been subjected to “arbitrary detention” through the collusion of the British and Swedish governments.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) is an expert group, founded in 1991 with a mandate “to investigate allegations of individuals being deprived of their liberty in an arbitrary way **or inconsistently with international human rights standards**, and to recommend remedies such as release from detention and compensation, when appropriate.”

Following the release of the UN's opinion, Assange made a statement to the media via a video feed from the Ecuadorian Embassy, where he has sought sanctuary for more than three and a half years. He said that in total he had now been detained for five and a half years: “Today that detention without charge has been found to be unlawful. I consider the outcome a vindication.” The issue was “now a matter of settled law,” he added.

Releasing its findings, UNWGAD explained that they “are legally-binding to the extent that they are based on binding international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)”. It added, “**The Opinions of the UNWGAD are also considered as authoritative by prominent international and regional judicial institutions, including the European Court of Human Rights.**”

In a manner that has characterised their actions from the very beginning of their witch-hunt of Assange, the UK and Swedish governments refused to abide by international law and rejected the UN's verdict. The UK Foreign Office said, “This changes nothing. We completely reject any claim that Julian Assange is a victim of arbitrary detention.”

The opinion of the five-person UNWGAD panel consists of just five paragraphs [*the full opinion is 18 pages --A.B.*], but is a devastating indictment of Assange's illegal detention, carried out by the UK and Sweden, in alliance with the United States government.

"Assange has been subjected to different forms of deprivation of liberty: initial detention in Wandsworth prison which was followed by house arrest and his confinement at the Ecuadorian Embassy," UNWGAD said. "Having concluded that there was a continuous deprivation of liberty, the Working Group also found that the detention was arbitrary because he was held in isolation during the first stage of detention and because of the lack of diligence by the Swedish Prosecutor in its investigations, which resulted in the lengthy detention of Mr. Assange."

Assange has been detained in violation of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). UNWGAD states that it found Assange's "detention is in violation of Articles 9 and 10 of the UDHR and Articles 7, 9(1), 9(3), 9(4), 10 and 14 of the ICCPR..."

The Working Group calls on Sweden and the UK to ensure Assange's "safety and physical integrity" and "to facilitate the exercise of his right to freedom of movement in an expedient manner, and to ensure the full enjoyment of his rights guaranteed by the international norms on detention."

The statement is based on the "Working Group's Opinion on Julian Assange's case", adopted December 4, 2015. The 18-page document represents the findings on the application submitted to them in September 2014 by Assange's legal team. The UK and Swedish governments also presented their case to UNWGAD.

The conclusions of the Working Group are a crushing rebuttal of every claim made by the UK and Swedish authorities that Assange's arrest and detention was in any way conducted according to international law.

The December opinion states, "Assange has not been guaranteed the international norms of due process and the guarantees to a fair trial during these three different moments: the detention in isolation in Wandsworth Prison, the 550 days under house arrest, and the continuation of the deprivation of liberty in the Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in London, United Kingdom."

It notes, "The Working Group is concerned that the only basis of the deprivation of liberty of Mr. Assange appears to be the European Arrest Warrant issued by the Swedish prosecution based on a criminal allegation. Until the date of the adoption of this Opinion, Mr. Assange has never been formally indicted in Sweden."

The opinion concludes: "Assange has been denied the opportunity to provide a statement, which is a fundamental aspect of the *audi alteram partem* principle, the access to exculpatory evidence, and thus the opportunity to defend himself against the allegations; (2) **the duration of such detention is *ipso facto* incompatible with the presumption of innocence.**"

Friday's UNWGAD statement declares, "In that [December] opinion, the Working Group recognized that Mr. Assange is entitled to his freedom of movement and to compensation."

The UNWGAD reached its verdict by a 3-1 majority. It noted, "Given that Mr. Assange is an Australian citizen, one of the members [Ms. Leigh Toomey] of the Working Group who shares his nationality recused herself from participating in the deliberations." This was in accordance with rule 5 of its Methods of Work, the UNWGAD said.

The lone dissenting opinion was made by Vladimir Tochilovsky, a Ukrainian prosecutor. Tochilovsky claimed that Assange was not being detained, so the UNWGAD had no mandate to even hear his case. The Swedish government supported Tochilovsky's spurious opinion.

There is no doubt that the Working Group's verdict was made in the teeth of bitter opposition from the, US, UK and Swedish governments.

The former UNWGAD panel chair, the Norwegian lawyer Professor Mads Andenas, told the Guardian Friday, "I'm absolutely convinced that [the panel] has been put under very strong political pressure." Andenas completed his term in office last summer and was involved in earlier stages of compiling the report on Assange's detention.

Andenas supported the panel's findings in favour of Assange, adding, "This is a courageous decision which is important for the international rule of law."

The hypocrisy of the imperialist powers, which have often used the findings of the UN panel on arbitrary detentions for their own predatory purposes, is staggering. Andenas correctly observed, "If this finding had been made against any other country with a human rights record that one does not wish to compare oneself with, then these states [Sweden and UK] would have made it clear that the [offending] country should comply with the ruling of the working group."

The bitter hostility of the UK and Swedish governments, in collaboration with the Obama administration, to the rule of international law is at one with their assault on the fundamental social and democratic rights of the working class, made necessary by their pursuit of savage austerity at home and imperialist war abroad.

The UNWGAD report demolishes the pretence that the legal vendetta against Assange had anything to do with the pursuit of "justice" for his Swedish accusers. Sweden's prosecutors could have easily, with Assange's full compliance, have interviewed him at any point since his December 2010 arrest in London. That they didn't was because they wanted to ensure that he was extradited to Sweden, in order to ship him to the US where he would pay, perhaps even with his life, for what they view as his real "crime" — WikiLeaks' exposure of the heinous acts committed by the US and its allies in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

Workers and young people in the UK, US, Sweden and internationally must work for the defeat of the efforts to silence Assange and demand his immediate freedom.



<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2016/02/06/assa-f06.html>

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## Lies about UN body imperil not just Assange

*Jonathan Cook*

*The Blog from Nazareth*

6 FEBRUARY 2016

Something extremely dangerous is happening before our eyes as we watch British officials and the corporate media respond to today's ruling of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which found that Julian Assange is being arbitrarily detained in the UK.

A major international institution upholding the rights of political dissidents around the world as they face illegal detention, abuse and torture is being turned into a laughing stock **with the enthusiastic connivance of supposedly liberal media outlets like the Guardian and the BBC.**

**Reporters, columnists and comedians are pouring scorn on the UN group, legal experts who until yesterday were widely respected in the west and seen as a final bulwark against the most oppressive regimes on earth.**

In desperate moments, confined and isolated, dissidents like Aung Sang Suu Kyi in Burma and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia could take solace from the knowledge that a respected UN group stood shoulder to shoulder with them. In some cases, faced the weight of its opinion, regimes preferred to release such dissidents.

Now the UN Working Group's status and the significance of its decisions are being irreparably undermined. **In their desperation to keep Assange reviled, British officials and their collaborators in the media are destroying the last vestiges of protection for political dissidents around the world.**

The most glaring example of this process, as pointed out by the former UK diplomat Craig Murray, is an outright lie being peddled by the British Foreign Secretary, Phillip Hammond. He says the UN panel is "made up of lay people and not lawyers".

In reality, the panel consists of distinguished legal experts in the field of international law. You can see their CVs [here](#).

Unlike Hammond, who is doubtless looking over his shoulder to the other side of the Atlantic, these are truly independent figures— that is, they are not beholden to the governments of the countries they are from. And if Mats Andenas, the Norwegian chair of the Working Group for much of its investigation, is to be believed, they are brave too. He says the panel has come under intense pressure from the US and UK to arrive at a decision contrary to the one they actually reached.

We know why the US wanted the panel's decision to go against Assange— after all, he is in the Ecuadorean embassy precisely because he fears extradition to the US, where a secret grand jury is awaiting him.

But one has to wonder why the UK was so keen to overturn the Working Group's ruling. Doesn't the UK claim it is simply a "bobby on the beat", trying to uphold the letter of the law as it spends millions on policing Assange's detention? If the UN group says Assange should go free, that's a nice little saving for the British taxpayer, isn't it?

**Hammond's lie has not been challenged in the British media, even though a quick Google search would prove it is a falsehood.** And now Murray informs us, the Foreign Office's official spokesman has said the government department stands by the lie. In short, Hammond's lie is no longer simply one politician's foolish spin, but the official view of the diplomatic service.

The readiness of all sections of the British media to spread this lie and even expand on it is illustrated by a **truly despicable piece of journalism from the Guardian's columnist Marina Hyde. She is not some freelance blogger; she's one of the most senior staff writers at the newspaper. Her voice can be considered to reflect the prevailing view of the paper's editors.**

Hyde not only echoes Hammond but uses her well-known cutting wit to deride the UN panel. Apparently, these leading experts on international law are really know-nothings:

I don't want to go out on too much of a limb here, but my sense is that the finest legal minds are not drawn to UN panels as a career path. ... Perhaps UN panellists are like UN goodwill ambassadors, and even Geri Halliwell could be one. ...

As for their almost-amusing diagnosis of "house arrest", the only possible rejoinder, if you'll forgive the legalese, is: Do. Me. A. Favour. Assange's bail conditions— I'm sorry if the term is confusing to the panel— saw him placed with an electronic tag in a stately home from which he was free to come and go all day long.

And so on.

Similar ridicule has already been heaped on the UN decision by a popular BBC comedy show, slowly settling in the British public's mind that Assange is a rapist refusing to face the music (even though he has not yet been charged); that the UN's legal experts are buffoons who cannot hold a candle to our own resolutely independent judges; and that Britain is a disinterested party simply honouring the letter of the law.

The degraded discourse about the UN group's decision does not just threaten Assange, but endangers vulnerable political dissidents around the world. The very fact that Hyde and her ilk are so ready to sacrifice these people's rights in their bid to tar and feather Assange should be warning enough that there is even more at stake here than meets the eye.

[www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-06/lies-about-un-body-imperil-not-just-assange](http://www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-06/lies-about-un-body-imperil-not-just-assange)

## Why the Assange ruling is not ‘ridiculous’

*Jonathan Cook*  
*The Blog from Nazareth*  
 8 FEBRUARY 2016

Mads Adenaes, until recently the Norwegian chair of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, agrees with my post that a Guardian editorial on Friday seriously misrepresented the group’s legal ruling that Assange had been arbitrarily detained.

Adenaes also explains in simple terms why the ruling is not a “publicity stunt” (the Guardian), “ridiculous” (British foreign secretary Phillip Hammond) or “crazy” (too many people commenting on my social media pages). It is grounded in a very reasonable interpretation of international law— and very unreasonable legal behaviour by both Sweden and the UK.

Adanaes’ comments were made during an interview on Democracy Now....

What Adenaes points out is that the detention is considered arbitrary in part because Sweden has not pursued it in the way a similar “normal” case would have been. Sweden, remember, let Assange leave the country after he had been interviewed by the first prosecutor and it had been decided to drop the case.

In normal circumstances, it would be entirely routine for the second Swedish prosecutor, who revived the case, to come to the UK to conduct a further interview, as has happened numerous times before. In this case, where there are serious grounds for believing Assange is in danger of political persecution (that secret grand jury awaiting him in the US for the embarrassing revelations put out by Wikileaks), the failure of Swedish prosecutors to make possible such an interview in the UK over several years is treated as a sign of bad faith. It provides further grounds for suspecting that Assange is in real danger of onwards extradition to the US, assisted by Sweden.

Note what else Adanaes says of the behaviour of the second prosecutor, Marianne Ny, who revived the case after it had been dropped: “Swedish courts have been very critical of the prosecutor, of the Swedish prosecutor, for this. And if you read those judgments closely— they’re in Swedish, of course— you will see that it is as strong a criticism as you can expect possible from a Swedish court against the way that the prosecutors have proceeded here.”

In other words, Swedish judges think the prosecutor is behaving unreasonably too.

The UK is actively participating in this legal charade by spending millions of pounds to keep Assange confined to a tiny room in the Ecuadorean embassy, apparently more interested in turning him into a reviled figure than in expediting an interview by Swedish prosecutors that could resolve the case and get him dedicating his energies to the important work he does for Wikileaks.

That is essentially why the UN panel calls it “arbitrary detention”. Not a “publicity stunt” or “ridiculous”. A very reasonable interpretation of the rights Assange should

enjoy to fair treatment under international law. (It should be noted that his continuing detention, after this ruling, amounts to torture.)

As Assange's lawyer, notes: "He has been detained now for five years, one month and 29 days. And to put it bluntly, that's a hell of a long time to detain someone, someone who has never been charged and has never even been questioned by the Swedish authorities."

That so many people have concluded that a panel of leading international law experts has arrived at a preposterous decision in the Assange case says far more about those reaching such a conclusion than the panel.

Too many people are apparently willing to believe what the British government and the corporate media tell them must be true. They do so, it seems, because they mistakenly believe that the corporate media— one made possible only through massive subsidies provided by the advertising of large corporations, or the BBC, a state broadcaster dependent on government funding— represent them rather than the vested interests of the powerful.

The universal derision in the British media of a UN panel of legal experts, transforming them into a bunch of buffoons on a matter of international law, should serve as a springboard to questioning what passes in Britain (and the US) for news and analysis. Instead it has set many marching in lock-step with the British government.

[www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-08/why-the-assange-ruling-is-not-ridiculous](http://www.jonathan-cook.net/blog/2016-02-08/why-the-assange-ruling-is-not-ridiculous)

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## **Disregard for UN ruling on Julian Assange's detention will be a blow to human rights**

*Melinda Taylor  
Sydney Morning Herald  
February 8, 2016*

In September 2014, Julian Assange filed a complaint against Sweden and Britain with the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD).

In a landmark opinion issued on February 5, 2016, WGAD upheld Assange's complaint that he is a victim of illegal and arbitrary detention, and thereby dispelled the myths that Assange chooses to remain in the Embassy or that he is a fugitive from justice.

This opinion is a victory not only for Assange, but for the right of whistle-blowers everywhere to be protected from persecution, and for the victims who benefit from their work.

WGAD affirmed that Assange had been detained continuously for more than five years: first in isolation in a prison, then under house arrest, and finally, under Embassy arrest which was comprised of continuous confinement and police surveillance.

Regarding the latter, WGAD further found that this "gilded cage" lacked the basic amenities required to satisfy the minimum rights of detainees, such as access to appropriate medical facilities and treatment.

The report said this had placed Assange's health at "serious risk". Assange did not choose to be detained in this manner. In February 2012, the Special Rapporteur on Torture issued findings that Chelsea Manning had been subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment in the United States while being interrogated in relation to Assange and Wikileaks.

There were also concrete indicia that the United States was conducting a full-blown investigation into Assange, and was engaged in discussions with Sweden regarding his future extradition to the US.

Assange therefore requested Ecuador to afford him protection from the well-founded risk that he would be subjected to persecution and cruel and inhumane treatment if extradited to the US.

After a thorough consideration of the application, Ecuador granted Assange asylum under the terms of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Sweden and Britain have ratified this convention, but both refused to either recognise Assange's asylum status, or provide him with assurances against refoulement to the US.

**As a result, Assange was faced with an impossible catch-22; if he stayed in the Embassy, he could be detained indefinitely, but if he left he would be the next victim of the US' war on whistle-blowers.**

This risk of refoulement to the US formed the prison bars which kept him detained. In a damning indictment of the manner in which Sweden and Britain handled this situation, **WGAD underscored Assange's continued willingness to co-operate with the Swedish investigations during all stages of the procedure**, and concluded that he is in fact a victim of a significant miscarriage of justice.

Concretely, for over five years, the Swedish Prosecutor refused to question Assange in Sweden, London or the embassy, and refused to provide him with access to the case file.

Assange was, as a result, denied the right to clear his name, and to dispel the cloud of suspicion which has been unfairly fanned by the high profile nature of this case. **This contravened the presumption of innocence, and his right to have the uncharged allegations investigated fairly, impartially and expeditiously.**

In light of these findings, WGAD upheld Assange's complaint that he is arbitrarily detained. WGAD further recognised that Assange should not have to sacrifice his right to liberty in order to enjoy protection from torture: Sweden and Britain were requested to ensure his safety, protection and his right to freedom of movement.

In an important recognition of the fact that Assange has been a victim of this process, WGAD further ordered Britain and Sweden to accord him an enforceable right to compensation.

Of course, financial compensation can never bring back the time that Assange has lost with his family, but **it may provide a powerful incentive for Sweden and Britain to implement the findings now, rather than later, given that the potential costs will continue to mount.**

Such incentives are important given that Britain's foreign secretary came out swinging, with claims that Britain has no obligation to comply with the "ridiculous" finding, issued by "laypersons".

The foreign secretary was apparently not briefed on the fact that WGAD is a specialised United Nations body composed of impartial, international legal experts, which applies binding standards of international law in the area of illegal and arbitrary deprivations of liberty.

This response is of course disappointing, but it is also untenable. Political posturing cannot and should not prevail over a detailed, impartial assessment based on facts and law.

Britain and Sweden cannot simply ignore WGAD's findings because it is them in the dock, or because they disagree with Assange's whistleblowing activities.

The system of international human rights law established by the United Nations Charter serves to protect the rights of all persons, weak and strong, throughout the world.

Their disregard for this decision would only serve to diminish this system of protection, and weaken the rights of victims everywhere. Of course, today it is Assange— an antipodean who challenges authority— **but tomorrow, if it is someone from England or Sweden locked up illegally, what authority will Sweden and Britain have to demand their release?**

Arbitrary detention is also a grave international crime, akin to torture and cruel and inhumane treatment.

If Britain and Sweden intentionally continue this crime, they may have more to worry about than financial sanctions.

- *Melinda Taylor is a human rights lawyer and a member of Julian Assange's legal team.*

[www.smh.com.au/national/disregard-for-un-ruling-on-julian-assanges-detention-will-be-a-blow-to-human-rights-20160207-gmnlsp.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/disregard-for-un-ruling-on-julian-assanges-detention-will-be-a-blow-to-human-rights-20160207-gmnlsp.html)

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## Folkrättsexperter oense om effekter

TT/SVT

8 februari 2016

Folkrättsexperterna är inte överens om ifall det kan skada Sveriges anseende om man inte följer FN-gruppens utlåtande om Julian Assange.

— Risken är att det utnyttjas av andra länder, säger FN:s tidigare rättschef Hans Corell till TT.

**Professor emeritus i folkrätt Ove Bring anser däremot att Sverige inte tar skada av att inte följa FN-gruppens rapport. Snarare skadar utlåtandet FN-gruppens trovärdighet och kan påverka andra FN-paneler negativt, anser han.**

– Sverige behöver inte "åttlyda" FN-gruppens rapport. **Den är ett icke bindande utlåtande [!!!]** utfärdad av oberoende experter, inte av FN som sådant. Det rör sig om en ganska apart tolkning av den juridiska situationen, säger Ove Bring till TT.

I fredags kom UNWGAD:s rapport om Julian Assange. FN-gruppen kom i ett oenigt utlåtande fram till att Assange utsatts för godtyckligt gripande (arbitrary detention). Den svenska regeringen, liksom den brittiska, svarade att man inte delar gruppens analys och framhöll att utlåtandet inte är juridiskt bindande.

Sverige brukar hålla FN-systemet högt, och frågan är vilken effekt det har att just ett sådant land avfärdar en rapport från FN-experten.

– Risken finns att det kastar en skugga och kan användas av andra som fått ett glasklart utlåtande. Det här handlar inte om en domstol utan en arbetsgrupp, men rekommendationerna bör normalt följas, även om det kan finnas situationer där man på goda grunder väljer att inte göra det, säger Hans Corell.

Men Ove Bring anser att det snarare riskerar att skada FN-gruppen och att det spiller över negativt på trovärdigheten hos andra FN-paneler med oberoende experter.

– Däremot skadas inte Sveriges eller Storbritanniens internationella rykte av det inträffade, knappast heller Sveriges kandidatur till säkerhetsrådet, säger Bring.

Hans Corell anser att utlåtandet var förvånande, och han ansluter sig till uppfattningen hos den ukrainske experten i gruppen, Volodymyr Totjilovskij, som anser att FN-gruppen inte hade mandat att pröva frågan, eftersom Assange frivilligt begav sig till Ecuadors ambassad.

– Det riktigt allvarliga är det Totjilovskij konstaterar, att om FN-gruppen tar upp och uttalar sig i det här ärendet, så kan det inte tas upp av något annat internationellt organ senare, inklusive ett organ vars utlåtande är juridiskt bindande, säger Hans Corell.  
[Logiken? --A.B.]

Julian Assange själv har sagt att det kan bli aktuellt att gå till Europadomstolen för mänskliga rättigheter.

– Då möts han av den här invändningen, säger Corell. [Bara om den tänker som herr Corell, en "nyttig idiot" för USA/Nato. --A.B.]

**Människorättsorganisationen Human Rights Watch (HRW) anser att Sverige och Storbritannien inte borde ha förvånats över utslaget eftersom UNWGAD "många gånger har varnat för att det är olagligt att tvinga någon att välja mellan frihet och en grundläggande rättighet, såsom asyl, vilken Assange nu åtnjuter".**

Dinah PoKempner, chefsjurist vid människorättsorganisationen Human Rights Watch (HRW), beklagar de båda ländernas reaktion. Att FN-gruppens utlåtande inte skulle påverka dem "är inte vad man förväntar sig av demokratiska regeringar som vanligen stödjer FN:s mekanismer och folkrätten".

Sedan tidigare är Assange och de kvinnor han misstänks ha begått övergrepp mot förlorare, enligt PoKempner. Nu är Sverige och Storbritannien det också, anser hon.

FN-gruppen består av fem medlemmar, varav en (liksom Assange från Australien) avstod på grund av risk för jäv.

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AB: 2016-02-08

## Assange-röran är en djupt sorglig historia

Cirkusen runt Julian Assange har genom åren lett till en del besynnerliga reaktioner hos vissa människor. Nytt rekord i disciplinen torde ha slagits i samband med att FN-gruppens bisarra rapport släpptes i fredags.

Möjligen finns det ingen anledning att förvånas. De brott som Wikileakgrundaren eventuellt har begått har lockat allsköns knäppisar och troll ända sedan två kvinnor för drygt fem år sedan anmälde honom. *[Nej, det var polisen som anmälde honom. --A.B.]*

I röran samsas allt från folieheattar som tror att CIA arrangerade en honungsfälla till haverister som har inbillat sig att den svenska sexualbrottlagstiftningens egentliga syfte är att hindra män från att få ligga med kvinnor.

Och som om det inte var nog med elände så har internationella celebriteter som filmregissören Ken Loach och journalisten John Pilger blandat ihop saker och krävt att anklagelserna ska läggas ner eftersom Wikileaks har åstadkommit någonting viktigt.

Ny nivå har dock nåtts de senaste dagarna, sedan UNWGAD, FN:s arbetsgrupp om godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, kommit fram till att Assange är just godtyckligt frihetsberövad sedan flera år och borde få lämna Ecuadors ambassad som en fri man.

"Assange har fått rätt av FN", trumpeterade Aktuellt i fredags som om självaste säkerhetsrådet har författat en resolution som är folkrättsligt bindande, den pensionerade åklagaren Sven-Erik Alhem slog myndigt fast att beslutet kan få "förödande konsekvenser för Sveriges anseende" om inte hänsyn tas till en rapport som saknar all juridisk betydelse och en av Assanges advokater, Per E Samuelsson, stod i tv och försökte lura i tittarna att Sverige och Storbritannien måste följa utlåtandet.

Assange själv stod på en balkong, viftade med sitt FN-dokument och hotade med rättsliga konsekvenser, vilka nu de kan tänkas vara, om inte utredningen mot honom omedelbart läggs ner.

Det borde omöjligen ha kunnat bli värre, men så kastade sig visselblåsaren Edward Snowden ut på Twitter och förkunnade för sina miljontals följare att diverse diktaturer



kommer att kunna rycka på axlarna åt FN eftersom London och Stockholm har avfärdat den juridiska analysen, som om inte skurkstater redan tidigare har gjort lite som de vill.

I själva verket är utlåtandet, för att tala med Mårten Schultz, professor i civilrätt, möjligen "det konstigaste kvasijuridiska dokument" som har författats.

UNWGAD, FN:s arbetsgrupp om godtyckliga frihetsberövande, ströslar bland sina 101 punkter frikostigt till artiklar till bland annat FN:s deklaration om de mänskliga rättigheterna som innehåller bestämmelser om att godtyckliga anhållanden inte får förekomma, att alla är berättigade till en rättvis rättegång och att tortyr är förbjudet. Det är en majoritet, tre av fem, i gruppen som står bakom beslutet. Den fjärde är en kvinna som ansåg sig jävig för att hon liksom Assange kommer från Australien och deltog därför inte. Den femte, en jurist från Ukraina, reserverade sig på goda grunder mot beslutet.

Redan från början går det snett för den stackars majoriteten. Det påstås att det godtyckliga frihetsberövandet inleddes med att Assange satt häktad i tio dygn i London år 2010 eftersom Sverige hade begärt honom utlämnad.

Jaså? Godtyckliga frihetsberövanden handlar om att lagar inte följs. Människor berövas rätten att försvara sig och saknar möjlighet att överklaga beslut.

Den misstänkte sexbrottslingen hade redan från början en stab av advokater runt sig och har till fullo utnyttjat sin möjlighet att föra sin sak uppåt i den rättsliga hierarkin. Sedan följde, enligt FN-gruppen, 550 dygn i husarrest med "hårda restriktioner". Restriktioner som dock inte var hårdare än att Assange var helt fri att lämna sin arrest för att delta i de juridiska förhandlingarna.

Och efter detta är det dags för det knasigaste av allt. Åren på ambassaden ingår i det felaktiga frihetsberövandet.

Ursäkta? Sanningen är att Assange flydde till ambassaden i samband med att Storbritanniens högsta domstol sommaren 2012 beslöt att han skulle skickas till Sverige i enlighet med den europeiska arresteringsordern.

Han har hela tiden varit fri att stiga ut på gatan. Att han omedelbart skulle gripas för att ha brutit mot sitt borgensåtagande och för att sättas på ett plan till Stockholm är juridiskt sett en helt annan historia.

Konstigheterna stannar dessvärre inte där. FN-gruppen går så långt som till att kräva att Assange ska få skadestånd. Det är onekligen ett optimistiskt försök att sätta en ny juridisk standard för misstänkta brottslingar. Håll dig undan rättvisan — och få ekonomisk kompensation för mödan.

"Löjeväckande", var den brittiska utrikesministern Philip Hammonds kommentar till UNWGAD:s slutsatser. Det är svårt att inte instämma.

De senaste fem årens röra är i grunden en djupt sorglig historia. Assange har inte fått sin sak prövad. Inte heller de två kvinnorna har fått det.

Att delar av en arbetsgrupp i FN sällar sig till den knäppgöksindustri som har vuxit fram kring fallet gör inte saken bättre.

• *Oisín Cantwell*

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DN: 2016-02-09

## **Assangeåklagare orubbad av FN-besked**

Överåklagare Marianne Ny, som leder brottsutredningen mot Julian Assange, rubbas inte av utlåtandet i fredags från en FN-panel som anser att Wikileaksgrundarens häktning ska hävas.

”När det gäller rapporten som kom i förra veckan kan jag konstatera att den inte förändrar mina tidigare bedömningar i förundersökningen”, meddelar Marianne Ny, som tidigare inte kommenterat FN-arbetsgruppen UNWGAD:s utlåtande.

Hon arbetar nu med en ny ansökan om att förhöra Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

Reaktionen från den i Sverige våldtäktsmisstänkte Assanges advokater på FN-panelens besked väcker frågan om han kommer att vara samarbetsvillig. UNWGAD kom fram till att Assange är ”godtyckligt frihetsberövad”.

En av Julian Assanges svenska advokater, Thomas Olsson, säger till TT att han inte vet hur Assange kommer att reagera på en ny framställan från Marianne Ny.

– Jag kan inte i dag svara på hur vi kommer att ställa oss. Vi måste nu värdera det här utifrån de nya omständigheter som uppstått efter FN-panelens utlåtande. Vi planerar inom kort att ha ett möte med Julian Assange. Men det finns naturligtvis inget som hindrar åklagaren att göra en sådan här framställan, säger Olsson till TT.

Assanges spanske advokat Baltasar Garzón sade i fredags efter FN-panelens besked att frågan om att förhöra Assange nu är överspelad.

– Jag vet inte exakt vad han menade och om det är förankrat hos Julian Assange, säger Thomas Olsson.

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## **UN Ruling on Assange Exposes UK Lawlessness**

*Simon Wood*

*The Daily 99.99998271%*

*February 9, 2016*

For any student of modern propaganda techniques, the ruling announced last week in favor of WikiLeaks founder and editor-in-chief Julian Assange by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) has provided fertile ground for research. Indeed, **the level of media frenzy sparked by the ruling can be regarded as a**

**barometer of the power and extent of establishment forces ranged against him and his organization.**

UNWGAD found that the predicament of Assange amounts to 'arbitrary detention', a legal term that is clearly defined, deriving from Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that both the United Kingdom and Sweden are signatories to. Article 9 states that 'no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile'. Arbitrary arrest or detention 'are the arrest or detention of an individual in a case in which there is no likelihood or evidence that they committed a crime against legal statute, **or in which there has been no proper due process of law**'. **'Due process' is defined as 'the legal requirement that the state must respect all legal rights that are owed to a person'.**

Dr. Roslyn Fuller, a lecturer in International Law based in Ireland, has this to say about the ruling: "The Working Group stated they considered Assange's case to fall under Category III, which covers cases where a trial does not comply with international human rights norms. **The Working Group found that Sweden and the UK have pursued Assange in a disproportionate manner, given that the Swedish prosecutors could have questioned Assange at any point and he had declared himself willing to cooperate.**"

The two claims against Assange that were 'dropped' by the prosecutor last year were dropped because they were about to become time-barred. The prosecutor chose to allow this rather than to question Assange. One would think that if the prosecution had the interests of the alleged victims at heart, they may have chosen to pursue questioning in the UK — a common enough activity — rather than let the investigation lapse.

So while Assange may be holding out, so is Sweden, and nations have obligations to move the wheels of justice along as swiftly as practicable. **The Working Group's assessment is basically, "how hard can it be to conduct a preliminary investigation?" with the implication that if the prosecutor were serious, they would have gotten this wrapped up by now.**

Furthermore, the Working Group found that "the grant itself and the fear of persecution on the part of Mr Assange based on the possibility of extradition, should have been given fuller consideration in the determination and the exercise of criminal administration, instead of being subjected to a sweeping judgment as defining either merely hypothetical or irrelevant".

In other words, British and Swedish authorities should have considered that Assange's fear of persecution might be founded and questioned him in the embassy, something it was perfectly possible to do with minimal effort in the interests of pushing their case forward. **Questioning Assange at the embassy would not have jeopardized their case, whereas coming out of the embassy could have jeopardized Assange's life.** Thus, it would be disproportional to force him to do so when there was nothing to be gained by it. Assange's interest in being protected from extradition to the United States outweighed the Swedish prosecution's interest that he only be questioned in Sweden. Dismissing these concerns out-of-hand was arbitrary.

Even before UNWGAD's announcement, serious pressure will have been felt by members of the group not to rule for Assange, according to the former chair, Norwegian lawyer Mads Andenas, as he explains in this short radio interview. Although reluctant to provide specifics, he makes it clear that any ruling against 'big' nations like the UK or the US face considerable institutional resistance.

The media reported the ruling before its announcement, allowing the headlines to get the digs in early. This BBC article stated: 'Julian Assange is being "arbitrarily held", UN panel to say'. In casual speech, 'arbitrarily' is often used in a roughly synonymous manner to 'randomly', implying that the UK is randomly detaining Assange. **Cue an avalanche of outrage and indignation on social media and elsewhere** from casual news readers deeply offended at the suggestion that the UK is somehow behaving like a dictatorship and randomly applying justice, given that Assange is of course free to leave the embassy at any time and further **given that through relentless media disinformation and misinformation for years, the average news consumer now believes that Assange must 'face justice'.**

A Downing Street spokesman was on hand to supply fuel for the fire: "We have been consistently clear that Mr Assange has never been arbitrarily detained by the UK but is, in fact, voluntarily avoiding lawful arrest by choosing to remain in the Ecuadorean embassy."

**This statement also employs the non-legal use of the term 'arbitrary'.** Readers, the vast majority of whom have little or no knowledge of or concern about the details of the Assange case, are therefore given validation of an already misleading statement by an authority figure: classic psychological manipulation.

UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond rejected the UN group ruling, condemning it as 'ridiculous'. **Mr. Hammond, who has no legal expertise or background, further made the false claim that the group is made up of 'lay people, not lawyers' and that the ruling is 'flawed in law'.**

**The corporate media was also on hand to deride and condemn the ruling. The Guardian's Marina Hyde, who has form smearing Julian Assange, wrote a rambling, vindictive, error-strewn article that has to be read to be believed.** She then engaged in a smug, arrogant and self-congratulatory round of 'banter' with like-minded journalist mates on Twitter, displaying a staggering level of contempt for a man described by the United Nations as deprived of liberty (add sunlight to that) for years as well as an embarrassing lack of awareness of her own gatekeeper role. It raises serious questions about editorial integrity at the Guardian, a newspaper of record, that a journalist with such obvious dislike for the subject of her article (with precedent) was permitted to write an analysis of a major story like this, particularly in light of the fact that Hyde usually covers showbiz **and, by her own admission, has no detailed familiarity with the Assange case.**

Social media lit up as soon everyone became an expert on international law and the qualifications and credentials of the members of UNWGAD. Comments below the line of articles all over the world slammed Assange with the usual tired and long discredited arguments.

The first wave of attack generally concerns the allegations of rape. It takes only a short period of research to find out the facts. [Note: anyone who believes they know what they are talking about with regard to the Assange case should read this FAQ [here](#)] From the FAQ:

New information has emerged that both women explicitly deny having been raped by Mr. Assange. In a statement to the UK Supreme Court, the prosecutor acknowledged that the complainants wished only to ask the police for advice about HIV tests, having discovered they'd had both had sex with Mr. Assange." (There has never been an allegation Mr. Assange has HIV.) Neither of the women wished to lodge a formal complaint.

The woman of whom Mr. Assange is accused of the offence of "lesser rape" (a technical term in Swedish law) sent an SMS to a friend saying that she "did not want to accuse JA [of] anything" and "it was the police who made up the charges". The other woman tweeted in 2013 that she had never been raped. Both women's testimonies say that they consented to the sex. A senior prosecutor already dismissed the 'rape' accusation, saying that there were no grounds for accusing Mr. Assange on this basis. But a third prosecutor, lobbied by a politician who was running for attorney general, took over the investigation and resurrected the accusations against Mr. Assange. Due to the great number of incorrect reports, it is best to rely on primary source documents in this matter, which are on the internet and the UK Supreme Court "Agreed Statements of Facts" agreed to by the UK, the Swedish authorities and Mr. Assange's legal team. (See [here](#) and [here](#).)

The women themselves in their own words explicitly say they were not raped. The women themselves in their own words said they had no wish to lodge a complaint. Yet to the experts in the corporate media and on social media or below the line, Assange is apparently a 'cowardly rapist' who is 'holed up' in an embassy 'evading justice'. They occasionally even remember to write 'alleged' before 'rapist'.

The next line of attack concerns Assange's alleged evasion of justice. Yet Assange left Sweden on 27th September 2010 without impediment from prosecutor Marianne Ny, who had been assigned to the case from September 1st. It is worth noting that if this case was so serious that it became an international incident leading to the (very unusual) issuance of an Interpol Red Notice, and if the well-being of the alleged rape victims was such a priority for the prosecutor, the fact that Ny did nothing to question Assange before he left as a matter of urgency is highly suspicious.

It is also notable that Assange's Swedish lawyer, Bjorn Hurtig, made some very disturbing claims with regard to the two women involved:

Julian Assange's Swedish lawyer was shown scores of text messages sent by the two women who accuse him of rape and sexual assault, in which they speak of "revenge" and extracting money from him, an extradition hearing was told.

Björn Hurtig, who represents the WikiLeaks founder in Sweden, told Belmarsh magistrates court that he had been shown "about 100" messages sent between the women and their friends while supervised by a Swedish police officer, but had not been permitted to make notes or share the contents with his client.

"I consider this to be contrary to the rules of a fair trial," he said. A number of the messages "go against what the claimants have said", he told the court....

One message referred to one of the women being "half asleep" while having sex with Assange, Hurtig said, as opposed to fully asleep. "That to my mind is the same as saying 'half awake'." One of the women alleges that Assange had sex with her while she was sleeping. *[Not that I am aware of. --A.B.]*

Before destroying a man's reputation an objective, honorable or honest person would first look into the details and circumstances surrounding the case. Such considerations obviously do not apply to Assange.

One final line of attack is the idea that Assange is 'voluntarily' hiding in the embassy. It is insulting to the intelligence and legal abilities of the UNWGAD lawyers to think that they are incapable of correctly interpreting this unusual situation in legal terms. Anyone believing that they are in danger of political persecution, as Assange does, has the legal right under international law to seek protection on humanitarian grounds. From the FAQ:

International law says that a sovereign country has decided to recognise Mr. Assange as needing protection from political persecution on humanitarian grounds. Mr. Assange has a right to meaningfully exercise that protection through passage to Ecuador. Ecuador invoked a number of applicable conventions, including the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees. The United Kingdom and Sweden are also parties to the 1951 Convention and are obligated to recognise the asylum decision of Ecuador. While both states have been careful to avoid saying that they do not recognise the asylum, **their actions can only be interpreted as a wilful violation of Mr. Assange's right to 'seek, receive and enjoy' his asylum.** In international law, the obligation to protect persons from persecution under the 1951 Refugee Convention prevails over extradition agreements between states.

The United Kingdom says it has a treaty obligation to extradite Mr. Assange to Sweden even though he has not been charged with an offense. There is a conflict between the United Kingdom's obligations to the 1951 UN refugee convention and its obligations under the European Arrest Warrant system. **It is established law that these conflicts are to be resolved in favour of the higher obligation which is to the 1951 convention.**

Rather than follow international law, the United Kingdom has chosen to interpret the conflict in favor of its geopolitical alliances. The United Kingdom has a history of breaking international law in this manner, for example, in its invasion of Iraq, its cooperation with US rendition operations, and its facilitation of global mass spying via its intelligence service GCHQ. Sweden is also a party to these last two violations.

Assange has reason to be concerned. A secret, long-running US investigation has been mounted against him, according to US Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd. "The grand jury is a serious business," said Michael Ratner, a human rights lawyer advising Assange. "They're all over this," he added. [Sources [here](#)]

Reason for concern indeed given the US approach to whistleblowers like Chelsea Manning, who was tortured while awaiting trial, as well as the US's clear contempt for international laws and conventions, highlighted dramatically when it forced down the plane carrying Bolivian President Evo Morales in the mistaken belief that Edward Snowden was aboard. That case also highlighted the powerful influence the US wields over European nations: France, Italy and Spain all denied airspace to Morales forcing the plane to land in Austria.

The UN ruling puts the UK and Sweden in a very sticky position as they recklessly try to play it both ways. In the past both nations have welcomed rulings by the same group when they benefited their geopolitical priorities, as this Crikey article explains:

What happens when the UN panel that you previously thought was excellent produces a verdict that you don't like?

That was the problem facing UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond (little-known outside the Tory Party and best known for having been a Goth in his younger days, not that there's anything wrong with that) when the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found in favour of Julian Assange's complaint that he had been arbitrarily detained by the UK and Sweden....

**But Hammond's problem is the Cameron government had a very different view of the WGAD when it ruled that the Burmese regime's ongoing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi was a breach of international human rights law. "As in its previous five 'opinions', the Working Group has found that the continuous deprivation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's liberty is arbitrary, and has requested the government of Myanmar to implement its previous recommendations and to remedy the situation," Hammond's predecessor William Hague said in calling for her release. Indeed, it's been only a few months since the British government was happy to quote the WGAD in its guidance on handling particular types of protection and human rights claims about China.**

China is a constant target of the WGAD. Unlike other UN bodies that might be criticised for obsessing about Western governments while ignoring the human rights abuses of dictatorships, WGAD focuses almost entirely on non-Western countries. In the years while Assange has been detained, the Working Group has ruled against China 14 times — with most rulings dealing with multiple detainees — and against Iran nine times, as well as ruling against Cuba and North Korea (again, often covering multiple cases) four times each. Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the Palestinian Authority have also been among its targets. **It's in such company the UK and Sweden now find themselves.**

The United States was also happy to cite the WGAD in the case of Alan Gross, who spent several years in a Cuban jail after travelling to the country to provide Cuba's Jewish community with internet access. US politicians and the State Department were happy to cite WGAD's finding that Gross was arbitrarily detained. **The US Justice Department also cites WGAD decisions in its criticisms of the human rights records of other countries.** And the WGAD ruled last August that Iran was

holding US journalist Jason Rezaian arbitrarily as well; the State Department also invokes the WGAD's decision about other imprisoned journalists.

**In short, the WGAD is usually a reliable source for Western countries eager to criticise the human rights records of countries like China, Iran and Cuba. But the moment it looks askance at Western practices, it's "ludicrous" and dismissed.**

This episode teaches some lessons. Essential among them is the fact that **analysis in the corporate media is now crippled beyond repair**, its credibility a smoking wreck. If one desired an analysis of an aspect of astronomy or cosmology, would one read the opinions of a writer who still advocates the Ptolemaic Model of the solar system? The same applies to an analysis of the complicated legal case of Assange by obviously biased and prejudiced non-experts who are given a platform to speak to millions nonetheless. This further applies to much of foreign policy and other areas that require 'nuance' in the corporate media because advertisers are so touchy about what reaches the general public. The only meaningful analyses now come from independent journalists and writers who are free from corporate or government/ lobby-group influence.

We also learn that corporate journalists not only act as gatekeepers in their day job, but even in their free time, gleefully towing the establishment line and seemingly oblivious to the deadly consequences of their obfuscations as they help to bring liberal, anti-war opinion over to the 'humanitarian interventionist' camp of the imperialist 'right to protect' doctrine.

Disturbingly we can also acquire a sense of the enormous power wielded behind the scenes by those who want Assange. If the UK and Sweden are willing to reject the findings of a United Nations panel of legal experts, a panel they never had complaints with in the past when they were condemning China etc., then we know that the stakes are as high as they get. The recklessness of this rejection is staggering, as explained by the Center for Constitutional Rights:

**In our briefs to the WGAD, we argued that someone is effectively detained when they are forced to choose between confinement and running the risk of persecution. That is the precise dilemma faced by Mr. Assange**, who would lose the protection of his asylum if he stepped out of the embassy. The risk of extradition is the 'fourth wall' for the now repudiated claim that he is free to leave the embassy. As a result, it has been years since Mr. Assange has had access to proper medical care, sunlight, or the ability to see his family.

**The WGAD's decision in Mr. Assange's case sets an important precedent for refugees.** In our submissions we analogized the situation faced by Mr. Assange to that of asylum-seekers in detention facilities. States may claim that asylum-seekers held in subhuman conditions are not 'detained' because they are technically free to leave for their home country, but this is a non-choice, since the home country would persecute the asylum seeker.

In choosing to reject the UN ruling, not only are Sweden and the UK failing to live up to their treaty obligations because they do not suit their agendas— a working definition of an action of what Western nations traditionally call 'rogue nations'— but they are



also putting their own citizens at risk by setting a dangerous precedent that will allow any evil dictator anywhere to also reject the findings of the UN in the future.

It is profoundly telling— a shocking demonstration of the power of media propaganda— that millions of people automatically side with governments who have lied time and time again on every issue imaginable, that have committed some of the most terrible crimes in history, against one man who has risked his freedom and life to expose some of those crimes. The idea that he might have been set up or has been persecuted is summarily dismissed despite the obvious motive for Western governments to do such a thing and despite the enormous amount of documented evidence demonstrating that this is precisely the case.

The Assange situation has long been a farce but now a ruling of the United Nations has been permitted to become a political football. This way utter lawlessness lies. The UK must immediately release and compensate Julian Assange as the UN ruling dictates. Failure to do this will only serve to confirm its status as a rogue nation and US lapdog.

<http://daily99998271.blogspot.jp/2016/02/un-ruling-on-assange-exposes-uk.html?m=1>

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### **Julian Assange should submit to Swedish warrant, says David Cameron**

*Prime minister dismisses as ridiculous the findings of a UN panel that the WikiLeaks founder was subject to arbitrary detention.*

*Nicholas Watt & Rowena Mason  
The Guardian  
10 February 2016*

Julian Assange should leave the Ecuadorian embassy in London and submit himself to a Swedish arrest warrant over allegations of rape to bring an end to “this whole sorry saga”, the prime minister has said.

David Cameron dismissed as “ridiculous” the findings of a UN panel that the WikiLeaks founder had been subject to arbitrary detention as he said that Assange had in fact detained himself.

“What he should do is come out of that embassy and face the arrest warrant that is against him,” Cameron told MPs. “He is being asked to stand trial in Sweden, a country with a fair reputation for justice and he should bring to an end this whole sorry saga.”

The Geneva-based UN working group on arbitrary detention had called on Britain and Sweden to end Assange’s “deprivation of liberty”.

The countries last week rejected the findings by the panel, which said that Assange had been arbitrarily detained since his arrest in 2010 and during his stay at the Ecuadorian embassy in the Knightsbridge area of central London, where he sought asylum in June 2012.

Assange is wanted for questioning over an allegation of rape in 2010, which he denies.

The prime minister criticised the findings of the UN panel after Victoria Atkins, the Conservative MP for Louth and Horncastle, who is a barrister, asked him about the “nonsensical decision” in Assange’s favour and the £12m cost of policing the Ecuadorian embassy.

Atkins asked the prime minister: “Julian Assange is accused of rape and is on the run. Despite this a UN panel nobody has ever heard of declared last week that he has been arbitrarily detained and somehow deserving of compensation. Does [the prime minister] agree with me that this was a nonsensical decision, that Mr Assange should hand himself over to the Swedish prosecutors and that if anyone is deserving of compensation it is the British taxpayer who has had to pay £12m to police his Ecuadorian hideout.”

Cameron said: “I think this was a ridiculous decision. You’ve got a man here with an outstanding allegation of rape against him. He barricaded himself into the Ecuadorian embassy and yet claims he was arbitrarily detained. The only person who detained himself was himself.”

A senior Labour source agreed the Swedish allegation should be investigated. The source said: “I think the UN panel and the government’s position is something we haven’t particularly commented on. The big concern is the amount of money being spent on the standoff. I don’t think anyone disagrees that the Swedish allegation needs to be investigated.”

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### **Press Release**

Veterans for Peace

February 10, 2016

Contact: Gabriela Inderwies

Communications Manager

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### **Veterans For Peace Calls on U.S. Government to End Persecution of Julian Assange and Wikileaks**

ST. LOUIS, MO. — Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has been wrongly subjected to arbitrary detention for five and a half years, according to a ruling by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The ruling is critical of Swedish prosecutors, who have refused to interview Assange in London about sex crimes allegations. It is also critical of the UK government, which is prepared to arrest Julian Assange as soon as he leaves the London Embassy of Ecuador, which has granted Assange political asylum. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention says that Assange should be able to leave the embassy without facing arrest or extradition.

Veterans For Peace agrees with the UN panel. It is clear that Julian Assange is facing political persecution due to Wikileaks’ release of U.S. military and diplomatic cables,

much of it provided by Chelsea Manning, who is serving a 35-year prison sentence in the U.S. “Of course, we cannot dismiss Swedish allegations of rape and sexual assault,” said Michael McPhearson, Executive Director of Veterans For Peace. “However, the political agendas of several governments have sabotaged opportunities for Assange to be held accountable or clear his name.”

Swedish prosecutors have refused to question Assange in London and have insisted on extradition to Sweden, where Assange has not been charged with any crimes. The UK government, a close ally of the U.S. in its wars in the Middle East, have not disguised their hostility toward Assange.

A Grand Jury empaneled in Virginia has issued a secret indictment of Julian Assange, according to leaked email from Stratfor, a private intelligence group.

“The elephant in the room is the United States government, which made Assange public enemy number one for his courageous whistleblower journalism,” said Michael McPhearson.

Whatever the truth regarding the Swedish allegations against Assange, he has legitimate concerns that an extradition to Sweden could lead to an extradition to the U.S., where he would face the same fate as Chelsea Manning, maybe even worse.

“So it is the United States government that is holding up justice in this case,” said McPhearson. “If they would come out and publicly state that they have no intention to prosecute or otherwise persecute Julian Assange or Wikileaks, then Julian Assange would probably have no problem traveling to Sweden to answer charges there.”

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the UN panel’s findings should force the US government to end its investigations into Assange over the Wikileaks disclosures: “In light of this decision, it’s clear that any criminal charges against Mr. Assange in connection with WikiLeaks’ publishing operations would be unprecedented and unconstitutional.

“Indeed, even the prolonged criminal investigation of WikiLeaks itself has had a profound chilling effect. The justice department should end that investigation and make clear that no publisher will ever be prosecuted for the act of journalism.”

Veterans For Peace agrees with the American Civil Liberties Union. We call on the U.S. government to end its investigation and persecution of Julian Assange.

*Veterans For Peace is a national organization founded in 1985. It is structured around a national office in Saint Louis, MO and comprised of members across the country organized in chapters or as at-large members. The organization includes men and women veterans of all eras and duty stations including from the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq wars as well as other conflicts. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary.*

<http://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/position-statements/veterans-peace-calls-us-government-end-persecution-julian-assange-and-wikileaks/>

## FN-expert: Släpp Assange

TT/SVT

15 februari 2016

En människorättsexpert vid FN uppmanar Sverige och Storbritannien att släppa Julian Assange "utan dröjsmål".

Experten Alfred de Zayas uppmanar i ett pressmeddelande från FN:s människorättskontor länderna att följa det utlåtande som FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckligt frihetsberövande, UNWGAD, kom med den 5 februari.

UNWGAD förordar ett hävande av häktningen av den våldtäktsmisstänkte Wikileaksgrundaren, som tagit sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London.

UNWGAD:s utlåtanden bör följas, särskilt av stater som hålla mänskliga rättigheter högt, skriver de Zayas. "En à la carte-hållning till mänskliga rättigheter undergräver hela systemets trovärdighet", anser han.

Utrikesminister Margot Wallström har inga kommentarer till Alfred de Zayas uttalande, uppger hennes pressekreterare.

Inte heller UD:s presstjänst vill kommentera saken utan hänvisar till regeringens kommentar när FN-panelen kom med sitt utlåtande den 5 februari.

Där konstaterades att regeringen inte delar FN-gruppens slutsatser och att Julian Assange frivilligt sökt sig till Ecuadors ambassad.

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### "Åtalet mot Assange måste läggas ned"

*"Vad talar för att åtalet mot Assange läggs ned? Att Assange efter 5 år ännu inte har åtalats, att målsägarna, de två kvinnorna inte har anklagat Assange för våldtäkt, att Assange riskerar att utlämnas till USA", skriver Maj Wechseltmann.*

Maj Wechseltmann

SVT-Opinion

17 februari 2016

15 februari gick FN:s speciella rapportör för Kommissionären för Mänskliga Rättigheter, Alfred de Zayas, ut och uppmanade Sverige och Storbritannien att genast lägga ned åtalet mot Julius Assange.

Norrmannen, Mads Andenäs, en av Europas tyngsta jurister, sade redan den 5 februari till The Guardian: "Jag är absolut säker på att UNWGAD har utsatts för hård politisk press av USA och England när det gäller Assangefallet."

Mats Andenäs borde veta. Han var tills juni 2015 själv ordförande för UNWGAD, (FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden).

Som bekant har arbetsgruppen inte låtit sig påverka av USA. I UNWGADs representation genom dess sekreterare Christophe Peschoux sades det bland annat "Efter mera än fem år har Assange inte ens varit föremål för en preliminär förundersökning, han har lämnats utan någon förutsägelse om någon formell process överhuvudtaget kommer att äga rum."

Häkttningsbeslutet har notabene upphävts en gång, nämligen 21/8 2010, av chefsåklagare Eva Finné, som i Svenska Dagbladet sade: "Jag anser inte att det finns anledning att misstänka att Assange har begått våldtäkt."

UNWGAD:s arbetsgrupp kom fram till följande kritik: "Såväl Sverige som Storbritannien har på ett grundläggande sätt underlåtit att fullfölja sina åtaganden...som måste ske enligt lagarna om proportionalitet....

"Under paragraf 9, rörande internationell uppförandekod framgår det klart att Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövat. Sverige har ratificerat FN:s bestämmelser om mänskliga rättigheter.

2Om det internationella systemet för mänskliga rättigheter skall fungera måste stater underkasta sig det. Det finns inga andra vägar. Om en stat kränker internationell lag, måste staten hitta vägar att effektuera panelens beslut."

Hur kom arbetsgruppen fram till att Assange måste anses som godtyckligt frihetsberövad?

I Sverige anser flera journalister att Assanges rädsla för att via Sverige bli utlämnad till USA är orealistisk.

Vilka signaler skickade det till Assange att Sverige redan 15:e november 2010 gick ut med röd terroristvarning för Assange till Interpol? **Inte ens under Lockerbieaffären gick Interpol ut med en röd varning mot Ghadaffi.**

FN:s speciella rapportör Juan Mendez står under samma arbetsgivare som UNWGAD. Mendez rapporterade 2010 om USAs behandling av Julians Assanges källa, den 23-åriga amerikanska underrättelseofficeraren numera Chelsea Manning.

Manning läckte filmen på mord på 7 civila på öppen gata i Bagdad, från en amerikansk helikopter. USA:s behandling av Manning är grym, omänsklig och förnedrande, gränsande till tortyr, skrev Mendez i sin rapport. Amnesty International har publicerat en beskrivning av Mannings isolering In Their Own Words. Den är chockerande.

De tre riksdagsledamöterna Matthias Sundin (FP), Jakob Dalunde (MP) och Cecilia Magnusson (M) försökte att skaffa Edward Snowden asyl i Sverige, Snowden som av USAs regering anklagats för liknande brott som Assange. De var tvingade att ge upp.

Vad talar för att åtalet mot Assange läggs ned?

Att Assange efter 5 år ännu inte har åtalats.

Att chefsåklagaren, Eva Finné, har friat Assange för misstankar.

Att målsägarna, de två kvinnorna inte har anklagat Assange för våldtäkt.

Att en åklagare inte bör driva ett ärende som vederbörande knappast har chans att vinna i en domstol (Thomas Bodström sade i SVT Nyhetsmorgon att målet knappast har någon utsikt att komma upp i domstol ).  
Att Assange riskerar att utlämnas till USA.

Åtalet mot Assange måste läggas ned.

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## **Julian Assange: Swedish lawyers ask court to overturn arrest warrant against Wikileaks founder**

*The Independent*  
2016-02-22

Lawyers have made a formal request to a Swedish court to overturn Julian Assange's arrest warrant in a rape case.

The journalist has spent more than three years hiding in the Ecuadorian embassy in London after his appeal against extradition failed in the UK courts.

Thomas Olsson, one of Assange's lawyers, said in a statement: "We consider that there have arisen a number of new circumstances which mean there is reason to review the earlier decision".

It follows the opinion published by a UN working group earlier this month that Assange had been "unlawfully detained" in the embassy.

Assange filed a complaint in 2014 with the UN committee— arguing that he was "arbitrarily detained" because he could not leave the embassy without being arrested.

He was first accused of one count of rape and another of molestation of two Swedish women by the Swedish Prosecutors' Office in August 2010 but was initially released and allowed to leave the country.

A few months later he was arrested ~~for a second time~~ in London and released on bail following an extradition hearing.

In 2012, the UK Supreme Court ruled that he should be extradited to Sweden to face questioning over the allegations— which he has said are "without basis".

After the ruling he entered the Ecuadorian embassy in Knightsbridge where he claimed political asylum— he alleges if he is sent to Sweden he will be rendered to the US to face trial and possible torture over his role in the Wikileaks revelations.

It comes as Sweden's Director of Public Prosecution, Marianne Ny, said they were working on a new request to interview Assange in London.

She said a previous request had been rejected by the Prosecutor-General of Ecuador in January.

## Free Julian Assange!! Petition Delivery

Alli McCracken

CODEPINK National Coordinator

2016-02-26

On February 24th members of the peace organization CODEPINK went to the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC to deliver thousands of petition signatures in support of Wikileaks founder and world-renowned whistleblower Julian Assange. Tall and very modern-looking, the Swedish Embassy is located in the high-end neighborhood of Georgetown, Washington DC, nestled in a plaza overlooking the Potomac River.

With us we carried in a large sign that read FREE JULIAN ASSANGE! Medea went in before us to deliver the petitions and signatures, before our presence set off a push back. She delivered them to a staff member who said she knew about Assange and his situation, but Medea told her she had visited Julian a few months ago and described his living conditions and how he was being imprisoned because of the Swedish government. The consul agree to deliver the signatures and the message to the members of the Embassy team.

Despite Embassy security asking us not to we entered the building with the sign, they backed off quickly and allowed us to stay. This stood in stark contrast with our experiences delivering petitions to other embassies in Washington DC, many of which have refused to even let us in the front door. Of course, those unwelcoming embassies represent repressive regimes like Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and more, and we have higher expectations for governments of progressive of countries like Sweden— one of the reasons we are optimistically appealing to them on behalf of Julian Assange.

After waiting at the reception desk, Swedish officials from the Embassy came out to meet us. They were friendly, but non-committal, and they only had a couple minutes to spare for us even though we conveyed the strong sense of urgency regarding our visit. They said they were not the “right” people to speak with, but they said they would “pass along the materials,” despite our insistence to meet with someone higher up. This was very disappointing to us, and we told them we would return. We speculated about their reluctance to meet with us, and agreed that more public pressure is needed for a better reception and response. For good measure, we left them with thousands of signatures from another petition to the US Department of Justice to highlight even more support for Assange.

With that connection established, we expect to return to the Embassy soon with more signatures on the petition....

[www.codepink.org/free\\_julian\\_assange\\_petition\\_delivery\\_reportback](http://www.codepink.org/free_julian_assange_petition_delivery_reportback)

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DN-Debatt: 2016-02-29

### **”Kritiken mot Sveriges roll i Assange-fallet är befogad”**

*Assange och Sverige. FN:s rapport har väckt upprördhet, men den är väl argumenterad. En springande punkt är Sveriges arresteringsorder, EAW. I stället för att, som normalt, använda*

*EAW när åtal föreligger har Assange efterlysts som ett inslag i åklagarens försök att stärka ett underlag hon inte tror skulle hålla i rätten, skriver Roger Fjellström.*

I en rapport av en arbetsgrupp under FN:s råd för mänskliga rättigheter anklagas Sverige och Storbritannien för godtyckligt frihetsberövande av Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange, därför att denne under fem år på olika sätt tvingats leva instängd på grund av en europeisk arresteringsorder (EAW) för misstänkta sexbrott.

**Den svenska upprördheten är stor, men analysen av rapportens argumentation lyser med sin frånvaro.** Rapporten har en dialogisk karaktär och är väl argumenterad. Den är uppdelad i FN-juristernas premisser, klagomål från Assange med advokater, svar på dessa från Sverige och Storbritannien, de klagandes kommentarer och slutligen arbetsgruppens bedömning.

Gruppen anger fem möjliga fall då frihetsberövande är godtyckligt och kommer fram till att Sverige bryter mot fallet med "total eller delvis brist på efterföljelse av de internationella reglerna kring rätten till rättvis rättegång, krävd i FN:s universella deklaration av de mänskliga rättigheterna och i relevanta internationella instrument som accepterats av bl a Sverige".

Brott sker, menar gruppen, då Assange i England sattes i isolering i tio dagar, sedan hölls i husarrest i 550 dagar, slutligen från 2012 varit polisbevakad på Ecuadors ambassad som beviljat honom en asyl som vare sig Sverige eller Storbritannien accepterat. Den sistnämnda instängningen låter man dra ut i det oändliga trots att den enkelt skulle brytas om den svenska åklagaren genomförde önskade förhör med Assange på ambassaden eller via videolänk, något som Assange har godtagit. **Agerandet strider mot principerna för rimlighet, nödvändighet och proportionalitet i förhållande till sitt syfte, i vilket prövande av olika vägar ingår.**

Sveriges svar är genomgående snävt legalistiska. Man framhåller att det för varje steg funnits lagstöd för vidtagna åtgärder. Att Sverige respekterar de universella mänskliga rättigheterna tänker man sig visas av att de har inkorporerats i den svenska lagstiftningen. Enligt FN:s människorättsråd sammanfaller emellertid inte godtyckligt frihetsberövande med olagligt, eftersom lag kan medge orimligt, onödigt och oproportionellt frihetsberövande.

Att Assanges asyl inte accepteras beror enligt regeringen på att Sverige inte måste acceptera en asyl som beviljats på grundval att ett latinamerikanskt regelverk. Gruppen svarar att Sverige bortser från den humanitära grunden för Assanges asyl, nämligen hans rädsla för att i Sverige inte bli rättvist behandlad och att bli utlämnad till USA. Utlämningshotet avfärdar Sverige som hypotetiskt eller irrelevant eftersom inget utlämningskrav har kommit från USA och att Sverige, även om krav kom, kunde ("may") låta bli att efterkomma det. **Att USA håller en rättsprocess med spionanklagelser mot Assange öppen låtsas man inte om.**

Sverige ser sig inte som ansvarigt för att Assange år efter år vistas övervakad på Ecuadors ambassad. Gruppen svarar att den enda grunden för detta är den EAW som Sverige utfärdat för honom. Sveriges argument, att vistelsen är Assanges fria val, godtas inte. Gruppen följer Assanges advokater i att vistelsen är framtvingad. **Man kan inte betrakta alternativen att ta skydd och att utsätta sig för förföljelse och risk för**



**fysisk och psykisk misshandel som öppna för fritt val.** Skyddsvalet är försvarligt eftersom en odömd Assange ska betraktas som oskyldig.

Den springande punkten är Sveriges EAW. En EAW är ett instrument för att inom EU proportionerligt underlätta pågående rättsskipning genom efterlysning och utlämnande av starkt misstänkta gärningsmän i allvarliga fall. Att rättsskipning pågår tolkas normalt som att åtal ska föreligga, vilket är det naturliga när en förmodad gärningsman är misstänkt på sannolika skäl, vilket krävs för arresteringsordern. I huvudsak har det varit domare som utfärdat den.

**I fallet Assange är inte rättsskipningen pågående i denna mening eftersom åtal saknas. EAW:n är inte utfärdad av en domare utan av en överåklagare, Marianne Ny.** Före henne hade chefsåklagare Eva Finné lagt ner utredningen därför att skälen var för svaga. Trots att Assange inte har hörts tillräckligt, att de både kvinnorna som gjort anmälan om sexbrott inte förhörts grundligt, och att en inlämnad kondom som skulle visa på att Assange avsiktligt förstört den saknade mänskligt material, graderade Ny upp misstanken mot Assange från eventuellt skälig till sannolik.

Assange har alltså efterlysts som ett inslag i åklagarens försök att genom kompletterande förhör stärka ett underlag som hon inte tror skulle hålla i rätten. **Varför förhöret kräver Assange på plats i Sverige har aldrig förklarats.** Sveriges svar på kritik är att åklagare och domstolar är självständiga och att ansvarig åklagare bäst avgör åtgärders lämplighet.

När EAW:n kom till London blev de brittiska juristerna tveksamma. Avgörandet överläts därför till Högsta domstolen, där alla dess sju domare ovanligt nog inkallades. Med fem röster mot två godtogs den svenska begäran. **Ett år senare ångrade sig HD. Numera accepteras inte en EAW så svag som den i Assange-fallet: den måste vara utfärdad av domare, får inte vara grundad på enbart misstanke, det vill säga åtalsbeslut måste finnas, och arresteringsordern ska vara proportionell.**

Med andra ord, brittena desavouerade inte Sverige, men höll landets begäran för att vara missbruk av EAW-instrumentet, oacceptabelt för brittisk rättstradition. **Nu missbrukar brittena sitt avsteg genom att man inte häver arresteringsordern av Assange.** I sitt svar ursäktar man sig med att lagändringen inte har retroaktiv verkan. Det är inte avgörande, menar juristgruppen.

Att den svenska åklagaren inte har väckt åtal är till nackdel för Assange, eftersom det blockerar hans möjlighet att framlägga försvar, att få insyn i åklagarens material och att kräva kompletterande utredningar, exempelvis av de anmälade kvinnornas sms-trafik.

**Detta i förening med att polis/åklagare/kvinnorna direkt efter inlämnad polis-anmälan läckte sexanklagelserna till Expressen har påverkat opinionen mot Assange ofördelaktigt.**

Nå, vare sig man har dubier om Assanges moral eller tvekar om en del av FN-rapportens resonemang finns skäl för Sverige att av respekt för FN-organet följa dess rekommendation att häva frihetsberövandet, som Hans Corell, tidigare undergeneralsekreterare för rättsliga frågor i FN, har påpekat.

- Roger Fjellström, författare och docent i praktisk filosofi

## Urging Sweden and the UK to free Julian Assange

*DiEM25*

*March 1, 2016*

Before the 31st United Nations Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva today, 500 human rights organizations, law professors, former UN office holders, and high-profile rights defenders including four Nobel Peace Prize winners have urged the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom to respect the United Nations' decision to free Julian Assange. The statement was delivered to the Swedish and UK Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in Geneva.

"We the undersigned, including legal and human rights organisations, academics, and policymakers condemn the reactions of the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom to the finding by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention that Julian Assange is arbitrarily detained.

"The governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom are setting a dangerous precedent that undermines the United Nations Human Rights system as a whole. We urge Sweden and the United Kingdom to respect the binding nature of the human rights covenants on which the decision is based, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; as well as the independence, integrity and authority of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

" We therefore call on the governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom to comply without further delay with the Working Group's findings and "ensure the right of free movement of Mr. Assange and accord him an enforceable right to compensation, in accordance with article 9(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Signatories include:

more than 500 high profile signatories from more than 60 countries

more than 100 human & legal rights organizations including 16 national associations of lawyers and jurists

50 international law professors, former judges and jurists

4 Nobel Peace Prize winners

25 Freedom of expression organizations including Reporters Without Borders, the EFF and The Freedom of the Press Foundation.

The immediately former UN Special Rapporteur for Arbitrary Detention Mads Adenas and five other former UN Special Rapporteurs, Experts and Working Group Chairs.

The cities of Madrid & Barcelona

Activists: Ai Wei Wei, Pussy Riot, Naomi Klein & Arundhati Roy

Over 100 academics from 65 universities

*Full list of signatures below.*

## **Mr Assange's Current Status**

Mr Assange been granted political asylum by Ecuador in response to the pending prosecution pending against him in the US in relation to Wikileaks publications, which include revelations of the US spying on allied governments, as well as the UN Secretary General and the UNHCR. After a 16 month investigation, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) has found that Mr Assange has been unlawfully detained by the UK and Sweden and should be released and compensated.

The US states that it continues its 'pending prosecution' against WikiLeaks. The case is being handled by the Department of Justice National Security Division & Criminal Division.

The current status of the 'preliminary' investigation in Sweden: Julian Assange has not been charged at any stage and has already previously been cleared. For the one allegation remaining in the 'preliminary investigation' the woman says the police 'made it up', 'railroaded' her and that she did not intend to file a complaint. (see <https://justice4assange.com/Assange-Case-Fact-Checker.html> and <https://justice4assange.com/Accurate-reporting-on-the-one.html>)

"Julian Assange should have been freed a long time ago. The judgment of the UN Working Group is welcome, and should be implemented forthwith."  
—Noam Chomsky

"UK politicians [have] aimed at weakening the authority of the UN body for short-term opportunistic gain."  
—Prof. Mads Andenas, professor of international law (Oxford All Souls) and UN Special Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detention.

## **Signatories**

### **Organisations**

Acceso Libre, Venezuela  
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Acção Académica para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades Rurais, Mozambique  
Agencia Latinoamericana de Información, Bolivia  
Agência Publica, Brazil  
Alternative Intervention of Athens Lawyers (AIAL), Greece  
American Association of Jurists (AAJ), US  
Arab Lawyers Union (ALU), Middle East  
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 Asamblea Nacional de Afectados Ambientales, Mexico  
 Asociación Mayoritaria de Afrodescendientes del Ecuador AMAE, Ecuador  
 Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC), Argentina  
 Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression, Egypt  
 Associação de Rádios Públicas do Brasil (ARPUB), Brazil  
 Associação Portuguesa de Juristas Democratas (APJD) (Portuguese Association of Democratic Jurists), Portugal  
 Australian Lawyers for Human Rights, Australia  
 Brazilian Association for Investigative Journalism, Brazil  
 Canadian Journalists for Free Expression, Canada  
 Capitulo Cubano De La Red En Defensa De La Humanidad De Intelectuales, Cuba  
 Center for Constitutional Rights, US  
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 Centre Europe-Tiers Monde (CETIM), Switzerland  
 Centre for Independent Journalism, Malaysia  
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 City of Barcelona, Spain  
 City of Madrid, Spain  
 Code Pink, US  
 Coletivo Juntos!— Por outro futuro, Brazil  
 Comision Nacional de Organizaciones Sociales de Uruguay, Uruguay  
 Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT), Brazil  
 Comitê Carioca de Solidariedade a Cuba, Brazil  
 Comité en Solidaridad con la Causa Árabe, Spain  
 Comité Chileno De Solidaridad Con Palestina, Chile  
 Comité de Derechos Humanos de Base de Chiapas Digna Ochoa, Mexico  
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 Confederación de Trabajadores y Servidores Públicos Nacional OSTNA, Ecuador  
 Confederación Intercultural Campesina del Ecuador AMARU, Ecuador  
 Consulta Popular, Brazil  
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 Foro de Abogados de Izquierdas-red de Abogados Democratas (FAI-RADE), Spain  
 Foro de Comunicación para la Integración de Nuestra América, Latin America  
 Foundation for Fundamental Rights, Pakistan  
 Free Software Foundation Tamil Nadu, India

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 Rede Ecumênica da Juventude (REJU), Brazil  
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Professor Joan Subirats, Academic, Universidad Aut3noma Barcelona, Spain  
Brita Sundberg-Weitman, Former Chief Judge and Associate Professor of Public International Law, Sweden  
George Szamuely, Author, Senior Research Fellow at the Global Policy Institute, Hungary  
Alex Taek-Gwang Lee, Academic, Kyung Hee University, South Korea  
Peter Tatchell, Human Rights campaigner, Peter Tatchell Institute for Human Rights, UK  
Michel Taupin, Director of Communication, Cuba Si France, France  
Svante Thorsell, Lawyer, Sweden  
Ernesto Tiffenberg, Director Pagina 12, Argentina  
Michael Edward Tigar, Emeritus Professor, Duke Law School and Washington College of Law, US  
Trevor Timm, Executive Director Freedom of the Press Foundation, US  
Nadya Tolokonnikova, Conceptual Artist and Political Activist, Pussy Riot, Russia  
Miguel Urb3n, Member of the European Parliament, Co-founder PODEMOS, Spain  
Patricia Vaca Narvaja, Ambassador of Argentina in Mexico, Argentina  
Walter van Holst, Lawyer, Netherlands  
Marc Vandepitte, Philosopher, Belgium  
Yanis Varoufakis, Economist and former Greek Minister of Finance, Greece  
Cristina Vazquez, International Vice President of Workers United, US  
Horacio Verbitsky, President, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina  
Professor Manuel Villoria-Mendieta, Director of Government Administration and Public Policy, Institute Ortega y Gasset, Spain  
Professor Ben Wagner, Sociologist, Germany  
Larissa Waters, Deputy Leader of the Australian Green Party, Australia  
Professor Joel Weisberg, Academic, Carleton College, US  
Ai weiwei, Artist and Activist, China  
Rohan Wenn, Journalist, Australia  
Vivienne Westwood, Designer, UK  
Leonardo Wexell Severo, Journalist and Writer, Brazil  
Peter Whish-Wilson, Senator, Australia  
Stuart Wilson, Lawyer, South Africa  
Tracy Worcester, The Marchioness of Worcester, Actress and Environmentalist, UK  
Ofelia Yegros, Architect, Paraguay  
Professor Stephen Yellin, Academic, Stanford University, US  
Professor Spencer Zifcak, Professor of Law, Australia  
Slavoj ŹiŹek, Philosopher and International Director of Humanities at Birkbeck, Slovenia

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## **Former Agent of Swedish Security Police Dictated Amnesty Sweden's Stance against Julian Assange**

*Prof. Marcello Ferrada de Noli  
Global Research  
March 14, 2016*

In December 2010 a close collaboration between Sweden and the CIA and FBI was exposed in the international media: an intelligence collaboration between Sweden and US agencies that was kept secret from the Swedish public, and even from the Swedish Parliament. [1] The Telegraph credited WikiLeaks for exposing the deal. [2] The

revelations caused far more commotion internationally than in Sweden and, in any event, no government officials were ever held accountable for it.

The Washington Post reported, quoting a Swedish Parliamentary investigation: “Although the Parliamentary investigator concluded that the Swedish security police deserved ‘extremely grave criticism’ for losing control of the operation and for being ‘remarkably submissive to the American officials,’ no Swedish officials have been charged or disciplined.” [3]

This article explores to what extent the CIA demanded that Sweden would expand cooperationnt intelligence collaboration between Swedish and US security agencies might have relevance to, or direct intervention in, the political case of Sweden vs Assange. [4]

Svenska Dagbladet (Svd), one of Sweden’s leading newspapers, has now revealed that a well-known journalist and ‘left activist’ — who, among other things, exerted considerable influence with Amnesty International Sweden— was a paid agent of Sweden’s Security Police (SÄPO). [5]

The government security agent, Martin Fredriksson, was mainly active during the years that former Foreign Minister Carl Bildt was dictating Sweden’s foreign policy, when the “Assange Affair” was widely publicized on the home page of Sweden’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to statements Fredriksson posted on Twitter, his “work” at SÄPO covered different periods between 2004 and 2010, the year Sweden opened its ‘investigation’ against the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

The Swedish media establishment awarded this SÄPO secret agent its highest investigative journalism prize, ‘Guldspaden’ (Golden Spade), in 2014. The rationale on which the award was given to Fredriksson referred precisely to the work he had implemented as a paid agent of Sweden’s Secret Police. [6] ....

The former SÄPO agent was significantly involved in the government’s efforts to ensure that the Swedish section of Amnesty International (for brevity, hereafter called Amnesty Sweden) would not advocate for the Swedish government to issue guarantees against the onward extradition of Julian Assange to the US, as called for by Amnesty International, Amnesty Sweden’s parent organization headquartered in London. [7]

In an email sent to Amnesty Sweden on 27 September 2012, Fredriksson asked a representative of Amnesty Sweden, Bobby Vellucci:

“Would Amnesty Sweden endorse the statement of Amnesty International on Assange? Meaning, that Sweden should issue guarantees that he shall not be extradited to the US? Should you not contact your mother organization (AI) and inform them that the Swedish legal system does not issue any promises or guarantees in advance, that the judiciary is independent of political decisions and that, practically, there are no legal possibilities to give Mr Assange any kind of amnesty towards the United States? ... In my view, Assange first shall be handled for the crimes he is suspected of in Sweden, and according to the existing law.” [8]

The content, even the phrasing, of Fredriksson's message to Amnesty Sweden is nearly identical to remarks made in an interview just weeks before by the Swedish Foreign Minister at the time, Carl Bildt. [9]

Amnesty Sweden complied immediately, and fully, with Fredriksson's request. The following day (28 September) Bobby Vellucci declared in *The Local*:

"We do not consider it to be appropriate or possible to ask the Swedish government to give guarantees ensuring Assange is not extradited to the US." And he added, "Amnesty's primary focus is the Swedish preliminary investigation and that Julian Assange's presence in Sweden would of course assist in the further investigation of the charges against him." [10]

By using the word "charges" instead of "accusations", Amnesty Sweden was further misleading the international public on the actual legal status of the Swedish case against Assange. [4]

It is important to clarify that the above statements by ex-SÄPO agent Fredriksson and Carl Bildt referring to the impossibility of issuing extradition guarantees are complete falsehoods. This was made clear in the filing submitted by Sweden's Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev to the Supreme Court in March 2015. With regard to the actual facts on the prospective extradition of Assange to the US, see the evidence I recently posted in "Sweden's argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the US". [11]

Four years later, Amnesty Sweden's stance on Julian Assange appears to be still under the influence of the Swedish government. In a recent statement to the Swedish news agency TT, the representative of Amnesty Sweden, Madelaine Seidlitz—commenting on the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's ruling that he is arbitrarily detained—insisted on reaffirming the Swedish government's narrative:

"...We also say that it is extremely important that the investigation has to be completed." [12]

In fact, lawyer Madelaine Seidlitz is the representative given as the contact person for Amnesty Sweden's press statement arguing against Sweden giving Assange any guarantee against onward extradition, the content of which exactly conforms with former SÄPO agent Fredriksson's request. The Amnesty Sweden statement [image at right] reads:

"It is neither appropriate nor possible to ask the Swedish government for the issuing of guarantees that Assange shall not be extradited to the US. Amnesty Sweden's primary focus is the pre-trial investigation and that Julian Assange should be on site in Sweden..."

It's worth noting that Amnesty Sweden's statement has been modified several times since its original release and was eventually deleted entirely sometime around February 2016, but cached versions—such as the one reproduced in the image—still exist.

Considering the fact-based risk assessment of the likelihood of Julian Assange's extradition to the US provided he is physically in custody on Swedish territory, [11] one plausible conclusion— now confirmed by the intervention of SÄPO's former agent Martin Fredriksson— would be that Amnesty Sweden simply follows the Swedish government's position, and indirectly, the US government's design.

Amnesty Sweden— a persistent tendency to deviate from the stance of its parent organization, Amnesty International

After Svd's expose, Researchgruppen— an organisation headed by Fredriksson that has done a lot of work for feminist media— distanced itself from its former CEO in a statement of 1 March 2016 (See translated excerpt of the statement in Notes & References).[13]

Amnesty Sweden, however, has not said a word.

It is high time for Amnesty International to intervene in this situation to maintain its prestige, both in Sweden and internationally. The Swedish section of Amnesty International has shown a persistent tendency to deviate from the stance of its parent organization— from which Amnesty Sweden derives both funding and prestige— on a variety of important geopolitical issues. That was the case, for instance, in Amnesty Sweden's scandalous opposition to denouncing the arbitrary and inhuman detention of Palestinian children by the Israeli authorities. [14] Or when Amnesty Sweden's executive board rejected human rights initiatives proposed at its AGM regarding Assange and Snowden following the persecution both have been subjected to by the US. [15]

Although Amnesty Sweden declares that, in principle, it is totally independent from the Swedish state, it receives government funding for the implementation of projects referred to as "training on Human Rights". [16] [17] [18]

This is quite contrary to the stance we take in Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR). We believe that a *sine qua non* factor in a human rights organization's credibility is total independence from government and corporate funding. [19]

• Professor Marcello Ferrada de Noli is chairman of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights and Editor-in-Chief of *The Indicter*. Also publisher of *The Professors' Blog*, and CEO of *Libertarian Books — Sweden*. Author of *Sweden VS. Assange — Human Rights Issues*, and other books and essays. Further information at *The indicter's* Editorial Board. Reachable via email at [editors@theindicter.com](mailto:editors@theindicter.com), [fdenoli@gmail.co](mailto:fdenoli@gmail.co). Follow this author on Twitter: @Professorsblogg

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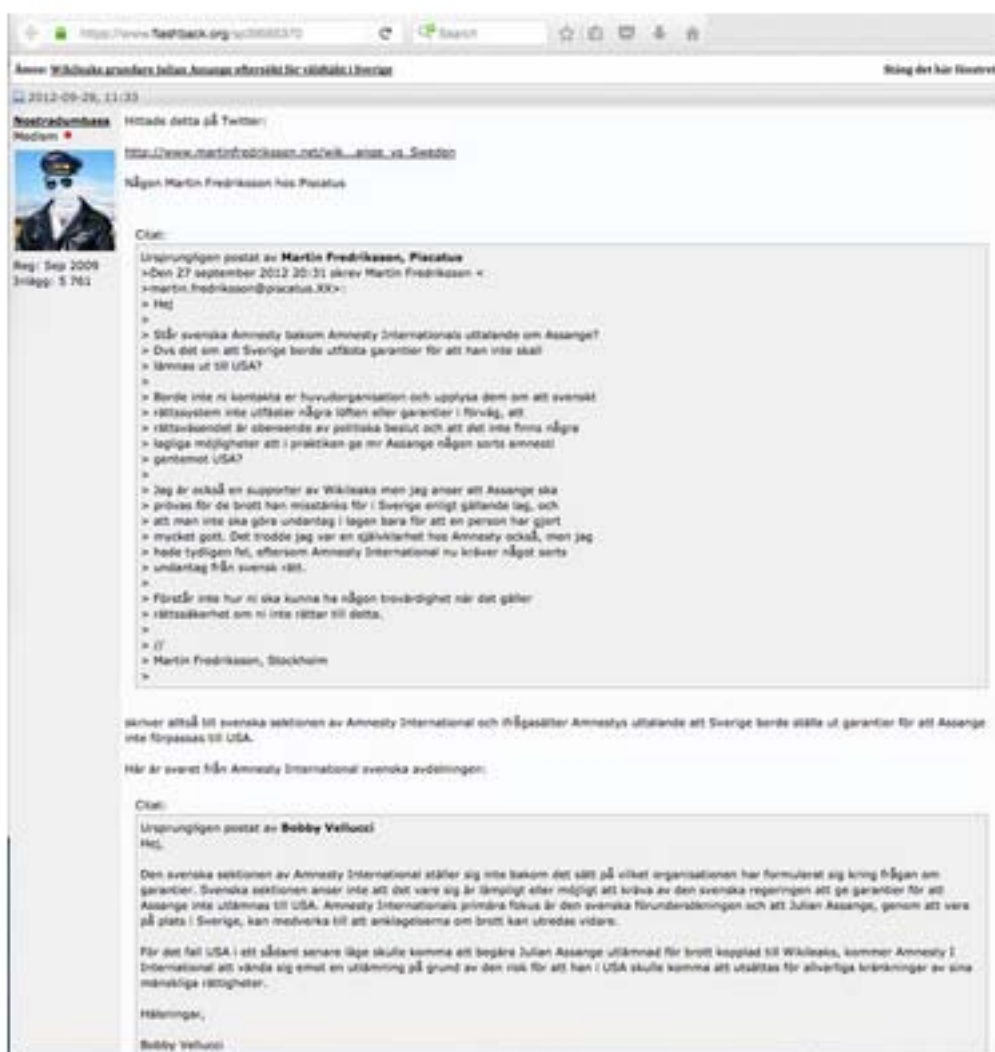
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[8] Email translated from its publication in Flashback, a Swedish forum allocating a chapter on the Assange case; this is a thread exhibiting over seven million reader-visits (N= 7 089 375, retrieved 6 March 216). Martin Fredriksson acknowledged the authenticity of the email.message to Amnesty in a post on Twitter done by @Researchgruppen. The email exchange was first published in the abovementioned forum on the 28 Sept 2012. There it referred the source "[http://www.martinfredriksson.net/wik...ange\\_vs\\_Sweden](http://www.martinfredriksson.net/wik...ange_vs_Sweden)" — a link which now appears blind. Here below the screenshot (click on image to enlarge):



transcription of email exchange - posted by Nostradumbass 28 Sept 2012

[9] Carl Bildt, then Sweden's foreign minister, declared in DN 19 August 2012:

— Rättssystemet i Sverige är oberoende. Jag kan inte göra några uttalanden som binder rättssystemet på något sätt. Då skulle jag bryta mot den svenska grundlagen.

Previously, Bild said during an interview in Belgrade:

Sweden has "independent judiciary, guaranteed by law," and that "political authorities do not influence its work"

[10] Oliver Gee, "Assange 'guarantees' spark Amnesty spat". The Local, 28 Sept 2012.

[11] M Ferrada de Noli, "Sweden's argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the U.S." The Indicter, 20 Feb 2016.

[12] Amnesty Press, 2016, N° 1, page 28.

[13] Statement posted by Researchgruppen at research.nu, 1 March 2016. Excerpts:

“Following the statements and information Martin Fredriksson has given on his Twitter account on February 28, 2016, Researchgruppen wishes to clarify the following: It came as a shock and complete surprise to us when Martin Fredriksson revealed that he was paid over several years by the Security Police... Researchgruppen’s position is that any journalism at all times must be free from official interference. Therefore, we are strongly critical of Martin Fredriksson’s actions, and that he concealed his cooperation with the Security Police for us and everyone else.”

[14] M Ferrada de Noli, Swedish Section of Amnesty International voted to reject human-right actions on cases Assange, Snowden and tortured Palestinian children. The Professors’ Blogg, 11 May 2014.

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## **Åklagarna vill inte häva häktning av Assange**

*TT/SVT*

*14 april 2016*

Julian Assanges advokater anser att häktningen av Wikileaksgrundaren ska hävas. Men det motsätter sig åklagarna.

”Assange är fortfarande på sannolika skäl misstänkt för ett allvarligt brott och flyktfaran består”, skriver de till Stockholms tingsrätt.

Advokaterna anser att det är oproportionerligt att hålla Assange fortsatt häktad. Men åklagarna Marianne Ny och Ingrid Isgren påpekar att Högsta domstolen i maj 2015 kom fram till att det inte stämmer.

Assanges svenska advokater skrev nyligen till domstolen att deras klient bör släppas fri även för att få nödvändig vård och för att en FN-panel kommit fram till att han är ”godtyckligt frihetsberövad”.

En ny förfrågan om att förhöra Assange skickades i mars till Ecuador, som inte har svarat än. Den våldtäktsmisstänkte australiern uppehåller sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

Åklagarna har dock ingenting emot en ny häktningsförhandling.

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## **Julian Assange Would Be No Safer Under a Clinton Administration, Cannes Audience Hears**

*Journalist and hacker Jacob Appelbaum says Clinton camp are out to get the WikiLeaks founder, while Laura Poitras, whose documentary about Assange has premiered at Cannes, denies rumours of a falling out.*

Henry Barnes  
The Guardian  
19 May 2016

Julian Assange, the Wikileaks founder who is still confined to the Ecuadorian embassy in London, would find life no easier under a President Hillary Clinton, according to the journalist, hacker and WikiLeaks representative Jacob Appelbaum.

Speaking at a Q&A after the Cannes film festival premiere of *Risk*, Laura Poitras's documentary about the WikiLeaks activist, Appelbaum said Clinton's representatives had made it clear that, thanks to Cablegate—the 2010 leak of more than 250,000 classified US State Department messages by WikiLeaks (published by media partners including the Guardian)—Clinton's office was in no mood to rethink their strategy when it came to Assange.

"I had a meeting with someone from then secretary of state Hillary Clinton's office some time after the Cablegate," Appelbaum said. "He let me know that Clinton did not like Julian or myself. I think that if Hillary Clinton were to run for president, she would continue to assert her political will and bitterness about the exposure of diplomatic cables that documented crimes."

Poitras began filming *Risk* before she started work on *Citizenfour*, her Oscar-winning film about Edward Snowden. In *Risk*, Poitras follows Assange in the aftermath of the US diplomatic leaks as he learns of the accusations of sexual molestation and one of rape against him by two Swedish women that were, he believes, part of a smear campaign. The film shows Assange after he sought refuge from extradition in the Ecuadorian embassy, holding WikiLeaks meeting, working out with a boxing trainer and being interviewed by Lady Gaga.

In October 2014, the *New Yorker* published an article suggesting that Assange had grown disillusioned with Poitras, thinking her timid. Asked by a Cannes audience member if reports of friction between the pair were true, Poitras questioned their source, before criticising the mainstream media for being distracted by minor details.

"When I first started doing the reporting on Edward Snowden's documents, one of the first things the mainstream media did was a comparison [with WikiLeaks whistleblower Chelsea Manning]," she said. "It's a move by the mainstream media to try and separate people. Edward Snowden came very much after Chelsea Manning. It's not about comparing the two, it's about looking at what they're actually revealing."

"Julian is a political prisoner who has been demonised in the press," said Appelbaum to applause. "There's a real split between journalists who are working to reveal information and journalists who are propagandists. And in the United States most of the journalists are propagandists. They're stenographers for the state."

The pair were joined on stage by Sarah Harrison, a journalist and legal researcher who is a close confidante of Assange's. She wore a T-shirt that read: "Liberate Assange." She noted that 28 May will be Assange's 2,000th day in exile, cited a recent UN report that called the UK's detention of Assange "arbitrary", and called for his immediate release.

"He's been in that space for four years," she said. "Think of that when you're out in the Cannes sunshine".

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2016/may/19/wikileaks-julian-assange-hillary-clinton-cannes-risk-laura-poitras>

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## **'Risk of inaction is very high'**

*WikiLeaks founder Assange under spotlight in new doc at Cannes*

RT

20 May, 2016

A documentary about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival. 'Risk' is a sneak peek into the whistleblower's work process, with Assange seen boxing, talking to his mother and being interviewed by Lady Gaga.

The film's director, Laura Poitras, told RT during a Q&A after the screening that she was put on a US government terrorist watch list back in 2006, when she made 'My Country, My Country', a documentary set in Iraq under the US forces' occupation. Citing an FBI audio recording, Poitras said that the Homeland Security Department most probably "still considers me to be an anti-American filmmaker."

The 52-year-old director added that both the investigations into her work and the WikiLeaks case are secret. "We know that they are ongoing because of the documents that we have received."

Poitras is no stranger to danger. Her previous documentary, 'CitizenFour', was about Edward Snowden, who blew the lid off the US National Security Agency. The filmmaker had even relocated to Berlin to avoid government intrusion while working on the documentary. Back in 2010, Poitras made waves with 'The Oath', which she filmed in Yemen and Guantánamo Bay. That documentary drama revolved around

Osama Bin Laden's former bodyguard, and a Gitmo detainee, exposing the real impact of the US War on Terror.

In her latest tour de force, 'Risk', presented in a series of 10 chapters, the director managed to get unlimited access to the WikiLeaks indefatigable founder. When Poitras was asked to comment on reports alleging that she and Assange had stopped getting on well for some reason, she questioned the source of the information and lashed out at the mainstream media.

"When I first started doing the reporting on Edward Snowden's documents, one of the first things that the mainstream media did was a comparison [with WikiLeaks whistleblower Chelsea Manning]," she said.

"This comparison is a move by the mainstream media to try and separate people. What Snowden did came after Chelsea Manning. It's not about comparing the two, it's about looking at what they're actually revealing," she said.

"Julian is a political prisoner who has been demonized in the press," WikiLeaks activist and technical expert Jacob Appelbaum said, receiving great applause from the Cannes audience. There's a real split between journalists who are working to reveal information and journalists who are propagandists," he added.

"In the United States most of the journalists are propagandists. They're stenographers for the state."

In 'Risk', Assange talks about how much risk people should actually go to, and concludes that "If you're not fighting for the things that you care about, you are losing."

"The risk of inaction is very high," he notes.

One of the liveliest scenes in the film is when Lady Gaga comes to interview Assange in the embassy, filming the conversation on a small camera. The pop diva lazily asks Assange what his favorite food is, and he replies: "Let's not pretend for a moment I'm a normal person." When the two come to calculate that at least 12 government agencies are after the WikiLeaks mastermind, including the CIA and FBI, Gaga aptly summarizes: "A lot of f\*\*\*ing people."

Assange has been stuck inside the Ecuadorian embassy since he took refuge there in June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden. In Sweden, the Australian is wanted for questioning by the authorities regarding allegations of sexual assault against two women in 2010. The 44-year-old has denied the accusations; he says that being taken to Sweden is only meant to pave the way for further extradition to the US, where he will likely be detained for helping the currently-imprisoned Chelsea Manning leak US diplomatic cables in 2010.

WikiLeaks published over 250,000 classified US military and diplomatic documents in 2010 in a move that amounted to the largest information leak in United States history. Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State when WikiLeaks published 'Cablegate'.

According to Appelbaum, Assange's life would hardly change for the better under a President Hillary Clinton. He recalled how he once had a meeting with someone from Clinton's office following Cablegate.

"He [the representative] let me know that Clinton did not like Julian or myself. I think that if Hillary Clinton runs for president, she will continue to assert her political will and bitterness about the exposure of diplomatic cables that documented crimes," Appelbaum said after the screening of 'Risk'.

"I don't have any ideas about other candidates but I don't think they have any ideas either," he added, receiving another portion of applause.

WikiLeaks journalist Sarah Harrison, who also attended the film premiere in Cannes, said that May 28 will be Assange's 2,000th day in exile.

"He is detained without charge in an embassy surrounded by police. He has been held in the UK for the last five-and-a-half years. Julian has not seen his son for four years. The UK continues to deny him medical treatment," Harrison, wearing a T-shirt that read 'Liberate Assange', noted.

Last month lawyers for Assange urged Stockholm to repeal his arrest warrant, citing health concerns. They said the WikiLeaks founder cannot receive adequate medical attention at the embassy. Earlier this year the UN ruled that Assange has been "arbitrarily detained" in the embassy in London, and called for the UK and Sweden to end his "deprivation of liberty."

- *Valeria Paikova*

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### **Laura Poitras on her new Julian Assange film: 'Few people could stand the pressure he is under'**

*Laura Poitras believe the US government has launched a 'full-force attack' against Julian Assange*

*Henry Barnes  
The Guardian  
20 May 2016*

Julian Assange, his white-blond mop of hair cut and dyed a dusty orange, puts coloured contact lenses in. He pulls on biker leathers, hides his face behind a helmet and takes his motorcycle for a ride. Assange is in disguise, in one of his last moments of freedom before he enters the Embassy of Ecuador. There, after seeking asylum from extradition, the man who helped leak more than 250,000 confidential US State Department documents will stay. Who knows for how long?

The wider story is well known. But the details— the contact lenses, that dye job— come from an embedded source. Documentarian Laura Poitras, the film-maker Edward Snowden contacted when he decided to blow the whistle on the NSA's surveillance

practices, had exclusive access to Assange and Wikileaks at the time the US began what she describes as “a full-force attack” on the organisation.

*Risk*, a documentary in which Poitras presents her insider’s account of the WikiLeaks saga, premiered this week at the Cannes film festival. Shot before, during and after the Snowden revelations, it is a partial reveal of the reveal. It brings the viewer into the room with the team of journalists, activists and hackers who helped—based on the leaks by Chelsea Manning and with the assistance of the Guardian—to expose exactly how scrutinised we are by the state.

The film fleshes out what we already know. Although it features a series of intimate moments (Assange having his hair cut by the rest of the Wikileaks team, Assange boxing with a trainer in the kitchen of the Ecuadorian embassy), *Risk* also shows a side of Assange that we have come to expect: the measured stoic, the placid pragmatist. A man capable of exhibiting extreme bravery and breezy arrogance simultaneously.

“He has a pretty extraordinary ability to withstand stress,” says Poitras. **“Not that many people could withstand the pressure** that he’s living under. He has to be able to hold it together, and he manages to.”

In the later stages of the film, as the Ecuadorian embassy becomes his home, and then a sort of prison, we see Assange’s pseudo-celebrity creep into effect. Poitras films him being visited and interviewed by the pop star Lady Gaga. Each is fascinated by the other, without really understanding what makes them tick.

Assange’s celebrity is complicated, says Poitras. She says there’s a danger that focusing on those who leak information can start to obscure the importance of the information itself.

“It came up with Snowden,” she says. “He said he didn’t want to be the story, but when somebody does something that generates that much media attention, they often do. Then the mainstream media fails to look at the actual reporting: what [the leaks] actually show. That said, I make documentaries about people, so I guess I’m guilty of that as well.”

In 2013 Poitras travelled to Hong Kong to film a video of Snowden—published by the *Guardian*—that would reveal his identity. She won an Oscar for *Citizenfour*, her subsequent documentary about him. In that film, she supplied narration, reading some of the first emails that Snowden had sent to her expressing his wish go public. In *Risk*, Poitras is not an active player, but she does have a stake in the game. In the edit, she leaves moments in when the team speak to her. She believes it is important to acknowledge that her presence affects what she films. She also believes that a similar kind of exposure would be healthy for the *Guardian* too.

“Wikileaks and Snowden—the *Guardian* is related to both of those stories,” she says. “I think the *Guardian*, in its reporting of them, should maybe add a disclaimer, because it’s a participant. That’s why I chose to leave myself in, so the audience doesn’t think that I’m forgotten, behind the camera.”



Poitras, who has made films about al-Qaida, Guantánamo Bay and the US military in Iraq, has been on the US terrorist watchlist since around 2006.

"I haven't taken the same risks as the people I've documented, but the film is founded on a risk," she says. "I was advised not to go to Hong Kong, not to bring a camera to Hong Kong, but I decided it was a risk worth taking."

Her role in these two huge stories will be amplified again later this year, when Oliver Stone's biopic, *Snowden*, hits cinemas. Poitras, who is being played by Melissa Leo, seems wary of Hollywood fictionalisation, but is withholding judgment until she sees the film.

"One of my favourite films ever is *All the President's Men*," she says. "It's great cinema that's based on real life. That's the quality of the film, not the act of fictionalisation. Show me a good film!"

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## **Julian Assange: Swedish court upholds arrest warrant for WikiLeaks founder after 'arbitrary detention' finding**

*The Stockholm district court said there was 'probably suspicion' against Mr Assange*

Lizzie Dearden  
*The Independent*  
 2016-05-25

A Swedish court has upheld an arrest warrant for Julian Assange in the wake of a United Nations panel's finding that the WikiLeaks founder was being subjected to "arbitrary detention".

The 44-year-old is wanted by Swedish authorities for questioning over rape allegations dating back to 2010, which he denies.

Mr Assange has been holed up at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since 2012 in an arrangement condemned by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) in February.

But judges at Stockholm District Court said it does not consider his stay as a form of detention and has asked for aid from embassy officials to carry out questioning. In pictures: Julian Assange's 'arbitrary detention'

"The district court finds that there is still probable cause for the suspicion against Julian Assange for rape, less serious incident, and that there is still a risk that he will depart or in some other way evade prosecution or penalty," a statement on Wednesday's ruling said.

"The district court finds that the interest of enabling investigation of the crime Julian Assange is suspected of by way of questioning him outweighs the intrusion or harm

the detention order causes Julian Assange. There are therefore grounds for Julian Assange to remain detained in absentia.”

Following the UN ruling, Mr Assange's lawyers had asked the Stockholm District Court to overturn the warrant for his arrest.

One of his representatives, Thomas Olsson, said the decision may be appealed. “As far as I understand it, the court has not addressed the main issue in the case, whether the delay in the investigation is due to the inaction of the prosecutor, which we mean is a reason to overturn this (arrest warrant),” he told Reuters.

Swedish prosecutors want to question the Australian over allegations of rape stemming from a working visit he made to the country in 2010, when revelations made by WikiLeaks on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were reverberating around the world.

Mr Assange refused to return to Sweden, saying he fears extradition to the United States, where there has been a criminal investigation into the activities of WikiLeaks.

In 2010, the website released more than 90,000 secret documents on the US-led military campaign in Afghanistan, followed by almost 400,000 American military reports detailing operations in Iraq.

Those disclosures were followed by release of millions of diplomatic cables dating back to 1973.

Sweden and the UK have made no move to follow the WGAD’s call to immediately end Mr Assange’s “deprivation of liberty” and compensate him.

The UK Government was formally contesting the findings and denied that his “voluntary” stay at the Ecuadorian Embassy constituted arbitrary detention, while Sweden's Prosecution Authority said there was “no impact” on its continuing investigation.

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## **J'Accuse! WikiLeaks Founder Assange Claims Google Has Deal With Clinton**

*Mikhail Voskresenskiy*  
*Sputnik*  
2016-07-20

"Google is directly engaged with Hillary Clinton’s campaign," Assange said via video link at the international media forum "New Era of Journalism: Farewell to Mainstream" hosted by Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency.

A video link up with Julian Assange, journalist, founder and editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks, at the session, End of the Monopoly: The Open Information Age, held as part of the New Era of Journalism: Farewell to Mainstream international media forum at the Rossiya Segodnya International Multimedia Press Center

Assange: Clinton is 'Hawk' With 'Tools of Legal Interventionism' Seeking Wars  
Moreover, the Internet giant Google is heavily integrated with the US establishment and is allying with the US exceptionalism campaign, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Tuesday.

"Google is heavily integrated with Washington power, at personal level and at business level... Google which has increasing control over the distribution channels... is intensely allying itself US exceptionalism," Assange added.

Speaking about about Hillary Clinton as presumptive presidential nominee from the US Democrat party Assange said that she "seemingly" wants to start wars, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said Tuesday.

**"What we have with Clinton is someone who is a hawk but who has the tools of legal interventionism, a rhetorical cover to start the wars, and someone who seemingly wants to start them..."** From WikiLeaks' perspective Hillary Clinton is a problem in terms of war and peace," Assange said.

The United States is expected to elect its new president on November 8, 2016.

Earlier in the day, Clinton, a former US senator, former first lady and former secretary of state, reached the number of Democratic delegates needed to secure the party's nomination, according to media reports.

The two-day media forum, timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of establishment of the Soviet Information Bureau, which later evolved into Rossiya Segodnya, kicked off in Moscow on Monday. The event deals with the changing nature of contemporary journalism and is attended by media experts from over 30 countries. Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the event. Assange spoke remotely via a video conference from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he has been residing since August 2012.

<http://sputniknews.com/world/20160607/1040951223/assange-clinton-google-deal.html#ixzz4BN3IQSFr>

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## **#FreeAssange: Global event calls for WikiLeaks founder freedom after 4 years of isolation**

RT  
19 June, 2016

Ten cities across the world are hosting a week of events dubbed "First they came for Assange," featuring Noam Chomsky, Slavoj Zizek, Yanis Varoufakis and Patti Smith, among others. It marks four years of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's detention.

Assange has been unable to leave Ecuadorian Embassy since June 19, 2012, due to the UK police's 24/7 watch on the building, a legal case opened against him in Sweden,

but, crucially, because of what he says is Washington's persecution for publishing and maintaining the largest trove of explosive leaks in world's history.

"First they came after Julian Assange, then they came after Chelsea Manning, then they came after Edward Snowden... who is next?" says the site of the global 'Assange week,' which focuses on the fate of those who blew the whistle and draws attention to the diminishing of freedom of expression globally.

Now is a critical time for whistleblowers, believes Srećko Horvat, one of the organizers of the event. The collective appeal on the websites states that "unless there is an increase in political pressure," not only there won't be any change in Assange's fate, but instead "everyone opposed to the political and financial powers might soon become a target."

"We are gathering all around the world on [June 19] to speak out for Julian, because he has spoken out for all of us, we are speaking out before there is no one left to speak out," said Horvat, a Croatian philosopher and founder of the Democracy in Europe Movement (DiEM25).

"The inspiration for the title of the event, 'First they came for Assange,' comes from the famous Martin Niemöller poem about the cowardice of intellectuals and purging of dissidents," he said.

British filmmaker Ken Loach, the winner of this year's the Palme d'Or at Cannes, is one of the speakers at the event. He said he joined the protest because Assange is a "brave man in isolation," stressing that "our legal system is being manipulated" when it comes to Assange's case.

"All who care about freedom of information should demand that the threats made against Julian should be lifted. He should be able to leave his place of safety without fear of deportation or being handed over to those who intend him harm."

Some of the other speakers at the event include American philosopher Noam Chomsky, Slovenian-born philosopher Slavoj Žižek, Chinese contemporary artist Ai Wei Wei, American singer-songwriter Patti Smith, American documentary filmmaker Michael Moore, English artist Brian Eno, English musician PJ Harvey, Spanish journalist Ignacio Escolar, former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis and many others.

The global event will run from June 19 to June 25. **The participating cities include Athens, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Madrid, Milano, Montevideo, Naples, New York, Quito, Paris and Sarajevo.** Assange will join the event live from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

As of June 19, Assange has been deprived of his freedom for 2,022 days. He remains in confinement even after a UN panel's February ruling that he has been "arbitrarily detained" in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. UN has called upon the UK and Sweden to end Assange's deprivation of liberty.

“The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) ... considered that Mr. Julian Assange was arbitrarily detained by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,” the statement said.

The UN Working Group concluded that the WikiLeaks founder “is entitled to his freedom of movement and to compensation.”

The UN’s decision came after Assange filed a complaint on Arbitrary Detention against Sweden and Britain back in September 2014.

However, both countries failed to comply, even though the opinions of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention are legally binding to the extent that they are based on international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Assange is wanted in Sweden for questioning in connection with allegations of sexual assault against two women in 2010, an accusation which he has always denied. Several additional charges against Assange were previously dropped because their statute of limitations have expired. However, the current charge is not due to lapse until 2020.

The WikiLeaks founder fears that if he goes to Sweden, he will then be extradited to the US, where he is wanted on espionage charges related to publishing classified US military and diplomatic documents in 2010— the largest information leak in US history.

The prolonged detention has had a detrimental impact on Assange’s health, according to his lawyers.

Attorneys Thomas Olsson and Per Samuelsson said the whistleblower is suffering from shoulder pain and is in need of urgent dental care, arguing that their client cannot receive adequate medical care at the embassy.

<https://www.rt.com/news/347319-assange-event-whistleblowers-freedom/>

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## **'Angry' Julian Assange starts fifth year living in Ecuador’s London embassy**

*Noam Chomsky, Yanis Varoufakis, Ai Weiwei, Michael Moore and Ken Loach are among prominent voices demanding WikiLeaks founder be allowed to walk free Julian Assange, who is now in his fifth year living in the Ecuadoran embassy in London.*

*Agence France-Presse  
19 June 2016*

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange starts his fifth year camped out in the Ecuadoran embassy in London on Sunday, an occasion his supporters said they would mark with events celebrating whistleblowers.

Assange, 44, is wanted for questioning over a 2010 rape allegation in Sweden but has been inside Ecuador's UK mission for four full years in a bid to avoid extradition. Swedish court upholds Julian Assange arrest warrant

The anti-secrecy campaigner, who denies the allegation, walked into the embassy of his own free will on 18 June, 2012, with Britain on the brink of sending him to Stockholm, and has not left since.

His lawyers say he is angry that Swedish prosecutors are still maintaining the European arrest warrant against him.

The Australian former computer hacker fears that from Sweden he could be extradited to the US over WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret military files, where he could face a long prison sentence.

**Listed participants in Sunday's anniversary events include Patti Smith, Brian Eno, PJ Harvey, Noam Chomsky, Yanis Varoufakis, Ai Weiwei, Vivienne Westwood, Michael Moore and Ken Loach.**

Croatian philosopher Srecko Horvat, an event organiser, said: "We live in a critical time. We are gathering all around the world on 19 June to speak out for Julian, because he has spoken out for all of us."

Veteran film-maker Loach said Britain's legal system was "being manipulated to keep a brave man in isolation" and that "all who care about freedom of information should demand that the threats made against Julian should be lifted.

"He should be able to leave his place of safety without fear of deportation or being handed over to those who intend him harm."

A hero to supporters and a dangerous egocentric to detractors, Assange founded WikiLeaks in 2006 and has been portrayed in two films in recent years.

Assange has compared living inside the embassy—which has no garden but is in the plush Knightsbridge district, near Harrods department store—to life on a space station.

His 4.6 by 4 metre room is divided into an office and a living area. He has a treadmill, shower, microwave and sun lamp and spends most of his day at his computer. He got a cat in May to give him some company.

Last month a Stockholm district court maintained a European arrest warrant against Assange, rejecting his lawyers' request to have it lifted.

"The court considers that Julian Assange is still suspected of rape... and that there is still a risk that he will abscond or evade justice," it said in a statement.

Assange will appeal the ruling, one of his Swedish lawyers, Per Samuelsson, said. "He is not surprised but very critical and angry," he said.

Assange's lawyers requested the lifting of the warrant after the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued a non-binding legal opinion on 5 February aying his confinement in the Ecuadoran embassy amounted to arbitrary detention by Sweden and Britain. London and Stockholm have disputed the group's findings.

The alleged crime dates back to 2010 and the statute of limitations expires in 2020.

Assange is calling for Britain to leave the European Union in Thursday's referendum on its membership of the bloc. **He alleges British authorities "repeatedly use the EU as political cover for its own decision-making", highlighting the European arrest warrant.**

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## **Sweden asks to meet Julian Assange inside Ecuador embassy**

*Swedish authorities request interview in London mission so they can question WikiLeaks founder over rape allegation*

*Patrick Wintour  
The Guardian  
20 June 2016*

Ecuador has received a formal request from the Swedish authorities to interview Julian Assange, inside its London embassy, in a potential breakthrough to the long-running saga.

The WikiLeaks founder, 44, is wanted for questioning over a 2010 rape allegation in Sweden, which he has always denied. He has been living inside Ecuador's UK mission for four years in a bid to avoid extradition to Sweden, saying he fears he would then be transferred to the US to face political charges for orchestrating leaks of diplomatic cables.

Ecuador has been asking throughout Assange's stay that he be interviewed inside the embassy, and said it welcomed the apparent Swedish "change of heart, and signs of a new political will".

Ecuador's foreign minister, Dr Guillaume Long, said on Monday, however, that the country may require fresh legal assurances before it allows Swedish prosecutors access.

The Swedish attorney general made a formal request that was being considered, Long said.

**Long also asked why the UK was unwilling to accept a February ruling by a UN working group that Assange was being arbitrarily detained.**

The UK Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire, who met Long on Monday, has called for the UN decision to be reviewed, pointing out that Assange was staying in the embassy voluntarily [*asylum-seekers usually do volunteer--A.B.*], and that the UK had a legal duty

to extradite him to Sweden. Britain claims the UN decision is flawed and has no legal status.

The UN found that Sweden was not being diligent enough in its prosecution, including its failure at the time to offer to interview him in the embassy.

Long said: "Interviewing Mr Assange inside the embassy has been Ecuador's request for four years. **Over 1,400 days we have been asking the Swedes to come and interrogate him in our embassy.** So it is welcome there has been change of heart and some sign of political will.

**"But since November 2010 and March 2015 Sweden made 44 such requests to other countries to interview suspects in other cases. So it is very common and could be easily done, but we faced total refusal for years."**

Long said Ecuador's legal department needed to examine the request, and must also view it in the context of the UN ruling and the lack of sworn guarantees from the US. Ecuador would also want assurances that the UK would not seek to prosecute Assange for avoiding arrest.

Some in the Foreign Office fear a permanent impasse between the UK and Ecuador, and that Assange will stay in the embassy until 2020, by which time a statute of limitations applies under Swedish law on the rape case. "I do not think waiting for another four years is a solution. That would be quite wrong," Long said.

**"Assange is suffering deteriorating health, he has a small space and little light. It is an embassy under siege. It is very difficult to make a phone call, the internet collapses the whole time, pictures are taken as people enter and leave the building."**

**There will be presidential elections in Ecuador in 2017,** and although the current leader, Rafael Correa, has stated that he will stand aside after 10 years in office, Long said he was "pretty confident" his Alianza Pais party would be re-elected, bucking the trend for leftwing Latin American governments to fall or come under intense popular pressure.

Long said the Correa government was still relatively popular,— despite the slump in commodity prices and allegations of civil liberties abuse, partly because the country had suffered so much political instability before. "What is amazing about Correa is that after 10 years in office, he remains consistently popular," he said.

He said inequality remained the driving issue that all governments had to confront in Latin America. "Most of Latin America's problems, social economic or political, derive from inequality and any government that does not tackle that issue is not tackling Latin America's main problem," he said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/jun/20/sweden-meet-julian-assange-inside-ecuador-embassy-wikileaks>

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DN: 2016-06-22

## Assanges advokat vill se erkännande

En av Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assanges försvarare uppmanar återigen Sverige att erkänna det utlåtande från FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckligt frihetsberövande som kom i februari.

Enligt utlåtandet borde Assange kunna begära kompensation från Sverige och Storbritannien.

– Vi försöker försäkra oss om att det svenska rättssystemet erkänner utlåtandet och dess bindande karaktär, säger Baltasar Garzón till journalister i Quito, Ecuador.

Både Sverige och Storbritannien har protesterat mot utlåtandet från FN:s arbetsgrupp.

För bara några dagar sedan var det fyra år sedan som Julian Assange flyttade in på Ecuadors ambassad i London för att undvika att bli utlämnad till Sverige.

Assange misstänks för en våldtäkt i Sverige 2010 och är enligt uppgift rädd för att Sverige i sin tur ska lämna ut honom till USA, där han skulle hotas av ett långt fängelsestraff för att ha publicerat 500.000 hemliga militära dokument.  
TT-AFP

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SVT: 10 augusti 2016

## Assange överklagar häktningsbeslut

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange överklagar Stockholms tingsrätts beslut om att inte ompröva att han ska vara fortsatt häktad.

En FN-panel drog i februari slutsatsen att Julian Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad och att det finns hälsorisker med att år efter år vistas på Ecuadors ambassad i London. Det är denna bedömning som beslutet att överklaga till Svea hovrätt vilar på.

– Åklagarsidans passivitet har medfört en oacceptabel fördröjning som även har konstaterats av FN:s arbetsgrupp, säger Thomas Olsson, en av Assanges svenska advokater, till TT.

Han uppger att Julian Assange under hela utredningstiden har erbjudit sig att ställa upp på ett förhör på ambassaden i London.

– **Det erbjudandet har avfärdats av åklagaren utan någon motivering.** Till följd av det har utredningen dragit ut orimligt långt på tiden, säger Thomas Olsson.

Hovrätten ska nu ta ställning till överklagandet. Tidigare har Stockholms tingsrätt bedömt att det inte finns skäl att ompröva häktningsbeslutet.

Vid ett Sverigebesök i augusti 2010 blev Julian Assange misstänkt för sexualbrott mot två kvinnor. Han häktades i november samma år i sin frånvaro och tog 2012 sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad.

När Assange för två år sedan begärde en ny förhandling för att upphäva häktningsbeslutet drevs ärendet hela vägen till Högsta domstolen— som avlog överklagandet.

- Christopher Gimling Shaftoe

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SVT, 2016-08-11: "Sverige kommer att få förhöra Assange"



106 SVT Text 106 Tor 11 aug 09:02:03  
INRIKES PUBLICERAD 11 AUGUSTI

## Sverige ska få förhöra Assange

Sverige kommer att få förhöra Julian Assange som befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London sedan mer än fyra år tillbaka, meddelar landets utrikesdepartement.

Ecuadors riksåklagare har informerat svenska Åklagarmyndigheten om att ett datum för förhören kommer att bestämmas inom de kommande veckorna.

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange sökte asyl på Ecuadors ambassad för att inte bli utlämnad till Sverige där han misstänks för en våldtäkt 2010. Misstankarna om sexuellt ofredande och olaga tvång har preskriberats.

Fakta om fallet Assange 160

100 105 107

160 SVT Text 239 Tor 11 aug 09:02:03  
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Fakta om fallet Assange 160

100 105 107

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SVT: 2016-08-11



## Efter fyra år – nu ska Assange förhöras

Massi Fritz: "Assange ska precis som alla andra följa lagar och regler"

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*Bildtext:* Advokat Elisabeth Massi Fritz, som företräder kvinnan som ska ha blivit våldtagen, och Julian Assange.

### Sverige ska få förhöra Assange i London

Marit Sundberg

SVT

11 augusti 2016

Åklagare Ingrid Isgren åker till London för att förhöra våldtäktsmisstänkte Julian Assange. Ett datum spikas de kommande veckorna. "När alla utredningsåtgärder är genomförda ska åklagaren fatta beslut om hon ska väcka åtal", säger Karin Rosander på Åklagarmyndigheten.

I januari lämnade svenska Åklagarmyndigheten in en formell begäran till Ecuador om att få förhöra Julian Assange på ambassaden i London, där han tagit sin tillflykt för att slippa bli utlämnad till Sverige. I juni skickade Sverige en påminnelse, som Ecuador nu har svarat positivt på. Därmed är det fritt fram för de svenska utredarna att förhöra Assange på ambassaden.

Ecuadors riksåklagare har informerat Åklagarmyndigheten om att ett datum för förhören kommer att bestämmas inom de kommande veckorna, skriver landets utrikesdepartement i ett pressmeddelande enligt TT.

Åklagarmyndighetens informationsdirektör Karin Rosander har svårt att uppskatta när förhöret blir av.

– Det meddelandet som har kommit från Ecuador är ganska kortfattat. Som jag läser det ska det tolkas som att man ställer sig positiv till ett förhör och att man kommer att återkomma om detaljer, säger hon till SVT Nyheter.

Däremot är det klart vilka som kommer att åka till London för att genomföra förhöret. Det blir— som Sverige har begärt— biträdande åklagare Ingrid Isgren och en utredare från polisen. Karin Rosander kan inte svara på varför inte åklagare Marianne Ny åker.

– De är två åklagare i ärendet, så de delar på uppgifterna.

På Ecuadors begäran har Sverige skickat över en lista på vilka frågor utredarna kommer att ställa till Assange. När förhöret är genomfört kan det bli tal om kompletterande förhör med andra personer i utredningen. Alla övriga utredningsåtgärder är redan genomförda.

– När alla utredningsåtgärder är genomförda ska åklagaren fatta beslut om hon ska väcka åtal.

Kan man vara säker på att förhöret blir av nu?

– Ja, det måste man förutsätta. Ett positivt besked är ett positivt besked.

Julian Assange har hela tiden nekat till brott. Hans svenska försvarsadvokat Thomas Olsson beklagar att det har tagit så lång tid för åklagaren att få till ett förhör och menar att det har skadat förundersökningen.

– Förmodligen är skadan för förundersökningen irreparabel. Det har gått så lång tid att det är svårt att tänka sig att några av de inblandade har klara minnesbilder av vad som har inträffat. Assange har förhindrats att lämna en egen redogörelse och försvara sig på bästa sätt. Enda skälet är att åklagaren har förhållit sig passiv i flera år, säger han till SVT Nyheter.

Enligt Thomas Olsson är Assange redo att låta sig förhöras.

**– Han har inte lämnat något annat besked de senaste fyra åren än att han är angelägen om att lämna sin version av händelserna.**

Advokat Elisabeth Massi Fritz, som företräder kvinnan som ska ha blivit våldtagen, menar att Assange omedelbart bör överlämna sig till engelsk polis.

”Jag och min klient anser att han omedelbart ska överlämna sig till engelsk polis för att utlämnas och förhöras i Sverige. Om inte det sker bör Ecuador omgående avhysa Assange från deras ambassad i London så att rättvisan får ha sin gång”, skriver hon i en kommentar och fortsätter:

”Assange ska precis som alla andra följa lagar och regler. Han är ingen politisk flykting och bör omgående skickas med först bästa plan till Sverige och svenskt häkte.”

SVT Nyheter har sökt åklagare Marianne Ny och biträdande åklagare Ingrid Isgren för en kommentar, men de befinner sig på semester.

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## **Ecuador warned to end Assange asylum by ex-foreign minister after DNC leak**

*RT*

*9 Aug, 2016*

Ecuador is being urged to end its asylum of Wikileaks co-founder Julian Assange by one of its most prominent diplomats, following the recent leak of Democratic National Committee (DNC) emails.

José Ayala Lasso, a three-time foreign minister and the first UN Human Rights Commissioner, made the claims in El Comercio.

He insists that allowing Assange to “influence political activities” with the release of 20,000 DNC emails, which the former diplomat claims was done with “technical support from Russia”, is detrimental to the South American country’s image.

Lasso also writes that Vladimir Putin “would be more satisfied with the triumph of Trump” in November’s US presidential election.

Last month's DNC leaks revealed a fractured Democratic Party with a pro-Hillary Clinton agenda, while her progressive opponent Bernie Sanders was still in the race for the party's nomination.

Lasso accused Ecuador of granting asylum to “time bomb” Assange in a bid to achieve “some international notoriety” rather than the humanitarian reasons it claims.

Assange has been in self-imposed exile at the Ecuadorian embassy in London for four years and alleges that, if he leaves, he will be extradited to Sweden where he faces questioning over sexual assault allegations.

The whistleblower claims if he travels to the Scandinavian country, he will be extradited to the US, despite the country prohibiting extradition on the basis of a “political offence” or “an offence connected with a political offence”.

Currently there are no charges against him in the US.

**Wikileaks claimed the opinion piece by Lasso was evidence that the Ecuadorian government were “under serious pressure” to censor Assange.**

Last month Assange dismissed allegations that Russia was involved in the DNC leaks, telling NBC “there is no proof whatsoever” and that it was an effort to divert attention from the scandals they revealed about the Hillary Clinton campaign.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned as chair of the DNC at the beginning of her party's convention, in the wake of the release of the emails.

Clinton, nonetheless, went on to receive the nomination.

<https://www.rt.com/news/355220-ecuador-warned-wikileaks-assange/>

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## **Ecuador allows Sweden to interview WikiLeaks co-founder Assange in its London embassy**

*RT*

*11 Aug. 2016*

Sweden has made a formal request to interview Assange in Ecuador's London Embassy, four years after the initial offer from Ecuadorian authorities. The deal was struck on Wednesday.

The agreement was apparently reached after Ecuador's attorney general okayed the Swedish government's request, made back in June, to interview the WikiLeaks founder.

"In the coming weeks a date will be established for the proceedings to be held at the Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom," according to a communique released by Ecuador's Foreign Ministry, as quoted by Telesur media outlet.

Assange has welcomed Ecuador's move to let Swedish prosecutors interview him at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, Melinda Taylor, a member of Assange's legal team, told Sputnik.

"Obviously, Mr. Assange welcomes it but it doesn't cure the harm he suffered," Taylor said. "Under Swedish law, it's a fundamental procedure. **The reason why this hasn't occurred previously is because of the Swedish prosecutor's refusal of Ecuador's invitation.** And this is something that should have happened five years ago," Taylor added, as quoted by Sputnik.

Julian Assange has been living in the building of the Ecuador's embassy since 2012. The 44-year-old was granted asylum due to his concerns that he would be extradited to Sweden, and then to the US.

In February, the UN ruled that Assange has been the victim of arbitrary detention "by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom."

**Prior to 2012, Assange had spent 550 days under house arrest.**

The Ecuadorian authorities say they have been urging Swedish prosecutors to interview Assange since 2012.



“For more than four years, the government of Ecuador has offered to cooperate in facilitating the questioning of Julian Assange in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London, as well as proposing other political and legal measures, in order to reach a satisfactory solution for all parties involved in the legal case against Julian Assange.”

They added that the Ecuadorian government “reiterates its commitment to the asylum granted to Julian Assange in August 2012, and reaffirms that the protection afforded by the Ecuadorian State shall continue while the circumstances persist that led to the granting of asylum, namely fears of political persecution.”

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DN: 2016-08-11

## **Stefan Lisinski: Svårt att skipa rättvisa i målet Assange**

*Turerna har varit många, men kanske ser vi nu ett litet genombrott i den segdragna sexbrottsutredningen mot Julian Assange. Möjligtvis är det för sent att skipa rättvisa i detta mål.*

Att Ecuadors Riksåklagare nu har gett klartecken till förhör med Julian Assange innebär att ett viktigt formellt hinder i utredningen har undanröjts. Enligt brevet från Ecuador ska ett datum för förhör med Wikileaks grundare bestämmas de närmaste veckorna.

Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på Åklagarmyndigheten, meddelar att man från åklagarsidan snabbt kan åka kan resa till London och besöka Assange på Ecuadors ambassad, för att genomföra förhör.

Advokat Thomas Olsson, som företräder Julian Assange, betonar att hans klient under lång tid har velat förhöras på ambassaden. Han lägger skulden på de svenska åklagarna för att förhören inte har hållits tidigare.

Trots hård kritik och protester från Assanges sida verkar hans inställning fortfarande vara att förhören ska genomföras. Hans advokater har i olika sammanhang framhållit att Wikileaksgrundarens hälsa har försämrats under den långa vistelsen på Ecuadors ambassad.

Men han har regelbundet deltagit i olika tv-program, senast för bara någon dag sedan. Det tyder på att hälsoskäl inte behöver vara ett hinder för förhör.

Så vad kan gå fel denna gång? För tillfället är det svårt att se att nya hinder kan dyka upp. Å andra sidan har just detta fall bjudit på många oväntade överraskningar. Därför är det bäst att avvakta tills förhör verkligen har genomförts.

Vad som sedan händer med den svenska sexbrottsutredningen mot Assange är en öppen fråga. Redan från början har det funnits flera frågetecken i utredningen. Läget har inte blivit bättre av att det har gått sex år sedan de påstådda brotten. På den punkten kan Assanges advokater ha rätt. Utredningen kan redan ha drabbats av ”irreparabla skador”.

- *Stefan Lisinski*



DN: 2016-08-11

## Sverige ska få förhöra Assange

Sverige kommer att få förhöra Julian Assange som befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London sedan mer än fyra år tillbaka, skriver landets utrikesdepartement i ett pressmeddelande.

Ecuadors riksåklagare har informerat svenska Åklagarmyndigheten om att ett datum för förhören kommer att bestämmas inom de kommande veckorna, enligt pressmeddelandet.

Åklagarmyndigheten gjorde en formell begäran till Ecuador i januari om att få förhöra Julian Assange på ambassaden i London. Sverige skickade en påminnelse i juni, som Ecuador nu har svarat på, enligt Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på Åklagarmyndigheten.

– Den här förundersökningen har pågått sedan 2010. Egentligen är alla utredningsåtgärder genomförda, utom förhöret med den som är misstänkt. Det är naturligtvis oerhört väsentligt för utredningen, säger Rosander till TT.

– Det är avgörande för att man ska kunna fatta beslut om man ska väcka åtal eller inte, säger hon.

Målsägarbiträdet Elisabeth Massi Fritz och hennes klient anser att Julian Assange omedelbart ska överlämnas sig till engelsk polis för att sedan utlämnas och förhöras i Sverige.

”Om inte det sker bör Ecuador omgående avhysa Assange från deras ambassad i London så att rättvisan får ha sin gång. Assange är på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt mot min klient, och hon har rätt att få sin sak prövad i svensk domstol”, skriver Elisabeth Massi Fritz i ett mejl till TT.

Hon betonar också att hon inte anser att Julian Assange är en politisk flykting. ”Han är ingen politisk flykting och bör omgående skickas med först bästa plan till Sverige och svenskt häkte”, skriver hon.

Julian Assange försvaras av bland annat advokat Thomas Olsson som är kritisk till hur åklagarna har hanterat ärendet.

– Åklagarna har varit slarviga att se till att förutsättningarna föreligger för att hålla förhör och vi får hoppas att de visar mer omsorg vid det här tillfället.

Julian Assange förnekar brott och Thomas Olsson anser att den tid som förflutit sedan den misstänkta våldtäkten ska ha begåtts kan ha skadat utredningen.

– En förundersökning är i mycket en färskvara i så motto att det gäller att säkra de uppgifter som finns så nära händelsen som möjligt. Den möjligheten har åklagaren haft eftersom Julian Assange har erbjudit förhör under hela den här tiden, säger han.

– Att hålla förhöret efter sex år medför nog att förundersökningen skadats på ett sätt som inte går att reparera.

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad för att undvika att bli utlämnad till Sverige. Han misstänks för en våldtäkt i Sverige 2010, och enligt honom själv är han rädd för att Sverige i sin tur ska lämna ut honom till USA, där han skulle hotas av ett långt fängelsestraff för att ha publicerat 500.000 hemliga militära dokument.

TT har sökt åklagaren Marianne Ny som har semester och därför inte kan kommentera uppgifterna.

### **Fakta: Fallet Assange**

Vid ett Sverigebesök i augusti 2010 blev Julian Assange misstänkt för sexualbrott mot två kvinnor. Han häktades i november 2010 i sin utevaro.

Efter diverse rättsliga turer tog Assange sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London 2012 och beviljades asyl.

Svenska åklagare fortsatte att trycka på för att Assange skulle komma till Sverige för att höras här. Assange har vägrat med motiveringen att han är rädd att Sverige ska överlämna honom till USA.

I mars förra året bytte åklagarna fot och gick med på att förhören skulle hållas i London. Rättsliga hinder mellan Ecuador och Sverige har dock hindrat detta tills länderna ingick ett avtal om rättshjälp i december 2015.

I augusti samma år preskriberades ett fall av olaga tvång och två fall av sexuella ofredanden preskriberades. Det fjärde fallet, som gäller misstänkt våldtäkt, preskriberas först i augusti 2020. Assange är ännu inte hörd.

*TT-AFP*

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AB: 2016-08-11

### **Sverige ska få förhöra Assange**

Sverige kommer att få förhöra Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

– Det är avgörande för att man ska kunna fatta beslut om man ska väcka åtal eller inte, säger Karin Rosander på Åklagarmyndigheten.

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Sverige kommer att få förhöra Julian Assange som befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London sedan mer än fyra år tillbaka, skriver landets utrikesdepartement i ett pressmeddelande.

Ecuadors riksåklagare har informerat svenska Åklagarmyndigheten om att ett datum för förhören kommer att bestämmas inom de kommande veckorna, enligt pressmeddelandet.

Åklagarmyndigheten gjorde en formell begäran till Ecuador i januari om att få förhöra Julian Assange på ambassaden i London. Sverige skickade en påminnelse i juni, som Ecuador nu har svarat på, enligt Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på Åklagarmyndigheten.

Den här förundersökningen har pågått sedan 2010. Egentligen är alla utSverige kommer att få förhöra Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London.

– Det är avgörande för att man ska kunna fatta beslut om man ska väcka åtal eller inte, säger Karin Rosander på Åklagarmyndigheten. redningsåtgärder genomförda, utom förhöret med den som är misstänkt. Det är naturligtvis oerhört väsentligt för utredningen, säger Rosander till TT.

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Åklagarna har varit slarviga att se till att förutsättningarna föreligger för att hålla förhör och vi får hoppas att de visar mer omsorg vid det här tillfället.

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SvD: 2016-08-11

## Advokaten om beslutet: "En seger för Assange"

Den långdragna utredningen mot våldtäktsmisstänkte Julian Assange tar nu ett steg närmare en lösning. Ecuador ger klartecken till de svenska utredarna att förhöra Assange på ambassaden i London. Eftersom övriga utredningsåtgärder redan genomförts innebär det att utredningen närmar sig ett slut.

"Ecuadors riksåklagare har meddelat den svenska åklagaren dess intention att låta förhöra Assange."

Så löd det korta meddelandet från Ecuadors utrikesdepartementet på Twitter tidigt på torsdagsmorgonen, svensk tid. Därmed inleddes ett nytt kapitel i den utdragna polisutredningen mot Julian Assange, grundare av visselblåsarsajten Wikileaks.

Assange är misstänkt för våldtäkt efter ett Sverigebesök 2010. De ytterligare misstankarna om olaga tvång och sexuellt ofredande preskriberades förra året. Utredningen har dragit ut på tiden bland annat eftersom 45-åringen sedan sommaren 2012 befinner sig på Ecuadors ambassad i London, bortom den europeiska arresteringsorder som utfärdades av åklagaren Marianne Ny.

Assange har vägrat åka till Sverige av rädsla för att utlämnas till USA. I stället har hans advokater försökt förmå de svenska utredarna att genomföra förhöret på ambassaden i London. Marianne Nys inställning var länge att en sådan åtgärd var utesluten, men förra året ändrade hon inriktning och har sedan dess fokuserat på ett förhör på ambassaden.

I vintras avvisade Ecuador på formella grunder den svenska begäran om att förhöra Assange i London. I stället erbjöd sig Ecuadors riksåklagare att Ecuador skulle

genomföra förhören på ambassaden. Efter ännu en ansökningsrunda har nu riksåklagaren bestämt sig för att tillmötesgå de svenska kraven.

Ecuador avser att komma överens med Storbritannien och Sverige om ett datum för förhöret de närmaste veckorna, enligt ett pressmeddelande från Ecuadors utrikesdepartement.

Per E Samuelsson, en av Assanges försvarsadvokater, välkomnar beslutet.

– Vi har begärt det här i sex år så vi är glada att förundersökningens dödläge rivs. Det är en seger för Julian Assange, säger han.

Assange är redo för ett förhör i närtid, enligt Per E Samuelsson.

– Vi är redo att genomföra förhöret med kort varsel, säger han.

Samtidigt tror han att den utdragna rättsprocessen har gjort att utredningen blivit lidande.

– Det kan ha medfört irreversibla skador i förundersökningen, säger Per E Samuelsson.

Målsägarbiträdet Elisabeth Massi Fritz och hennes klient anser att Assange omedelbart borde överlämna sig till brittisk polis för att föras till Sverige.

”Om inte det sker bör Ecuador omgående avhysa Assange från deras ambassad i London så att rättvisan får ha sin gång. Assange är på sannolika skäl misstänkt för våldtäkt mot min klient, och hon har rätt att få sin sak prövad i svensk domstol. Assange ska precis som alla andra följa lagar och regler. Han är ingen politisk flykting och bör omgående skickas med första bästa plan till Sverige och svenskt häkte”, skriver Elisabeth Massi Fritz i ett uttalande.

Hon skriver också att hon är skeptisk till ett förhör på ambassaden, men att det är ”bättre än ingenting”.

Åklagaren Marianne Ny befinner sig på semester och har inte gått att nå för en kommentar. Karin Rosander, informationsdirektör på Åklagarmyndigheten, säger att övriga utredningsåtgärder sedan länge är genomförda och det därför är ett framsteg att förhöret med den misstänkte nu kan genomföras.

– Åklagaren har ju ställt en begäran och nu har de svarat, och det är naturligtvis det hon har väntat på, säger hon.

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SvD: 2016-08-12

### **”Fallet Assange en skandal för svenska rättsväsendet”**

*Det stundande förhöret med Julian Assange i London är fullständigt onödigt. Fallet är ett solklart avskrivningsärende, skriver före detta åklagare Rolf Hillegren.*

Den 11 augusti 2016 meddelade Åklagarmyndigheten att åklagaren kommer att förhöra Julian Assange i London inom de närmaste veckorna. Av alla som läst förhören i målet torde de flesta inse att det stundande förhöret är fullständigt onödigt.

Det beror på att fallet är ett solklart avskrivningsärende, som för övrigt skrevs av redan 2010 av en erfaren åklagare. Efter begäran om överprövning återupptogs förundersökningen av **överåklagaren Marianne Ny som därefter lyckats göra den till en av de mest misskötta i modern tid.**

Assange blev tillräckligt förhörd redan 2010 och det är ett fullständigt mysterium vad åklagaren tror att hon skulle kunna få ut av ett nytt förhör.

Det saknas tillräcklig bevisning och Assange lär inte komma att säga något som försämrar hans situation. Låt oss dock för ett ögonblick tänka oss att åklagaren efter förhöret kommer fram till att Assange bör åtalas. Hur gör hon då? Tänker hon låta honom stanna i ytterligare fyra år på ambassaden tills preskription inträder? **Att hon inte lär kunna få honom till Sverige borde hon förstått för länge sedan.**

Sedan 2012 har utredningen inte förts ett enda steg i riktning mot en avslutning i någon form. Ibland har det sagts i debatten att Assange får skylla sig själv, då han inte velat medverka i utredningen. Det stämmer dock inte. **Åklagaren har det fulla ansvaret för att utredningen förs framåt.**

Som åklagare måste man kunna kika framåt och gärna lite runt hörnet. Så har inte skett i fallet Assange. Låt mig peka på ett par viktiga punkter under ärendets gång.

Så snart åklagaren fick klart för sig att Assange lämnat landet borde hon ha ställt sig följande frågor: Är det troligt att Assange kommer att återvända frivilligt till Sverige? Vilket är det samlade straffvärdet för brotten? (På grund av preskription återstår numera endast ett brott.) Hur ser bevisläget ut?

I det läget skulle säkerligen de flesta av landets åklagare ha lagt ned förundersökningen med motiveringen: Den misstänkte har lämnat landet och förväntas inte återvända. **Få skulle ha kritiserat ett sådant beslut.**

Men Marianne Ny valde i stället att begära Assange häktad i sin frånvaro för att kunna gå vidare och få honom utlämnad till Sverige, vilket är högst märkligt.

I december 2010 greps Assange i England och vägrade då att låta sig föras till Sverige. I stället inledde han en serie överklaganden som gjorde att utlämningsärendet drog ut på tiden och inte avslutades förrän i juni 2012 då det fastställdes att Assange ska utlämnas till Sverige.

Därefter lyckades Assange ta sin tillflykt till Ecuadors ambassad i London och i augusti 2012 beviljades han politisk asyl i Ecuador. Om inte förr så borde det då ha stått klart för åklagaren att Assange inte var villig att lämna ambassaden frivilligt. Och hon borde ha insett att det var hög tid att lägga ned förundersökningen. Men i stället för att tänka i de banorna inledde hon en period där halsstarrighet och prestige alltmer kom att göra sig gällande.

Åklagaren hävdade länge envist att förhör med Assange absolut måste hållas i Sverige, vilket hon motiverade med att ytterligare utredningsåtgärder kunde bli nödvändiga samt att han måste befinna sig i Sverige för att det ska bli möjligt att åtala honom.

**Att ett förhör skulle kunna leda till att förundersökningen ska nedläggas är ett alternativ som uppenbarligen inte föresvävade henne.**

Mot den bakgrunden kan man fundera över varför hon nu är villig att hålla förhör i London. **Den viljan uppstod plötsligt den 13 mars 2015. Och det är svårt att tänka sig någon annan förklaring till det än att hon tre dagar tidigare blev förelagd att yttra sig till Högsta domstolen, sedan häktningsbeslutet överklagats dit.** Ärendet är ovanligt på grund av Assanges oväntade agerande, främst genom hans flykt till Ecuadors ambassad 2012 som sedan resulterade i att han beviljades asyl.

Åklagaren har underlåtit att anpassa sig till de situationer som uppstått och i stället agerat på ett sätt som är fullständigt obegripligt. Någon gång under ärendets hantering har det uppstått skäl att använda ordet skandal. Det är en smaksak från vilken tidpunkt man bör anse att skarp kritik bör riktas mot åklagaren. Men vill man göra en välvillig bedömning kan man stanna vid att den tidpunkten uppstod senast i samband med att Assange beviljades asyl i Ecuador. Nöjer man sig med det så blir ändå resultatet att utredningen fördröjts i cirka fyra år till ingen nytta, vilket måste betraktas som en skandal.

**Ärendet är dock inte i första hand en skam för åklagaren i målet utan främst för Ålagarmyndigheten och det svenska rättsväsendet.**

• *Rolf Hillegren, före detta åklagare*

<http://www.svd.se/fallet-assange-en-skandal-for-rattsvasendet>

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## **'Assange kill attempt'?**

*Unknown man climbs Ecuador's London embassy, sheltering WikiLeaks chief*

RT

22 Aug. 2016

Social media users are in a panic after WikiLeaks said an unknown man had climbed the Ecuadorian embassy in London where Julian Assange has been staying for four years. Users suggested that it was probably an assassination attempt, "ordered by Clinton."

"...At 2:47am an unknown man scaled the side wall [and the] window of the Ecuadorian embassy in London; fled after being caught by security," a statement from WikiLeaks said early Monday morning.

Later the group said that the intruder was "male" and he climbed the Ecuadorian embassy where "Assange has asylum."

Though WikiLeaks hasn't stated the reason for such an intrusion, users on social media suggested that it was definitely "an assassination attempt" on Assange.

Others suggested that the Democratic Party's presidential nominee Hillary Clinton was behind 'the assassination attempt'.

Probably some of them remembered that in July this year WikiLeaks said it would release "a lot more" documents to surprise American voters ahead of the upcoming presidential elections — and will not hesitate to make them public.

And the users started suspecting not only Hillary, but the whole Clinton family.

Some users worried not only about Assange, but also his kitten, which has been living with him since May this year. So far, the furry feline is being affectionately referred to as simply 'Embassy Cat' and has been keeping its nearly 16,000 followers updated on life within the embassy with witty tweets about #counterpurrveillance.

Anyway, social media users called on the Australian WikiLeaks co-founder to stay alive!

Assange has been living at the Ecuadorian embassy since 2012, under constant surveillance by British law enforcement. He was granted asylum after arguing that his extradition to Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning regarding allegations of sexual assault against two women in 2010 — which he has always denied— would lead to a further extradition to the United States.

He says that if he goes to Sweden, the US will manage to secure his extradition over espionage charges related to his work for WikiLeaks. He insists that the website defends human rights and exposes illegal actions by revealing classified material to public scrutiny.

In February, a UN panel ruled that Assange has been "arbitrarily detained" in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, calling upon the UK and Sweden to end Assange's deprivation of liberty. However, both UK and Sweden rejected the ruling.

Earlier this month, Ecuador said that it would allow Swedish officials interview Julian Assange in connection with rape allegations against him at the embassy in London. The agreement was apparently reached after Ecuador's attorney-general greenlit the Swedish government's request, made back in June, to interview the WikiLeaks co-founder.

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## **Åklagaren håller pressträff om Assange-fallet**

*Ända sedan 2010 har jag försökt få till ett förhör med Julian Assange, säger överåklagare Marianne Ny. [Jämför med Rolf Hillegrens analys här ovan. --A.B.]*

Helena Zachariasson  
SVT  
7 september 2016

På fredag ska hovrätten ge besked om Julian Assange kommer att vara fortsatt häktad eller om man går Assange till mötes och får till en muntlig förhandling om fallet. Det meddelar överåklagare Marianne Ny på en pressträff i dag.



Åklagarna väntar fortfarande på besked från Ecuadors ambassad i London när de ska kunna få till ett förhör med Julian Assange, meddelar Marianne Ny på pressträffen i dag. På en uppmärksammas pressträff på både svenska och engelska som pågår just nu på åklagarmyndigheten går åklagarna nu igenom fallet Assange och de senaste två årens turer i det svenska rättssystemet.

I augusti i år accepterade Ecuadors ambassad åklagarnas begäran om att få förhöra Julian Assange på ambassaden. Beskedet var kort och ambassaden meddelade att man skulle återkomma med tid och form för förhöret. Detta väntar man fortfarande på i dag, berättar chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren och överåklagare Marianne Ny.

– Ända sedan 2010 har jag försökt få till ett förhör med Julian Assange. Det var okänt för oss var han befann sig och han gjorde sig inte tillgänglig för ett förhör. Därför häktade jag honom i hans frånvaro och utfärdade en europeisk arresteringsorder, säger Marianne Ny. *[Han stannade i Sverige i flera veckor i väntan på ett andra förhör — det blev ett kort sådant snart efter händelsen i fråga — och fick Nys tillåtelse att lämna landet. Samma dag han gjorde det, begärde hon EAW. --A.B.]*

Att åklagarmyndigheten håller en presskonferens just i dag, samma dag som Uppdrag granskning sänder ett program där man granskar ansvarsfrågan i varför Assange inte förhörts tidigare, beror på att man vill ge möjlighet till journalisterna att ställa sina frågor kring fallet, inte för att man har något nytt att säga, enligt Marianne Ny. Telefonförhör inte en möjlighet

Åklagarna hoppas nu att ambassaden ska tillåta att chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren och polisens utredare ska få närvara vid förhöret på Ecuadors ambassad, som kommer att hållas av en ecuadoriansk åklagare. Detta är ett alternativ Marianne Ny bedömer håller högre kvalitet än ett telefonförhör med Assange.

– Jag har fått frågan många gånger varför vi inte förhörde honom redan 2010 på ambassaden i London. Skälet är de höga krav som ställs på kvaliteten på sexualbrott inte gjorde det lämpligt. Misstänkta för dessa typer av brott sitter ofta häktade på grund av flyktrisen och förhörs på plats i Sverige. Jag såg ingen anledning att Assange skulle behandlas annorlunda, säger Marianne Ny.

Telefonförhör är inte lämpligt och heller ingen möjlighet på grund av myndighetens lagar, enligt Marianne Ny.

– Kvaliteten skulle påverkas av ett telefonförhör och vi avråder starkt från det, säger hon. *[Det var aldrig det enda alternativet. --A.B.]*

Marianne Ny ser ingen anledning att vara självkritisk i sina bedömningar i utredningen som tagit sex år utan förhör med den misstänkte.

-Vi tog de beslut vi gjorde efter den situation vi var i just då. Och det är klart att man i efterhand kan se att det kanske hade kunnat finnas andra vägar för att det skulle gå snabbare fram. Men jag tycker inte det efter var vi befann oss då.

Att det är en ecuadoriansk jurist som kommer att hålla förhöret och inte den svenska utredaren är något de svenska åklagarna har valt att stå ut med under rådande omständigheter.

– Det är självklart en kvalitetsförlust att inte vår egen utredare som känner till hela fallet är den som håller i förhöret. Det har länge varit vår målsättning att vår egen utredare ska hålla i förhöret. Men eftersom det nu gått så långt tid har det blivit så att det enda alternativet är att acceptera att så inte blir fallet, säger Ny.

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## **Åklagaren har missat flera chanser att förhöra Assange**

*Petter Ljunggren*

SVT

7 september 2016

Sverige skulle kunna utlämna Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange till USA. Det framkommer i ett nytt program av Uppdrag Granskning som sänds på onsdagskvällen.

Enligt SVT:s Uppdrag granskning arbetar USA fortfarande för att kunna ställa Julian Assange inför rätta. Flera uppgifter tyder på att det fortfarande pågår en brottsutredning mot Assange i USA.

Det ska också finnas möjligheter att Sverige skulle kunna utlämna honom till USA, uppger UG — om misstankarna inte gäller spioneri, vilket betraktas som ett politiskt brott och därför skulle Sverige automatiskt säga nej till en sådan begäran.

Marianne Ny har endast vid ett fåtal tidigare tillfällen velat kommentera utredningen mot Assange— men klockan 14 på onsdagen hålls en presskonferens om den svenska brottsutredningen mot Wikileaksgrundaren. *[Den blev intetsägende. --A.B.]*

Några timmar efter presskonferensen sänds SVT:s Uppdrag Granskning, som har träffat Julian Assange.

Julian Assange undviker att svara på frågor om sin egen roll i det han anklagas för. Men han nekar till anklagelsen om våldtäkt och hävdar att han är villig att svara på frågor inför åklagaren.

– Du ber mig att gå in på detaljer i ärendet. Det rätta stället att göra det är i ett formellt uttalande till den svenska åklagaren. Det har hon undvikit i sex år. Jag tycker inte att den rätta platsen är i svensk tv, säger Julian Assange.

Det har gått sex år sedan Julian Assange anhölls för sexbrott i Sverige. Först efter kritik i hovrätten agerade åklagaren och bad om att förhöra Assange i London, men fortfarande har inte något förhör kommit till stånd.

Julian Assange är jagad av USA när han kommer till Sverige i augusti 2010. Visselblåsarsajten Wikileaks, som Julian Assange är grundare till, har genom en läcka i det amerikanska försvaret fått ut en video som visar hur en amerikansk helikopter

beskjuter och dödar flera personer i Bagdad 2007. Det blir det första stora avslöjandet som på allvar utmanar USA.

Några månader senare publicerar Wikileaks 75.000 dokument om USA:s militära operationer i Afghanistan, med dokumentation av hundratals civila dödsoffer.

I Sverige ska Julian Assange söka skydd för Wikileaks och sig själv.

Men under sitt besök i Sverige anklagas Julian Assange för sexbrott— och en utredning som fortfarande pågår inleds. Det handlar om två separata relationer som börjar frivilligt men där kvinnorna nu tillsammans går till polisen där anmälningar upprättas [*av polisen, inte av tjejerna --A.B.*] om sexuella övergrepp, våldtäkt i ena fallet, ofredande i det andra.

Våldtäktsanklagelsen gäller en av kvinnorna. Det framgår av förhöret att de har samlag frivilligt under natten. Hon är nogg med att han ska ha kondom, förklarar hon. På morgonen vaknar hon av att han har samlag med henne igen. Hon är orolig för hiv och frågar om han har kondom. Han svarar att det har han inte. Hon känner att det är för sent att stoppa honom. Enligt polisanmälan sker samlaget mot hennes vilja och händelsen rubriceras som våldtäkt. Samma dag som anmälan, den 20 augusti 2010, anhålls Julian Assange i sin frånvaro av jouråklagaren.

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné kommer dock fram till att det inte finns anledning att misstänka att Julian Assange har begått våldtäkt och ändrar beslutet om att anhålla honom. Misstanken om ofredande mot den andra kvinnan kvarstår. Enligt den anmälan har Julian Assange avsiktligt haft sönder kondomen och därefter visat hänsynslöst beteende genom att få utlösning i målsägande mot hennes vilja. Julian Assange, som fortfarande är i Sverige, infinner sig till förhör med sin dåvarande advokat och nekar till anklagelsen om ofredande.

Kvinnornas ombud Claes Borgström har överklagat beslutet om att lägga ned våldtäktsutredningen. Nu kommer överåklagare Marianne Ny in i bilden. Hon tar upp den nedlagda förundersökningen och menar att det finns ett antal utredningsåtgärder som inte är vidtagna.

Om åklagaren hade förhört Assange när han fortfarande var i Sverige hade utredningen antingen lagts ner eller så hade åtal väckts. Men åklagaren hävdar att Julian Assange inte går att få tag i trots många försök. [*Det är lögn. --A.B.*]

Själv säger Assange att han stannade i Sverige i fem veckor. Enligt hans tidigare advokat Björn Hurtig är han kvar i Sverige nästan en månad efter att Marianne Ny öppnat utredningen igen. Under den här tiden får Julian Assange veta att det inte finns något hinder om han vill lämna Sverige, enligt Björn Hurtig.

Är det så att han står till förfogande eller är det att han håller sig undan? Vad är det som händer under den här perioden?

– Han har inte, mig veterligen, försökt att hålla sig undan. Han har hela tiden varit beredd att inställa sig till förhör, bara det som sagt fungerar även med hans almanacka, säger Björn Hurtig.

När Julian Assange väl lämnar Sverige är han beredd på att komma tillbaka, enligt Björn Hurtig. Assange uppfattar att han har ett löfte om att inte gripas, utan att han kan komma till förhöret som en fri man. **Men samtidigt som diskussioner om när förhöret ska äga rum pågår får Julian Assange reda på att den svenska polisen stått och väntat på honom utanför ett seminarium i Stockholm där han skulle ha talat.** Julian Assange betraktar händelsen som ett bakhåll, och den ökar hans rädsla för att bli överlämnad till USA. Efter det vill han inte komma till Sverige.

Istället häktas han i sin frånvaro den 18 november och åklagaren utfärdar senare en europeisk arresteringsorder. Det blir början på en lång juridisk strid som 2012 slutar med att Assange flyr in på Ecuadors ambassad i London, där han får asyl.

Björn Hurtig tycker inte att Marianne Ny har gjort allt i hennes makt för att komma vidare med utredningen.

– Jag tycker banne mig att hon haft en skyldighet att åka över och prata med honom. Håll ditt första förhör nu så vi kan komma vidare i utredningen, säger han.

**Enligt Marianne Ny har Julian Assange inte varit tillgänglig för förhör. Men åklagaren har genom åren fått flera erbjudanden att höra Assange i London.** En åtgärd som enligt Julian Assange advokat, Thomas Olsson, inte är ovanlig. Marianne Ny har konsekvent krävt att förhör ska ske i Sverige.

– Den frågan om förhör i London innebär att vi skulle ha sänkt kravet på kvaliteten i utredningsåtgärderna. Vi hade särbehandlat honom på ett sätt som vi inte gör med andra som är misstänkta för allvarliga brott, säger Marianne Ny.

Är det, det som är det viktiga?

– Det är också viktigt att vi behandlar lika fall lika. Det är viktigt att hålla en hög kvalitet i utredningsarbetet.

Det kom till slut en reaktion på Marianne Nys vägran att hålla förhör i London—från andra delar av det svenska rättsväsendet. I november 2014 prövar hovrätten häktningen av Julian Assange. De låter häktningen kvarstå men ger samtidigt åklagaren hård kritik för att inte göra tillräckligt för att föra utredningen framåt. **Marianne Ny har inte försökt hitta andra sätt att hålla förhör och det stämmer enligt hovrätten inte överens med åklagarens ”skyldighet att, i alla berördas intresse, driva förundersökningen framåt.”**

Först fyra månader efter hovrättens kritik, när Högsta domstolen ska ta upp frågan, agerar hon och ber om att få höra Assange i London. Men hon nekar till att det skulle vara en omsvängning bara för att Högsta domstolen skulle godkänna häktningen.

– Nej, vi vände efter att hovrätten kritiserat oss. Det tog vi till oss, och ställde också inför det faktum att preskriptionen närmade sig.

Åklagarens omsvängning får effekt. Häktningen kvarstår eftersom förhör nu är på gång. Det var ett och ett halvt år sedan.

– Man kan konstatera att åklagarna förmådde Högsta domstolens majoritet att upprätthålla det här beslutet, genom att förutskicka att det inom en snar framtid skulle hållas ett förhör. Det har inte hållits något förhör, säger Thomas Olsson.

Trots att åklagaren begärde ett förhör med Assange på ambassaden så blev det aldrig av. Åklagaren misslyckas att i tid skicka en korrekt begäran om rättshjälp till Ecuador.

Idag finns det ett avtal mellan Ecuador och Sverige.

– Kommer hon att göra det den här gången, det vet jag inte... Men baserat på erfarenheten från de senaste sex åren är jag extremt skeptisk, säger Julian Assange.

Under tiden utredningen stått still har de misstänkta brotten mot den ena kvinnan hunnit preskriberas, hennes sak kommer inte att prövas.

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## Julian Assange riskerar utlämning till USA

*Uppdrag granskning har träffat Julian Assange i London.*

Petter Ljunggren

SVT

7 september 2016

Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange säger att han inte vill komma till Sverige av rädsla för att bli utlämnad till USA. De amerikanska dokument som Uppdrag granskning tagit del av visar att en utredning pågår och att han har skäl för sin rädsla.

Sedan juni 2012 befinner sig Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London där han fått asyl. Han vägrar komma till Sverige för att bli förhörd av svensk åklagare eftersom han är rädd för att bli utlämnad till USA. För att granska om Assanges påståenden stämmer reser Uppdrag granskning till USA.

Videon Collateral murder publiceras av Wikileaks i april 2010. Den visar hur en amerikansk helikopter skjuter ned civila i Bagdad. Det blir det första stora avslöjandet som på allvar utmanar USA. Fler och mer kontroversiella avslöjanden följer med publicering av hundratusentals hemliga dokument, om USA:s militära operationer i Irak och Afghanistan och underrättelserapporter från ambassader över hela världen. Manning döms till 35 års fängelse

Under våren 2010 grips Julian Assange utpekade källa, den amerikanske armésoldaten Bradley Manning. Han åtalas så småningom för att ha läckt sekretessbelagda handlingar till Wikileaks och döms till 35 års fängelse. Det är detta fall som förföljer Assange.

Allt som rör en eventuell utredning mot Julian Assange är hemligt, och varken FBI eller amerikanska justitiedepartementet vill uttala sig. Men i en federal distriktsdomstol i Washington pågår en juridisk strid om insyn i utredningen kring Manning. Och

juridiska inlagor från FBI och justitiedepartementet, som Uppdrag granskning fått tillgång till, visar att det fortfarande pågår en utredning efter Wikileaks-läckan. Det gäller allvarliga hot mot nationens säkerhet och flera civila misstänks för att vara involverade. Det är fortfarande en högprioriterad fråga för amerikanska justitiedepartementet, enligt handlingarna från tidigare i år.

Mycket tyder på att Julian Assange är en av personerna som utredningen gäller. Till exempel kom FBI till Island 2011 i jakt på bevis mot Julian Assange.

— De landade här på Island för att inleda en brottsutredning med koppling till en redan pågående utredning i USA. Det finns inga tvivel om att deras utredning var riktad mot Wikileaks och Julian Assange, säger före detta inrikesministern Ögmundur Jónasson till Uppdrag granskning.

Den FBI kom till Island för att träffa var den tidigare Wikileaks-medarbetaren Sigurdur Thordarson, "Siggi the hacker", som vänt sig emot Wikileaks. Till Uppdrag granskning säger han att FBI ville att han skulle försöka spionera på Julian Assange och få honom att tala om de misstänkta kontakterna med den utpekade källan Manning, med hjälp av ett armbandsur med mikrofon.

### **Och vad hoppades FBI på?**

**– Att sätta dit Julian Assange, säger Sigurdur Thordarson.**

Även från Manning-rättegången finns uppgifter om att Julian Assange är nästa måltavla. Det framgår av officiella rättegångsreferat att flera andra civila misstänks för att vara involverade i läckan. Bland annat chefer på Wikileaks och organisationens grundare, som ju är Julian Assange.

Manning dömdes för spioneri, och det är ett brott som klassas som politiskt i Sverige, och gör det svårt för USA om man vill ha honom utlämnad.

Pål Wrange är professor i folkrätt och har tidigare sagt att han inte tror Assange skulle kunna lämnas ut från Sverige.

– Spioneri är per definition ett politiskt brott, och det är ju det som ligger klart närmast till hands. Så min bedömning är att det är ganska osannolikt och den bedömningen har också andra experter som kanske är mer hemmastadda i just internationell straffrätt gjort, säger Pål Wrange.

Han tror att om anklagelserna mot Assange är spioneri så skulle det var svårt att få till en utlämning.

– Ja, då skulle det vara mycket svårt för USA att få honom utlämnad, säger han. Kan misstänkas för fler brott

Men spioneri är inte det enda brottet som Julian Assange kan tänkas vara misstänkt för.

För drygt fyra år sedan utfärdades en amerikansk domstol en husrannsaktionsorder. Den tvingade företaget Google att lämna ut all information från mejlkonton tillhörande tre Wikileaksmedarbetare.

**I husrannsakan står brottsparagraferna svart på vitt.** Ett av de brott som utreds är spioneri — men det kan också gälla anstiftan till spioneri, det vill säga att en person förmått någon annan att begå brottet.

Men det som gör det här dokumentet så intressant är att det också innehåller en lista på **andra brott som utreds**.

- **Samverkan till att bedra eller begå brott mot amerikanska staten, det vill säga ett brott som två eller fler personer begår tillsammans.**
- **Datorbedrägeri för att komma över handlingar som man inte har rätt till. Och samverkan till datorbedrägeri.**
- **Stöld av statlig egendom, till exempel dokument. Gäller även den som tar emot stulna dokument.**

Om de här brotten också ska betraktas som politiska är en svårare fråga, men det skulle kunna göra det enklare för USA att få Assange utlämnad. Assange bankkonton har spärrats

I USA träffar Uppdrag granskning Carey Shenkman, människorättsjurist. Julian Assange är en av hans klienter:

— Många tror att Assange inte kan bli utlämnad för ett politiskt brott men den här husrannsakan avslöjar att det finns en beskrivning som du inte skulle tro är politisk.

**Han menar att det är fullständigt klart att USA har varit intresserade av Assange sedan år 2010. Bland annat har hans bankkonton spärrats.**

Det är högsta domstolen som först avgör om en utlämning kan ske. Om domstolen bedömer att det är möjligt så är det upp till regeringen att avgöra.

I dagsläget är det oklart hur den svenska regeringen kommer att agera — om en officiell amerikansk begäran om att få Assange utlämnad skulle komma in.

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AB: 2016-09-07

## **Assange: Rädd att bli överlämnad till USA**

SVT:s Uppdrag granskning har som enda svenska tv-team träffat Julian Assange i London. I programmet, som sänds onsdag kväll, undviker han att svara på frågor om sin egen roll. Men han nekar till anklagelserna om våldtäkt.

– Jag har inte åtalats. Det här borde inte ens vara offentligt, det är en förundersökning, säger Assange bland annat till Uppdrag gransknings reporter.

– Du ber mig att gå in på detaljer i fallet. Den rätta platsen att göra det på vore i ett formellt uttalande till den svenska åklagaren. Det är något hon (Marianne Ny, reds. anm.) har undvikit i sex år.

Julian Assange har erbjudit sig att bli hörd på videolänk eller telefon från ambassaden, en metod som lagen tillåter. Marianne Ny har genom åren även fått flera erbjudanden om att förhöra honom i London. Men hon har hela tiden krävt att han ska vara fysiskt närvarande i Sverige. Något hon fått kritik för bland annat från Assange advokat Thomas Olsson, som är kritisk till hur åklagarna har hanterat ärendet.

För mindre än en månad sedan stod det dock klart att Sverige kommer att få förhöra Assange på Ecuadors ambasad— och att det kan komma att ske inom kort.

– Frågan om förhör i London innebär att vi skulle ha sänkt kraven på kvalitén i utredningsåtgärderna. Vi hade särbehandlat honom på ett sätt som vi inte gör med andra som är misstänkta för allvarliga brott, säger Marianne Ny till SVT:s Uppdrag granskning, och förklarar samtidigt omsvängningen med att det sett till faktum i nuläget är det enda möjliga.

I Uppdrag granskning framkommer flera uppgifter som tyder på att det pågick och ännu pågår en brottsutredning mot Assange i USA samt att det finns möjlighet för den amerikanska staten att få honom överlämnad. Enligt programmet finns den möjligheten om misstankarna inte gäller spioneri. Detta då brottet betraktas som politiskt och Sverige av den anledningen automatiskt skulle säga nej till en sådan begäran.

En som intervjuas i frågan är John Bellinger, rådgivare under president George W Busch, som säger att utredningen mot Assange fortfarande pågår.

– **Jag är nöjd med att han är rädd, svarar John Bellinger** på frågan om han förstår att Assange är orolig.

Svenska regeringen har tidigare sagt att en utlämning av Julian Assange till USA är en rent hypotetisk fråga, eftersom någon begäran inte kommit in.

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AB: 2016-09-07

### **”Är ett sätt att föregripa kritiken”**

Efter flera års tystnad kallade i dag åklagare till presskonferens för att prata om Julian Assange. Men de **journalister som hade flugit in till Stockholm från hela Europa** hade all anledning att känna besvikelse.

**Överåklagare Marianne Ny inledde nämligen showen klockan 14 med att förklara att ingenting nytt fanns att säga.**



Några i publiken suckade, andra skakade klenetroget på huvudet, åter andra himlade med ögonen och såg ut att längta hem.

Och undra på det.

De 40-tal reportrar från Storbritannien, Frankrike, Italien, Tyskland och givetvis Sverige som suttit och svettats i en liten sal i polishuset på Kungsholmen i en halvtimme innan tillställningen äntligen började hade i och för sig inte gjort sig några illusioner om att en bomb skulle släppas.

Men att utlysa pressträff utan att ha ett dugg att berätta?

I kväll sänder SVT:s Uppdrag granskning ett reportage där de svenska myndigheternas agerande i fallet Assange nagelfars.

Marianne Ny försökte få oss att tro att hennes framträdande inte hade någonting med den saken att göra. Hon lyckades inte.

Hon och chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren turades om med en retrospektiv över alla osannolika turer i denna sex år utdragna historia och i den syrefattiga hettan blev en av de två tolkarna snart så matt att han började översätta från svenska till svenska.

"18 november 2010... Assange blir häktad i sin frånvaro av Stockholms tingsrätt..." "16 december 2012...Storbritanniens Högsta domstol ger prövningstillstånd..." "19 juni 2012..begär politisk asyl på Ecuadors ambassad..."

Nog kan det vara nyttigt med repetition, men Ny och Isgren kunde ju ha hänvisat till den utmärkta kronologi över ärendet som finns på både svenska och engelska på Åklagarmyndighetens hemsida i stället för att lura hela Europas presskår till Stockholm.

Efter 45 minuters meningslöst redovisande var det dags för allmän frågestund och efter det gruppintervjuer.

Frågorna haglade på engelska och svenska. "Varför kan ni inte ha ett telefonförhör med Assange"? "Varför kommer aldrig ärendet till avslut?" "Vad var Ecuadors senaste drag"?

Marianne Ny parerade, försökte förklara, redovisade för hur svenska åklagare arbetar.

Hon har en hel del poänger i sitt resonemang. Det är inte svenska åklagares fel att **Wikileaksgrundaren fegt hukar på en ambassad i London år ut och år in i stället för att inställa sig i Stockholm.** Och det är inte misstänkta brottslingar som ska diktera villkoren för när, var och hur förhör ska hållas. *[Det händer jämt och svenska åklagare jämt går med på det. --A.B.]*

Inte minst i utredningar om sexbrott är kvaliteten på förhören viktiga och det vore inte tillfredställande att behöva flaxa fram och tillbaka till London för att ställa kompletterande frågor.

Med det sagt så finns det skäl att ha synpunkter på hur Sverige har hanterat ärendet. Det har lagts ner och tagits upp igen och vid dagens presskonferens sade Ny att hon tvingades begära Assange häktad i sin frånvaro i november 2010 för att det inte gick att lokalisera honom.

**Sanningen är att han skrotade runt i Stockholm i veckor efter att han hade släppts i väntan på nytt förhör. Det var inte svårare att få tag på Assange än att jag kunde äta lunch med honom. Han var irriterad över att inget hände. Till slut tröttnade han och flög till London. [Var även detta "fegt"? --A.B.]**

Det är för övrigt med stigande irritation som svenska domstolar under de senaste årens häktningförhandlingar har påpekat att åklagare har skyldighet att föra utredningen framåt.

På fredag meddelar hovrätten beslut om Assange ska vara fortsatt frihetsberövad i sin frånvaro. Helt förvånad skulle jag inte bli om beslutet blir att försätta honom på fri fot.

Samtidigt fortsätter det byråkratiska trasslet med Ecuador om hur formerna för ett förhör med Assange på ambassaden ska se ut.

Hur den här härvan slutar vet ingen. Men jag skulle bli förvånad om åtal över huvud taget väcks.

Pressuppbådet lommade snopet ut ur polishuset efter någon timme utan att ha blivit klokare. Tre Wkilleaks-aktivister med sina banderoller och sina krav på att Assange skulle släppas ur sin "politiska fångenskap" mötte oss.

Jag antar att det hade varit meningslöst att påpeka att **deras idols belägenhet mer beror på misstänkt våldtäkt än på hjältemod.**

• Oisin Cantwell

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**"Överåklagaren kallade till presskonferens och bjöd på västgötaklimax"**

*"Assange har utsatts för en negativ särbehandling som saknar motstycke och någon kvalitet har hittills inte gått att upptäcka i utredningen", skriver Rolf Hillegren.*

*Rolf Hillegren, f.d. åklagare  
SVT-Opinion  
8 september 2016*

För sex år sedan inleddes den polisutredning som ännu inte har avslutats och i media blivit känd som fallet Assange. De stora dragen torde vara hyfsat kända hos den stora allmänheten.

Under hela utredningstiden har överåklagaren Marianne Ny som leder förundersökningen varit tämligen ovillig att svara på frågor från journalister.

I stället har man från Åklagarmyndighetens sida valt att på myndighetens hemsida lägga ut en kronologisk redogörelse för turerna i ärendet. Detta är i och för sig bra, men ger absolut inte svar till den som har berättigade frågor.

Förväntningarna måste därför ha varit stora hos de journalister som infunnit sig till den presskonferens till vilken åklagaren kallat den 7 september, vilket för övrigt råkade vara samma dag som Uppdrag granskning skulle sända ett reportage om fallet.

Jag tror att de som var förväntansfulla kände sig blåsta på konfekten när åklagaren inledde konferensen med att förklara att hon i stort sett inte hade någon ny information att lämna.

Den nyhet som meddelades var att förhör med Assange planeras att hållas i London inom en inte alltför avlägsen framtid och att förhöret kommer att ske på Ecuadors villkor.

Detta är visserligen en total omsvängning från åklagaren som tidigare envist hävdade att förhör måste hållas i Sverige. Allt annat har hittills varit otänkbart enligt åklagaren, som vägrat att anpassa sig till de nya omständigheter som inträdde 2012, när Assange beviljades asyl i Ecuador.

Men trots allt är åklagarens omsvängning ingen sensationell nyhet, då den får sägas ha skett under tvång från hovrätten. Förvånande hade det däremot varit om hon på eget initiativ gett uttryck för självkritik.

Som svar på frågan varför Assange inte kunnat höras i London tidigare hänvisade Marianne Ny till att det skulle försämra utredningens kvalitet samt att han inte fick särbehandlas.

**Faktum är dock att Assange utsatts för en negativ särbehandling som saknar motstycke och någon kvalitet har hittills inte gått att upptäcka i utredningen.**

Det finns många kuriösa inslag i detta ärende och ett sådant är att det planerade förhöret är fullständigt onödigt. Assange hördes 2010 och för den som läst förhören i ärendet är det uppenbart att han inte lär komma att säga något som gör det möjligt att åtala honom.

**Det finns inte tillräcklig bevisning, vilket stod klart redan 2010 då förundersökningen lades ned av en erfaren åklagare** innan den återupptogs av Marianne Ny (se även min artikel i SvD.se den 12/8).

För dagen får det anses osäkert huruvida något förhör överhuvudtaget kommer att hållas. Vad jag däremot är övertygad om är att Assange aldrig kommer att åtalas.

Slutet på historien lär bli att antingen lägger åklagaren ned förundersökningen efter förhör med Assange eller också sedan Svea hovrätt eller Högsta domstolen beslutat att Assange inte längre ska vara häktad.

Vad händer därefter? En inte alltför avancerad gissning är att åklagaren kommer att hävda att bevisningen kom att försvagas på grund av den långa tidsutdräkten.

Kom i så fall ihåg att det aldrig har funnits tillräcklig bevisning för åtal. Kom även ihåg att Assange inte har någon skuld till tidsutdräkten.

Åklagaren har det fulla ansvaret för att utredningen drivs framåt och hon förtjänar stark kritik för att hon inte tänkt i nya banor när omständigheterna förändrats.

Senast 2012 borde hon ha insett att hon aldrig skulle komma att lyckas få Assange till Sverige. Kritiken lär inte avta i styrka av att utredningen ytterligare drar ut på tiden.

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## Elisabeth Massi Fritz: "Bör bete sig som en man"

*Helena Zachariasson*

SVT

7 september 2016

**Varför vågade Julian Assange åka till Sverige i augusti 2010 men inte nu om han är rädd för att bli utlämnad till USA? Det frågar Elisabeth Massi Fritz, målsägarbiträde till den kvinna Assange misstänks för att ha våldtagit.**

— Hans argument håller inte.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz hamnade i en hetsig debatt med Assanges advokat Thomas Olsson i SVT:s Aktuellt om vem som bär ansvaret för att utredningen kring våldtäktsanklagelserna mot Julian Assange gått i stå och att han inte förhörts på sex år. Massi Fritz hävdade att Julian Assange själv bär ansvaret att ta sig till Sverige för att låta sig förhöras.

– Är han oskyldig bör han ta sig i kragen och bete sig som en man, säger hon.

Thomas Olsson anser i stället att det är åklagaren som är passiv och den som är skyldig att få utredningen framåt.

– Som misstänkt har man inte skyldighet att medverka i utredningen. Det är märkligt att åklagaren varit passiv och Assange den som varit aktiv för att få till en lösning på en låst situation, säger advokaten.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz ifrågasätter också att anledningen till Assange vägran att infinna sig i Sverige är hans rädsla för att utlämnas till USA där han riskerar att stå till svars för Wikileaks publiceringar om bland annat USA:s krigsföring i Afghanistan.

– Varför vågade han ta sig till Sverige 2010? USA hade ju redan då påbörjat sin utredning. Hur kan han inte vara rädd för att bli utlämnad då när han befann sig i Sverige? Han åkte också två gånger till Storbritannien. Hans argument håller inte, säger Elisabeth Massi Fritz *[som låtsas inte förstå att det bl.a. är skillnad mellan att vara anhållen och att kunna röra sig fritt — A.B.]*.

Thomas Olsson däremot menar att en rättsprocess kring Wikileaks pågår och att resultatet av den processen kan komma närsomhelst. Det köper inte Massi Fritz.

– Det finns inget åtal, inga misstankar som presenteras från amerikanskt håll och USA har inte begärt honom utlämnad på sex år, säger hon *[som här låtsas inte vet att detta har ingen betydelse i sammanhanget --A.B.]*.

Elisabeth Massi Fritz är också starkt kritisk till Uppdrag granskningens program i kväll som hon menar är stötande mot hennes klient.

**– Hon har hotats, trakasserats och förföljts på nätet. I dag mår hon extra dåligt över programmets vinkling som visar så mycket sympati för den mannen som ständigt bryter mot domstolarnas beslut, säger målsägarbiträdet.**

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### **‘Ridiculous to say Assange faces no threat’ — WikiLeaks founder’s advisor to RT**

RT  
7 Sept. 2016

Comments insisting that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faces no threat should he be extradited to Sweden are “ridiculous,” Sarah Harrison, a WikiLeaks editor and Assange’s advisor, told RT following a press conference by Swedish prosecutors on Wednesday.

According to Harrison, who was present at the hearing, the prosecutors wanted just to restate their position on the Assange case once again ahead of a documentary that looks into this case and the prosecutors’ handling of it. She added that the documentary will be aired by the Swedish SVT channel later Wednesday.

The WikiLeaks editor lashed out at the Swedish prosecutors, saying that it was “telling” that they began their press conference by saying that they had no new information.

Swedish prosecutor Marriane Ny said during the press conference that she has no reasons to believe that there is an actual threat to Assange’s security in Sweden. At the same time, the prosecutors refused to provide any guarantees that the WikiLeaks founder will not be extradited to the US by saying that it will depend on the decision of the Swedish government.

“There have even been politicians talking about illegally droning Julian. So to say there is no threat is a ridiculous comment,” Harrison told RT.

**She also said it is “sad” that the Swedish Prosecutor’s Office continues to dismiss a report by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which ruled that Assange had been subject to arbitrary detention by the UK and Swedish authorities.**

Harrison also stressed that any developments in Assange case in Sweden “will not change the fact that [Assange faces] threats from the United States and he will have to remain in that [Ecuadorian embassy] room until the UK allows him a safe passage.”

The time that Julian Assange spent in the Ecuadorian embassy will not be taken into account in determining his sentence, Swedish prosecutors said during the Wednesday press conference, adding that **the last outstanding allegation against the WikiLeaks founder carries a sentence that could amount to a prison term between 18 months and two years.**

The statement was made despite the fact that the UN ruled in February that Assange’s life in the embassy equals to arbitrary detention “by the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom.”

The persecutors also stressed that, in case of rape, a perpetrator should be prosecuted regardless of whether a victim reports the case or not, adding that Assange is still suspected of “non-aggravated rape.” The statute of limitations for this crime is 10 years and **the Assange case expires in 2020, they also confirmed once again.**

They also emphasized that Assange should be necessarily questioned by Swedish prosecutors in person, adding that any other options, including Assange being questioned by phone or by some other prosecutors, would lead to inevitable “loss of quality.”

The prosecutors also once again blamed the Ecuadorian embassy for the delays with the Assange interview and stressed that all statements concerning the fact that Assange made himself available for the interview many times are wrong.

Ecuador agreed to allow Sweden to question Assange in its London embassy on August 10 after Sweden made a formal request, four years after the initial offer from Ecuadorian authorities that say they have been urging Swedish prosecutors to interview Assange since 2012.

The WikiLeaks chief has been living at the Ecuadorian Embassy since June 2012, when he was granted political asylum by the government of Ecuador. The UK police force, which used to watch over the embassy day and night, ended its 24-hour guard last October, stating it would use “overt and covert tactics” to detain Assange instead.

Police insist they are still committed to arresting Assange under a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) issued in December 2010, which seeks Assange’s extradition to Sweden to answer questions about rape allegations.

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## Assange kritisk till pressträff

*Maria Holmin*

SVT

9 september 2016

Julian Assange är kritisk till att åklagare Marianne Ny höll en pressträff— utan några nyheter— precis innan Svea hovrätt ska besluta om Wikileaksgrundarens häktning.

Pressträffen i onsdags ”ger ett starkt intryck av att vara ett försök att påverka hovrätten”, skriver Assange i ett uttalande.

Den våldtäktsmisstänkte australiern påpekar att Ny medgav att hon inte hade något nytt att säga, i stället för att invänta hovrättens besked i nästa vecka om huruvida Assange ska vara fortsatt häktad i sin utevaro.

”Marianne Nys besatthet av publicitet och prestige har äventyrat hennes förmåga att bedriva en rättvis, opartisk och professionell utredning”, skriver Wikileaksgrundaren.

Assange har nu bett sina svenska advokater lämna in en formell protest till riksåklagare Anders Perklev.

En av dem, Per E Samuelsson, säger till TT att Nys pressträff var olämplig.

– Jag tror att hon ville ta udden av kritiken i Uppdrag granskning, men det blev väldigt olyckligt. Det går att uppfatta som ett ganska fult försök att påverka hovrätten.

SVT:s Uppdrag granskning sände på kvällen efter pressträffen ett program om Assangeaffären.

Marianne Ny har ingen kommentar till Assanges uttalande.

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## **Assange Medical and Psychological Records**

*WikiLeaks*

*14 September 2016*

Today WikiLeaks releases confidential medical and psychological reports concerning our editor Julian Assange’s situation. This part one publication consists of three documents: a twenty-seven page psycho-social and medical assessment from 10 November 2015, a report from Mr. Assange’s physician from 8 December 2015 and a dentist’s report from 31 July 2015. The in-depth assessment of the psychological and physical effects that the severely restrictive conditions of confinement within the small premises of the Embassy have had on Mr. Assange is by far the most detailed insight into the circumstances of his life inside the Embassy—including the multi-million dollar covert operation the United Kingdom admits to subjecting him to. He has been deprived of his liberty since 7 December 2010. He has not been charged with an offence.

The deterioration of Mr. Assange’s physical health has arisen as a result of the extremely restrictive conditions of his confinement. The United Kingdom has formally refused safe access to even the most basic hospital diagnostics.

On February 5th this year the United Nations found that Mr. Assange’s effective detention in the Embassy of Ecuador by the United Kingdom and Sweden is arbitrary and unlawful and that he must be freed and compensated. One of the factual elements that informed the conclusions of its 16-month investigation was Mr. Assange’s deteriorating health and the inability to safely access basic healthcare.

<https://wikileaks.org/Medical-Reports.html>

## Assange's mental, physical health deteriorating under embassy confinement— medical records

RT

15 Sept. 2016

Julian Assange's confinement to the Ecuadorian embassy in London is taking a serious toll on his physical and mental health, according to medical and psychological reports released by WikiLeaks.

The documents— released by the whistleblowing site on Thursday — include a 27-page psycho-social and medical assessment, a physician's report, and a dentist's report. All of the papers are from 2015.

The 27-page report, written by an unnamed trauma and psychosocial expert, notes that Assange has been residing in a “usable living space” of approximately 30 sq meters since Ecuador granted him asylum at its London embassy in August 2012. The total size of the embassy is approximately 200 sq meters.

In addition to the small quarters Assange has called home for four years, the embassy has no outdoor space. It does not receive any direct sunlight, according to the report.

“Mr. Assange reports that he has made numerous attempts through his lawyers and through representations by the Embassy of Ecuador to be able to access the open air, for example on the roof of the building adjacent to the Embassy, for **an hour a day (the legal minimum for prisoners)** without risking arrest, but says that British authorities have refused this possibility,” the expert wrote.

The report notes that Assange has become sleep-deprived, as he is determined to sleep with “one eye open,” particularly after an incident in which several Metropolitan Police officers allegedly stood outside the embassy, with one officer throwing an object at Assange's window.

Assange is also at risk of various illnesses due to his sedentary lifestyle within the embassy, including obesity, cardiovascular disease, and hypertension.

In addition, Assange is being deprived of adequate medical care, noting that there has been difficulty finding doctors who will agree to see him inside the embassy.

“The reasons given were uncertainty over whether medical insurance would cover the Embassy (a foreign jurisdiction); whether the association with Mr. Assange could harm their livelihood or draw unwanted attention to them and their families; and discomfort regarding exposing this association when entering the Embassy,” the report states.

The report also states that Assange is in need of an MRI scan and ultrasound imaging on his right shoulder, as he is plagued with pain which is “severe” and “growing progressively worse.” A December 2015 physician's letter said the pain is “likely a chronic progressive condition” which is likely to worsen without treatment.



"There is a limit to how much a single person can take and Julian has reached that limit," said his lawyer Melinda Taylor in a live link with RT from London. "The staff are being extremely helpful in allowing him to stay but it is an embassy, it is not a even a prison, **it doesn't have the services available in any standard prison.**"

"One of the problems of being inside the embassy is getting proper diagnoses, so to have a thorough diagnosis of his health, he would have to go to hospital. But the UK government consistently refuses to give him safe passage to a hospital."

The UK government confirmed in October 2015 that it had denied a September 2015 request from Ecuador for Assange to be granted safe passage to a hospital, where he could have received an MRI.

"The absence of a clear cut diagnosis and standard procedures is causing extreme stress to Mr. Assange, and concerns expressed range from permanent damage to the shoulder/arm to the possibility of cancer," the report states.

The paper also mentions that Assange suffers from "chronic dental pain from a fractured tooth" which he claims affects his ability to sleep and work.

It references a July 2015 letter from Assange's dentist, which says he is in need of gingival surgery and root canal treatment or surgical extraction. Such a procedure cannot be carried out inside the embassy.

The report notes that Assange is under constant surveillance, and therefore "virtually under a microscope." The writer called such a situation both "traumatizing and destructive" to his personality.

When asked if he ever thought about self-harm, Assange responded that he feels self-destructive on occasion. He did, however, state that he had never acted in a manner to cause himself or anyone else harm.

"In my opinion he does have a degree of suicidal ideation, but his children are a strong positive factor, and objectively the risk of self-harm is low," the expert wrote.

The expert recalled their first visit to the embassy, when they noticed that Assange's working space was extremely cluttered.

"I commented on the clutter and asked couldn't he see it? He replied that he ceased to 'see' things in that way, that it all became a blur in the total absence of any novel sensory input. He described it as a shutting down of his visual field in relation to his physical environment," the expert wrote.

In his own words, Assange said: "...The walls of the embassy are as familiar as the interior of my eyelids. I see them, but I do not see them." He went on to state that it **has become increasingly difficult to see how objects relate to each other, or "to grasp the passage of time."**

The expert described Assange's thoughts as being typical to those whose physical activities are restricted, as such people can experience a "slow unraveling of their cognitive faculties."

The report goes on to note a number of interviewees who said that Assange has become increasingly introverted, and is now an "extremely sad person" who seems to sometimes forget about eating.

The writer of the 27-page report noted that Assange's situation has "no end date," adding that there is "convincing evidence" that indefinite detention causes "severe harm" to the individual being detained. They added that it is "urgent" that Assange's circumstances are resolved as quickly as possible.

"Mr. Assange's mental health is highly likely to deteriorate over time if he remains in his current situation. Such highly stressful circumstances, with no end in sight, can lead to unpredictable and sometimes very destructive consequences for individuals. They may become very ill mentally and physically and carry out desperate acts to try and gain relief," the expert wrote.

Stating that Assange is in a "state of chronic health insecurity," the expert wrote that he **needs, at the bare minimum, "access to fresh air, sunlight and exercise space on a daily basis."** They added that Assange's "unusual circumstances" have placed him in a "precarious situation."

"The effects of the situation on Mr. Assange's health and well-being are serious and the risks will most certainly escalate with the potential to becoming life threatening if current conditions persist," the expert concluded.

Assange has been living inside the Ecuadorian embassy in London since Quito granted him asylum in 2012. The 45-year-old is wanted in Sweden for questioning in connection with allegations of sexual assault against two women in 2010, an accusation which he has always denied. Several additional charges against Assange were previously dropped because their statute of limitations were reached. However, the current charge is not due to lapse until 2020.

The WikiLeaks founder fears that if he goes to Sweden, he will then be extradited to the US, where he is wanted on espionage charges related to publishing classified US military and diplomat documents in 2010—a move which amounted to the largest information leak in US history.

His legal team believes that Assange is entitled to compensation from the UK and Sweden for having to stay at the embassy for the past four years.

"His rights have been violated. His right to protection against arbitrary detention, his presumption of innocence, his right to a fair trial, his protection against cruel and inhumane treatment — **all of these rights have been violated**, so he should be given compensation," Taylor told RT.

## **Take me instead: WikiLeaks' Assange asks Obama to pardon Manning**

RT

16 Sep, 2016

WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange has offered to serve time at a US prison if President Barack Obama would pardon Chelsea Manning, the whistleblower who handed Wikileaks US military and diplomatic documents in 2010.

Manning is currently serving a 35-year sentence at the US Disciplinary Barracks in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Assange, an Australian national, has been trapped inside the embassy of Ecuador since August 2012, when he requested asylum to avoid being arrested and extradited to Sweden, claiming he would then face unfair trial in the US.

"The staff are being extremely helpful in allowing him to stay but it is an embassy, it is not a even a prison, it doesn't have the services available in any standard prison," Assange's lawyer Melinda Taylor told RT.

"His rights have been violated. His right to protection against arbitrary detention, his presumption of innocence, his right to a fair trial, his protection against cruel and inhumane treatment - all of these rights have been violated," Taylor added.

Manning is facing indefinite solitary confinement after attempted suicide in August. She says she is bullied by prison and military officials, and requires treatment for gender dysphoria. Last week, the whistleblower resorted to a hunger strike to highlight her plight.

"I have asked for help time and time again for six years and through five separate confinement locations," Manning said in a statement issued through her attorneys. "My request has only been ignored, delayed, mocked, given trinkets and lip service by the prison, the military, and this administration."

"Until I am shown dignity and respect as a human again, I shall endure this pain before me," Manning concluded.

On Tuesday, the Department of Defense said that Manning would qualify for gender reassignment surgery under a new directive going into effect October 1.

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## **Swedish court upholds Julian Assange arrest warrant**

*Ruling ensures continuation of six-year standoff between WikiLeaks founder and prosecutors over rape allegation*

Agence France-Presse

16 September 2016

Julian Assange has had another setback in his legal stand-off with Sweden after a request to lift an arrest warrant for the WikiLeaks founder over a 2010 rape accusation was rejected.

The Stockholm appeals court upheld a district court's ruling to maintain the European arrest warrant, and rejected Assange's request to hold a hearing over the matter on Friday.

Assange, who denies the rape accusation, "is still detained in absentia", the court said, and it "shares the assessment of the [lower] district court that Julian Assange is still suspected on probable cause of rape ... and that there is a risk that he will evade legal proceedings or a penalty".

Assange's lawyer Per Samuelson told Agence France-Presse he would appeal against the ruling.

The 45-year-old Australian sought refuge in the Ecuadorian embassy in London in June 2012 after exhausting his legal options in Britain against extradition to Sweden. He has refused to travel to Stockholm, saying he fears further extradition to the US over WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret military files on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This is the eighth time the European arrest warrant has been tested in a Swedish court. All of the rulings have gone against Assange.

**The appeals court said Assange's four-year embassy sequestration "is not a deprivation of liberty and shall not be given any importance in its own right in the assessment of proportionality".**

Assange's lawyers had urged Sweden to follow the non-binding ruling of a UN working group on arbitrary detention, which said his confinement in the embassy amounted to arbitrary detention by Sweden and Britain.

**The appeals court noted that the length of his embassy stay and "the earlier passivity" of police investigators were "arguments for setting aside the detention".**

**"However, the relatively serious offence of which he is suspected means that there is a strong public interest [in] the investigation being able to continue.**

"At present, continued detention therefore appears to be both effective and necessary so as to be able to move the investigation forward. The reasons for detention therefore still outweigh the intrusion or other detriment that the measure entails for Julian Assange."

The Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny, welcomed the decision. "The public interest in having the investigation proceed still carries a lot of weight, in our opinion. The court has here shared our opinion that upholding the arrest warrant is in line with principle of proportionality."

Even if the Swedish warrant was ultimately lifted, Assange was still liable to face arrest in London for having evaded justice after his appeals against extradition were rejected, according to British police.

Assange is accused of having sex with a WikiLeaks supporter in her 30s without a condom while she was asleep [*half-asleep and half-awake by her own account --A.B.*] on 17 August 2010.

The statute of limitations on the rape allegation, which could lead to up to four years in prison, expires in August 2020.

Assange insists the sex was consensual and that there is a political motivation for the investigation. He fears Stockholm will send him to the US, though Washington has not asked for his extradition.

Sweden has said repeatedly that it cannot guarantee that Assange won't be extradited until there is an actual extradition request to consider, because it needs to know on what charges the US wants him. Sweden does not extradite people facing charges that carry the death penalty.

Friday's ruling came a day after WikiLeaks released medical records claiming Assange's mental health was at risk if he remained confined in the embassy.

"Mr Assange's mental health is highly likely to deteriorate over time if he remains in his current situation ... It is urgent that his current circumstances are resolved as quickly as possible," said a report published by the organisation on Twitter.

Ecuador announced earlier this week that Assange had agreed to answer questions from Swedish investigators at the embassy from 17 October.

Despite Assange's confinement, WikiLeaks has continued to release documents influencing world events.

These include a trove of US Democratic party emails in July showing how party chiefs sought to undermine the potential presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/sep/16/swedish-court-upholds-julian-assange-arrest-warrant>

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## **Ecuador hopes hearing marks 'beginning of the end' of Assange saga**

*Hugh Bronstein  
Reuters  
September 24, 2016*

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Ecuador hopes that the October questioning of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, holed up in the country's London Embassy since 2012, will mark the "beginning of the end" of the legal deadlock over case, Ecuador's foreign minister said.

Wikileaks burst onto the world scene in 2010 when it collaborated with media organizations to release U.S. State Department diplomatic cables. The leak opened a global debate over the proper limits of journalism and state transparency.

A Swedish appeals court last week upheld an arrest warrant for Assange, clearing the way for him to be questioned in Ecuador's London embassy on Oct. 17.

"We hope that the interview in October can put an end to what is a pretty bad situation for Mr. Assange," Foreign Minister Guillaume Long told Reuters on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

"We hope that it is the beginning of the end of Julian Assange's plight. He's welcome to stay with us but we know that is not the solution to the problem."

Assange, 45, is wanted in Sweden for questioning over allegations, which he denies, that he committed rape in 2010.

He avoided possible extradition to Sweden by taking refuge in Ecuador's London embassy. He says he fears further extradition to the United States, where a criminal investigation into the activities of Wikileaks is ongoing.

"The fear about political persecution stems from the fact that we never received guarantees that there was not going to be an extradition to a third country," Long said.

"The threat of political persecution is still there and the grounds for granting Mr. Assange his asylum still exist. We have no intention of taking away that asylum as it stands," he added.

The status quo is hardly satisfactory, from the standpoint of Assange's health, Long said.

"I've been to visit him on several occasions and I see a deterioration," he said.

"He does not have much access to light. He has no access whatsoever to exterior space. There is no internal patio. There is no fresh air," Long said.

The minister would not say how much it was costing Ecuador to keep Assange.

"I don't have the exact figure, but **it's certainly costing Ecuador much less than it's costing the British authorities to have the Ecuadorean embassy under a state of siege for four years,**" Long said.

Assange is unable to leave the embassy without being arrested by British police for breaching his bail conditions.

In July Wikileaks released files of what it said were audio recordings pulled from the emails of the Democratic National Committee that were obtained by hacking its servers. The leak rattled the Democratic National Convention where Hillary Clinton was named the party's presidential nominee, and prompted party chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz to step down.

Asked what Assange does with his time, Long said, "You'd have to ask him. But he seems to be very busy."

## Hillary Clinton considered drone attack on Julian Assange — report

RT

4 Oct. 2016

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reportedly wanted to drone Wikileaks founder Julian Assange when she was secretary of state.

According to True Pundit, Clinton and the state department were under pressure to silence Assange and Wikileaks in the months before the whistleblowing site released a massive dump of 250,000 diplomatic cables from 1966 up to 2010, dubbed CableGate.

**“Can’t we just drone this guy?” Clinton asked, according to unidentified state department sources.**

Published by True Pundit on Sunday, Wikileaks posted a link to the story on their official Twitter account on Monday, along with a screenshot of the article.

Clinton and the state department held numerous meetings to discuss what could be done about Assange and his site which had already exposed damning military secrets about the war in Afghanistan and Iraq before the promised document dump was to come. The department was under pressure from both the White House and foreign governments to silence Wikileaks.

**True Pundit reports the people in the room with Clinton on November 23, 2010 laughed at her comment, until it became clear that the then-secretary of state was serious. Clinton was reportedly fuming and referred to Assange as a “soft target.”**

After Clinton’s drone suggestion, the state department considered offering a reward to anyone whose help secured the Australian journalist’s capture and extradition to the US. **Unnamed sources reported a \$10 million price was discussed at the meeting.**

Following the meeting, Clinton aide Ann-Marie Slaughter emailed Clinton and aides Cheryl Mills, Huma Abedin and Jake Sullivan with the subject, "RE an SP memo on possible legal and nonlegal strategies re Wikileaks."

The email contained an attachment "SP Wikileaks doc final11.23.10.docx." which has not been found by federal investigators investigating Clinton’s use of a private email server. Wikileaks itself does not have this attachment.

Five days after the meeting, Wikileaks began releasing the CableGate files, on November 28, 2010.

Sources familiar with the meeting claim they were reminded of Clinton’s penchant for discussing droning enemies following the release of the FBI’s report on the Clinton email investigation, according to True Pundit.

**The FBI’s notes on Clinton’s interview during the investigation referred to Clinton having “many discussions” about “nominating” droning individuals.**

“Clinton could not recall a specific process for nominating a target for a drone strike and recalled much debate pertaining to the concurrence process. Clinton knew there was a role for DOD, State and the CIA but could not provide specifics as to what it was. Due to a disagreement between these agencies, Clinton recalled having many discussions related to nominating an individual for a drone strike,” the report reads.

Assange was set to make a big announcement at the Ecuadorian embassy in London on Tuesday where he has been trapped for five years, but cancelled in light of security concerns.

The teased leak, dubbed an “October Surprise” is thought to be damaging for Clinton before the presidential elections in November.

The announcement will now be made at Wikileaks’ 10-year anniversary celebration in Berlin on Tuesday. Assange will address the event via video leak.

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### **#WikiLeaks10:**

#### **‘Group empowered people to know truth’ — Assange attorney**

*Through its publishing activities WikiLeaks allowed people to get recompense for violations of their rights, said Julian Assange’s attorney Melinda Taylor. It had a fundamental impact on people’s right to know what is happening in the world, she added.*

RT

4 Oct. 2016

The founder of WikiLeaks Julian Assange spoke Tuesday via a video link to a news conference in Berlin to mark the tenth anniversary of the whistle blowing group. He said WikiLeaks will release about a million documents related to at least three governments before the end of 2016.

RT discussed the impact of the group’s activities on people’s lives and whether the situation with Assange, who has spent four years living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, will be resolved any time soon, with Assange’s attorney Melinda Taylor.

“Mr. Assange has never been charged. There has been an ongoing investigation, in which the delays are solely attributable to the Swedish prosecutor. One has to wonder why she has dragged her feet. I think the answer is that there is simply no evidence against Julian. And the only reason this investigation has been brought against him is to find some way to bring him under Swedish territory, where he’d then be sent to the US like other people have been before him,” she said.

From the beginning of the investigation Assange’s lawyers asked the UK and Sweden for assurances that if he went to Sweden he would then not be extradited to the US, Taylor added.

**“Both Sweden and the US have continuously refused to give these assurances. So if the whole point of this wasn’t to bring him to the US — why not to give the assurance?” she said.**



RT: *Do you think we'll see the light at the end of the tunnel sometime soon? Will there ever be the end to this story?*

Melinda Taylor: I hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and that the UK and Sweden will eventually live up to their international human rights obligations. It really begs a question how they can flout these obligations, when they call on other states to toe the line. So if they want to have any international legal and moral legitimacy they do have to respect Mr. Assange's right to be free and his right to protection.

RT: *In your opinion, what is WikiLeaks' impact on people and the world in general? Is it significant?*

MT: I think WikiLeaks is one of the first and early news sources to not collate, color or tailor the narrative of news it presents. It publishes both sides of the coin; it presents the information out there, so that everyone throughout the world can access information, which normally is kept secret, because of national security concerns, or financial concerns. So throughout the world, through its publishing activities WikiLeaks has empowered people to know the truth: about human rights abuses; about unfair trade agreements; about political machinations, for example in Libya. And throughout its publishing activities it has allowed people to try and obtain a remedy through violations of their rights. So it had a fundamental impact on people's right to know what is happening in the world they live in and their right to take action on it.

RT: *There was an attempt by a man in August to climb into the Ecuadorian embassy in London. How could that man do that with such a big number of police guarding the building? Does that raise any concerns for Mr. Assange?*

MT: We have to question how with all the millions of pounds spent on surveying Julian [Assange] it was possible for an intruder to climb into the embassy, or attempt to climb into the embassy in that manner.

Where were the British diplomatic police then, when they were 24/7 watching Julian every other day? So of course that does raise fears and concerns for Julian, particularly in light of reports that came out today about a 2010 meeting where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton apparently put forward the suggestion that one way of dealing with Julian and WikiLeaks was to have drone strike on him, even though he is a publisher and protected by First Amendment freedom of the press rights.

RT: *What is behind this Clintons' statement, do you think?*

MT: I am not in a position to get inside her head, but to raise it at such a high level meeting is of course an issue of concern. One doesn't joke about someone's life in that manner.

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## **Ecuador Admits It Cut Internet Access for WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange**

*U.S. State Department denies exerting any influence over Ecuador in its decision, countering WikiLeaks' claims*

*Deirdre Fulton, staff writer  
Common Dreams  
October 19, 2016*

The Ecuadorian government has confirmed that it "temporarily" cut off internet access for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who has been living in the country's embassy in

London since 2012, over fears that recent leaks were improperly influencing the 2016 presidential election.

In an official statement released Tuesday, Ecuador stated that it "respects the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states. It does not interfere in external electoral processes, nor does it favor any particular candidate."

"Accordingly," the statement continued, "Ecuador has exercised its sovereign right to temporarily restrict access to some of its private communications network within its Embassy in the United Kingdom. This temporary restriction does not prevent the WikiLeaks organization from carrying out its journalistic activities."

WikiLeaks first reported on Monday that Assange's internet connection had been "intentionally severed by a state party."

While the government's statement insisted that "Ecuador's foreign policy responds to sovereign decisions alone and does not yield to pressure from other states," WikiLeaks claimed otherwise on Twitter on Tuesday:

The State Department denied the allegation, with spokesman John Kirby telling the Associated Press in an email: "While our concerns about WikiLeaks are longstanding, any suggestion that Secretary Kerry or the State Department were involved in shutting down WikiLeaks is false."

The AP further reported that deputy spokesman Mark Toner said in a news briefing that "Kerry never even raised the issue or met with [Ecuadorian President Rafael] Correa during his visit to Colombia."

Meanwhile, WikiLeaks continues to drop the latest installments in its ongoing #PodestaEmails dump, with messages hacked from the account of Hillary Clinton campaign adviser John Podesta.

The most recent leaks include Clinton's long list for vice presidential candidates; more evidence of the Clinton campaign's disdain for former rival Bernie Sanders; and cozy messages between political operatives and the press.

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## **Assange 'shocked' at Swedish refusal to grant leave for funeral of WikiLeaks director**

*RT*

*28 Oct, 2016*

Swedish prosecutors have refused to temporarily suspend WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's arrest warrant to allow him to leave the Ecuadorian embassy in London to attend the funeral of long time mentor Gavin MacFadyen.

"Julian Assange has requested that the Swedish prosecutor should grant him leave from the detention order and the European arrest warrant in order to go to a funeral,"

the prosecutor's office said in a statement released Friday. It said that Swedish law does not allow such exemptions on European arrest warrants.

Assange released a statement on the decision, which he is appealing to Sweden's Attorney General Anders Perklev. The request was made to the official in charge of Assange's case in Sweden, Marianne Ny.

"I am heart-broken that this official has rejected my request to attend Gavin's funeral. Her rejection is consistent with the corrupt and frankly wicked manner in which she has exercised her 'discretion' over me, as the UN also ruled earlier this year," Assange said.

"I am deeply shocked that this official would use my request for compassion as an opportunity for publicity by issuing a press release boasting of her rejection about this deeply personal matter," he added. "This callous official has shown no consideration for my grief or that of Gavin's family. I have instructed my counsel to appeal the request to Sweden's Attorney General."

Assange has previously been denied permission to leave the embassy where he has been since 2012, including last October when he was denied a hospital visit for an MRI.

MacFayden died on October 22. He was a director of WikiLeaks and enjoyed a long and distinguished career in investigative journalism and documentary filmmaking. He co-founded the Center for Investigative Journalism and formed the Julian Assange Legal Defense committee alongside journalist John Pilger.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found Assange to be "arbitrarily and unlawfully detained" by Sweden and the United Kingdom in February.

Assange is wanted in Sweden for questioning over rape allegations. He has denied the charges, and fears he will be extradited to the US if he travels there, something Swedish authorities won't guarantee.

The US is currently conducting a national security investigation against Assange for releasing millions of government documents, including many from Chelsea Manning which revealed secrets about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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## **Assange Statement on the US Election**

*8 November 2016*

In recent months, WikiLeaks and I personally have come under enormous pressure to stop publishing what the Clinton campaign says about itself to itself. That pressure has come from the campaign's allies, including the Obama administration, and from liberals who are anxious about who will be elected US President.

On the eve of the election, it is important to restate why we have published what we have.

The right to receive and impart true information is the guiding principle of WikiLeaks— an organization that has a staff and organizational mission far beyond myself. Our organization defends the public's right to be informed.

This is why, irrespective of the outcome of the 2016 US Presidential election, the real victor is the US public which is better informed as a result of our work.

The US public has thoroughly engaged with WikiLeaks' election related publications which number more than one hundred thousand documents. Millions of Americans have pored over the leaks and passed on their citations to each other and to us. It is an open model of journalism that gatekeepers are uncomfortable with, but which is perfectly harmonious with the First Amendment.

We publish material given to us if it is of political, diplomatic, historical or ethical importance and which has not been published elsewhere. When we have material that fulfills this criteria, we publish. We had information that fit our editorial criteria which related to the Sanders and Clinton campaign (DNC Leaks) and the Clinton political campaign and Foundation (Podesta Emails). No-one disputes the public importance of these publications. It would be unconscionable for WikiLeaks to withhold such an archive from the public during an election.

At the same time, we cannot publish what we do not have. To date, we have not received information on Donald Trump's campaign, or Jill Stein's campaign, or Gary Johnson's campaign or any of the other candidates that fulfills our stated editorial criteria. As a result of publishing Clinton's cables and indexing her emails we are seen as domain experts on Clinton archives. So it is natural that Clinton sources come to us.

We publish as fast as our resources will allow and as fast as the public can absorb it.

That is our commitment to ourselves, to our sources, and to the public.

This is not due to a personal desire to influence the outcome of the election. The Democratic and Republican candidates have both expressed hostility towards whistleblowers. I spoke at the launch of the campaign for Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate, because her platform addresses the need to protect them. This is an issue that is close to my heart because of the Obama administration's inhuman and degrading treatment of one of our alleged sources, Chelsea Manning. But WikiLeaks publications are not an attempt to get Jill Stein elected or to take revenge over Ms Manning's treatment either.

Publishing is what we do. To withhold the publication of such information until after the election would have been to favour one of the candidates above the public's right to know.

This is after all what happened when the New York Times withheld evidence of illegal mass surveillance of the US population for a year until after the 2004 election, denying the public a critical understanding of the incumbent president George W Bush, which probably secured his reelection. The current editor of the New York Times has distanced himself from that decision and rightly so.

The US public defends free speech more passionately, but the First Amendment only truly lives through its repeated exercise. The First Amendment explicitly prevents the executive from attempting to restrict anyone's ability to speak and publish freely. The First Amendment does not privilege old media, with its corporate advertisers and dependencies on incumbent power factions, over WikiLeaks' model of scientific journalism or an individual's decision to inform their friends on social media. The First Amendment unapologetically nurtures the democratization of knowledge. With the Internet, it has reached its full potential.

Yet, some weeks ago, in a tactic reminiscent of Senator McCarthy and the red scare, Wikileaks, Green Party candidate Stein, Glenn Greenwald and Clinton's main opponent were painted with a broad, red brush. The Clinton campaign, when they were not spreading obvious untruths, pointed to unnamed sources or to speculative and vague statements from the intelligence community to suggest a nefarious allegiance with Russia. The campaign was unable to invoke evidence about our publications—because none exists.

In the end, those who have attempted to malign our groundbreaking work over the past four months seek to inhibit public understanding perhaps because it is embarrassing to them—a reason for censorship the First Amendment cannot tolerate. Only unsuccessfully do they try to claim that our publications are inaccurate.

WikiLeaks' decade-long pristine record for authentication remains. Our key publications this round have even been proven through the cryptographic signatures of the companies they passed through, such as Google. It is not every day you can mathematically prove that your publications are perfect but this day is one of them.

We have endured intense criticism, primarily from Clinton supporters, for our publications. Many long-term supporters have been frustrated because we have not addressed this criticism in a systematic way or responded to a number of false narratives about Wikileaks' motivation or sources. Ultimately, however, if WL reacted to every false claim, we would have to divert resources from our primary work.

WikiLeaks, like all publishers, is ultimately accountable to its funders. Those funders are you. Our resources are entirely made up of contributions from the public and our book sales. This allows us to be principled, independent and free in a way no other influential media organization is. But it also means that we do not have the resources of CNN, MSNBC or the Clinton campaign to constantly rebuff criticism.

Yet if the press obeys considerations above informing the public, we are no longer talking about a free press, and we are no longer talking about an informed public.

Wikileaks remains committed to publishing information that informs the public, even if many, especially those in power, would prefer not to see it. WikiLeaks must publish. It must publish and be damned.

<https://wikileaks.org/Assange-Statement-on-the-US-Election.html>

## **Assange questioned at Ecuadorian embassy over rape allegation**

*RT*

*14 Nov, 2016*

Swedish Chief Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren has arrived at Ecuador's London embassy to question WikiLeaks editor Julian Assange, following a prolonged deadlock in an alleged rape case opened in Sweden more than six years ago.

Assange has been residing in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London since claiming political asylum back in 2012, when Sweden issued a European arrest warrant for him. An Ecuadorean prosecutor is interviewing Assange, asking questions the Swedish side had submitted previously. The interview is attended by Sweden's chief prosecutor Ingred Isgren. Swedish police inspector Cecilia Redell is also reportedly to be present. Both are allowed to ask for clarifications to Assange's responses, but not put any fresh questions forward.

Assange's answers will be transcribed and sent to the Swedish authorities for processing. If he consents to it, a DNA sample will also be taken from him.

Assange's lawyer Per Samuelsson said the questioning could last for several days, adding that it was too early to say what the meeting will bring about and what information revealed by Assange would be made public, AFP reported.

Ecuador's foreign minister Guillaume Long told the Press Association that he was "pleased" with the perspective of the interview at last.

"This is something that Ecuador has been inviting the Swedish prosecutors to do ever since we granted asylum to Mr. Assange in 2012.

"What we have asked from Sweden and the UK are guarantees that Mr. Assange will not be extradited to a third country where he could be persecuted for his work as a journalist," Long said.

Throughout the years, Assange has not been charged with any offence under Swedish law but was sought for questioning over complaints of sexual assault by two women in 2010. He has been sought for questioning on allegations of four counts of sexual misconduct, which he repeatedly denied and three of which have now expired under Sweden's Statute of Limitations. Technically free to leave the embassy, the WikiLeaks founder, however, decided to stay, repeatedly raising concerns over Swedish demands that he be questioned in person, as he feared the prosecutors in fact want to extradite him to the United States.

There he faces questioning and potentially charges over his whistleblowing activities, as the FBI is investigating him for 'espionage.' The investigation revolves around the Iraq War leaks, sent to WikiLeaks by former US Army Private Chelsea Manning. She is currently serving a 35-year jail sentence for the leaks. With current US President Barack Obama reluctant to clear Assange, his supporters have turned to President-elect Donald Trump with a petition requesting him to pardon the whistleblowers.

Political activist and artist Clark Stoeckly told RT it would be wise for the incoming president to let Assange off the hook as it would draw liberals to Trump's side.

"Julian is due to have some freedom so that he can continue to do the work he sought to do. If Obama doesn't make the decision to pardon Manning, Assange, and Snowden, he continues to live with this legacy of being the president who started a war on whistleblowers. It's going to be in Trump's hands to take that prize and fight for truth. And I think it would certainly change the way the liberals and those on the left view Trump," Stoeckly said.

\* \* \*

## **Assange 'finally afforded opportunity' to give statement to Sweden, complains of 'irregularities'**

RT

14 Nov. 2016

Whistleblower Julian Assange says he "cooperated fully" with Swedish investigators during a seven-hour interview inside the Ecuadorian embassy concerning rape charges from 2010. Assange's legal team also accused the investigators of "procedural irregularities."

"Today, after six years of offering his statement to the Swedish authorities, Julian Assange has finally been given the opportunity to do so," said a statement released by the WikiLeaks founder Monday evening. "Sweden's failure to progress the preliminary investigation until now has resulted in a gross breach of Mr Assange's right to be presumed innocent, and has fatally harmed his ability to meaningfully defend himself."

Assange's team complained that his Swedish counsel, Per Samuelson, "was not notified or summoned" for the start of the interview, despite being in London specifically for that very purpose, and that despite "concerns" the authorities "proceeded anyway."

"The clear breach of process did not stop Mr Assange from cooperating fully," said his statement. "Mr Assange felt compelled to participate even with these problems."

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SVT: 2016-11-14

## **Nya problem hotar Assangeförhören**

Efter år av juridiska tvister inleddes idag förhören med den våldtäktsmisstänkte Wikileaksgrundaren Julian Assange i London. Men hans advokat är portad från förhören.

– Jag är inte med på den lista som Ecuador upprättat på personer som får vara närvarande. Jag påtalade detta för en månad sedan och jag har påmint åklagaren att vi

måste få vara med. Den ecuadorianska advokaten har tagit upp frågan som en formell fråga i inledningen av förhöret, säger Samuelsson till SVT Nyheter.

Även Julian Assanges brittiska advokat Jennifer Robinson tycker att det är märkligt att Samuelsson inte fick närvara.

– Att de svenska åklagarna fick närvara, men inte försvarsadvokaten är extremt problematiskt. Det är en obalans, säger Jennifer Robinson till SVT Nyheter.

**Tre dagar är avsatta till förhören och de ska att hållas mellan 10 och 17 varje dag,** med avbrott för lunch. Per E Samuelsson säger till SVT Nyheter att han rått sin klient att inte prata om hans advokat inte får närvara. Historien har sitt ursprung i ett besök i Stockholm sommaren 2010, då två kvinnor anmälde att det blev sexuellt utnyttjade av Assange. Det ena fallet är dock preskriberat.

– Det är makalöst att det inte går att få ordning på någonting i den här förundersökningen. Jag vet inte vilka ansträngningar de svenska åklagarna har gjort gentemot de ecuadorianska myndigheterna. Men de måste också förstå att Julian Assange inte kan ställa upp på det här utan att ha en svensk advokat som kan det svenska rättssystemet och fakta i det svenska fallet, som jag kan. Därför är det väldigt irriterande att man måste sitta på ett hotellrum istället för att vara med.

I en intervju med nyhetsbyrån TT uttrycker Samuelsson optimism till att förhören med Assange leder till att fallet läggs ner.

– Jag har hört Assanges berättelser flera gånger och vet att de stämmer som hand i handsken med sms som den här kvinnan skickat till sina vänner under natten och dagarna efter. Objektivt sett så är det ingen tvekan om att det gått till så som Assange har berättat.

– Jag är dock orolig för att det har gått sådan enorm prestige i det här fallet i Sverige. Åklagare har på något sätt satsat sin personliga prestige i det här. Det kan leda till att man driver mot ett åtal fast man inte borde det. Jag hoppas vid Gud att man kan ha ett öppet sinnelag och se på det här objektivt från två håll och inte åtalar bara för att komma undan ett problem.

Ett stort medieuppbåd har samlats utanför ambassaden i den fashionabla Londonstadsdelen Knightsbridge, som har varit Julian Assanges de senaste fyra åren. Wikileaksgrundaren har sökt asyl i Ecuador eftersom han fruktar att bli utlämnad till USA där han misstänks för spioneri om hans förhör i Sverige.

Att rättsfallet har dragit ut på tiden beror på att Åklagarmyndigheten inte velat genomföra något förhör vid ambassaden, utan krävt att Assange ska föras till Stockholm.

– Assange har erbjudit sig att ställa upp på förhör sedan 2010. Men först efter att FN bedömt att Åklagarmyndighetens behandling av fallet var godtycklig och överdriven som en svensk åklagare kommit hit för att förhöra Assange, säger hans brittiska advokat Jennifer Robinson till SVT Nyheter i London.



I mars förra året gick svenska åklagare med på att förhör kunde hållas i London och i augusti samma år preskriberades brottsmisstankarna rubricerade som olaga tvång och två fall av sexuellt ofredande av en kvinna. Den fjärde brottsrubriceringen, misstänkt våldtäkt, preskriberas först i augusti 2020.

Åklagarmyndigheten har inte velat ställa upp på någon intervju inför förhöret, men i ett pressmeddelande skriver åklagaren Marianne Ny: "Det är värdefullt att förundersökningen nu kan föras framåt genom att förhör med den misstänkte kan komma till stånd".

Per E Samuelsson har i en tidigare intervju med SVT berättat att hans klient ser fram emot förhören och att Assange hoppas att förhöret ska rentvå honom från misstankarna.

Förhöret på ambassaden görs av en ecuadoriansk åklagare som fått frågor från de svenska åklagarna. Samuelsson menar också att förhören kan påverkas av att det gått lång tid sedan det misstänkta sexbrottet och att det kan påverka Assanges minnesbild.

Chefsåklagare Ingrid Isgren, får närvara tillsammans med en svensk polisinspektör, men får inte ställa egna frågor. Ett DNA-prov kommer också att tas, om Julian Assange går med på det. Resultatet av förhöret ska enligt Åklagarmyndigheten sedan redovisas skriftligt från Ecuador till de svenska åklagarna vid en senare tidpunkt.  
"Accepterar inte"

Målsägandebiträde Elisabeth Massi Fritz och den kvinna hon företräder anser att det är bra att förhöret nu genomförs, skriver hon i ett pressmeddelande.

"Förundersökningen måste gå framåt. Jag och min klient kommer inte acceptera att våldtäktsmisstanken mot Assange kommer att preskriberas som de andra brottsmisstankarna", skriver hon.

## **Fakta: Fallet Julian Assange**

Julian Assange anklagades för sexbrott mot två svenska kvinnor i samband med ett Sverigebesök sommaren 2010.

I slutet av november 2010 häktades han i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för en våldtäkt, två fall av sexuellt ofredande och ett fall av olaga tvång.

Han häktades efter ha infunnit sig hos brittisk polis den 7 december men släpptes mot borgen den 16 december och levde i husarrest med fotboja utanför London.

Under 2011 fick Assange avslag på överklaganden av beslut om att han ska överlämnas till Sverige.

Processen i Storbritannien har drivits med en europeisk arresteringsorder som grund.

Arresteringsordern började gälla som svensk lag den 1 januari 2004.

Ett krav för arresteringsordern är att den efterlyste måste vara på sannolika skäl misstänkt för ett brott med ett år eller mer i straffskalan.

Brittiska HD prövade i juni 2012 om den svenska åklagarmyndigheten har behörighet att utfärda en arresteringsorder och fann att så är fallet.

Assange hävdar att han riskerar utlämning från Sverige till USA, och där riskerar dödsstraff som spionanklagad.

Den 19 juni 2012 tog sig Assange till Ecuadors ambassad i London. Han sökte och fick politisk asyl och har vistats på ambassaden sedan dess.

Svea Hovrätt riktar kritik mot Åklagarmyndigheten för att utredningen stannat av. Hovrätten trycker på för att förhör ska hållas i London.

13 augusti 2015 preskriberades flera av brotten. Bara förundersökningen om misstänkt våldtäkt lever vidare.

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## **Julian Assange faces Swedish prosecutor in London over rape accusation**

*WikiLeaks founder's Swedish lawyer says he has been barred from attending interview, scheduled to take three days*

*Esther Addley and David Crouch  
The Guardian  
14 November 2016*

A senior Swedish prosecutor has begun interviewing Julian Assange at Ecuador's embassy in London, six years after a woman in Stockholm accused the WikiLeaks of rape.

Ingrid Isgren, Sweden's deputy chief prosecutor, arrived at 9.30am on Monday at the central London embassy where Assange has been confined since June 2012.

Assange sought asylum from Ecuador to avoid extradition to Sweden over the accusation, which he denies.

Isgren was greeted by dozens of photographers, international TV crews and a small number of the Australian's supporters, who unfurled banners and chanted their support. She paused briefly for photographs but did not speak to reporters.

Prosecutors have said they will not comment while the investigation is ongoing.

Three days have been set aside for the interview, which is being conducted by an Ecuadorian prosecutor, following a list of questions submitted earlier this year by the Swedish prosecution authority.

Isgren is allowed to ask Assange to clarify his answers, but not to put additional questions, and will receive a written transcript of the exchanges from Ecuador after the interview has concluded. Her office has said it will seek to take a DNA sample from Assange if he agrees.

Assange's Swedish lawyer, Per Samuelson, said he had been barred from the interview. "Ecuador refuses to let me in and insists that the questioning will continue without my presence, against my client's wishes to have me there," he told Reuters.  
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Samuelson said he still hoped to be admitted if the interview continued, “but a good chunk of questioning has already taken place, as far as I understand”.

In a statement released on Monday night, WikiLeaks said there had been “numerous irregularities” in the Swedish investigation. “Unfortunately, the irregularities with procedure have continued today,” it said, citing the fact that Samuelson had not been permitted to attend, which it called a “clear breach of process”.

It said Assange “felt compelled to participate even with these problems”.

Sweden’s investigation of the rape accusation has been locked in stalemate since he fled to the embassy. Prosecutors initially insisted he would have to travel to Sweden to be interviewed, but Assange refused, arguing that it would put him at risk of onward extradition to the US for potential prosecution over WikiLeaks publications. Peter Tatchell (second from right) holds a message of support for WikiLeaks outside the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Prosecutors finally agreed to questioning in London after coming under increased pressure in Sweden to move the case forward. In November 2014, Sweden’s appeal court rejected Assange’s appeal against the warrant but criticised the country’s chief prosecutor, Marianne Ny, over her failure to examine alternative avenues of investigation.

The court upheld the warrant again upheld in September this year. In February, a UN panel said Assange’s continued presence at the embassy amounted to “arbitrary detention”.

An investigation into separate sexual assault allegations a second Swedish woman made against Assange had to be dropped last year after the deadline to bring charges expired.

The human rights campaigner Peter Tatchell joined the Australian’s supporters outside the embassy. He said he was appalled that it had taken Swedish prosecutors six years to come to interview him.

“I have always said that Julian Assange should answer the serious sex allegations. For the last six years he has been willing to answer those allegations. He has never been charged with any offence,” Tatchell said.

There was no sign of the WikiLeaks founder, but his pet cat, which has its own Twitter account, @EmbassyCat, appeared at the window wearing a fake collar and tie.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/nov/14/julian-assange-to-face-swedish-prosecutors-over-accusation>

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## **Pamela Anderson Visits WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange Again, Bearing More Treats**

*Stephanie Petit*  
*People*  
*November 13, 2016*

Pamela Anderson made another visit to the controversial mastermind behind WikiLeaks with goodies in hand.

The 49-year-old model and actress was photographed making a trip to see Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks editor-in-chief, at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on Sunday. Just like her visit nearly a month ago, Anderson had plenty of treats in tow.

Dressed in a yellow knit dress that hit below the knee and a camel coat slung over her shoulders, Anderson carried a tray full of snacks.

During her previous visit, Anderson called herself a supporter of Assange and joked of providing him with the meal. "He said I tortured him with bringing him vegan food," the longtime vegan said.

"Pamela has visited Julian a number of times," Anderson's publicist told PEOPLE in a statement. "She likes to make him smile — she is a dear supporter of his. She is concerned for his well being, and believes he's committed no crime and has been treated unkind, and unfairly."

Assange has claimed political asylum at the embassy since 2012 in order to avoid facing extradition to Sweden over a rape allegation he has long refuted. According to the Associated Press, Assange fears being sent to the U.S. to face espionage charges in relation to WikiLeaks.

Previously, the controversial Australian journalist couldn't even step out onto the building's balcony. Until October of 2015, he was even under round-the-clock police guard.

WikiLeaks has been at the center of much of the controversy surrounding this year's presidential election in the United States. The website has published thousands of hacked emails from major political figures, including Hillary Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and members of the Democratic National Convention.

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## Förhöret med Assange avslutat

Förhöret med den våldtäktsmisstänkte Julian Assange har avslutats. Hans svenske advokat Per E Samuelsson säger nu att man snarast möjligt ska begära att häktningen av Assange hävs.

Två dagar räckte. Sedan meddelade Åklagarmyndigheten att förhöret med Julian Assange på Ecuadors ambassad i London var avslutat. Nu ska resultatet redovisas skriftligt från Ecuador till de svenska åklagarna. Mer information utgick inte från Åklagarmyndigheten, som hänvisar till sekretess.

Men enligt Per E Samuelsson ska 57 frågor ha ställts till Julian Assange under de två dagar som förhöret pågick.

Genom att det nu är avklarat anser man också från Assanges sida att häktningen av honom bör hävas.

– Domstolarna i Sverige har använt det här förhöret som ett argument för att inte upphäva utevarohäktningen. Nu är det hindret undanröjt. Nu kommer vi att försöka igen, för den utsatta position Assange befinner sig i måste upphöra, säger Samuelsson till TT.

Assange blir troligen ändå kvar på ambassaden där han befunnit sig sedan 2012. Enligt Assange själv kommer brittiska myndigheter att gripa honom om han lämnar ambassaden.

– Det är sant men vi får ta bort ett hinder i taget. Det är som ett plockepinn-spel, säger Samuelsson.

Vid förhöret, där Åklagarmyndigheten representerades av biträdande åklagaren Ingrid Isgren, fick Samuelsson själv inte närvara— något han starkt ifrågasätter.

– Det är makalöst att det blivit på det här sättet och en allvarlig brist, säger han. Assange har sagt till mig efteråt att han kände sig försvarslös och tvingad att göra

detta, annars skulle förhöret ställas in. Det här illustrerar att det svenska rättsväsendet behandlar Assange på ett mera negativt sätt än andra misstänkta. Det är prestige i det och politiskt laddat.

I stället hade Assange vid sin sida en ecuadoriansk försvarsadvokat, något Per E Samuelsson, menar blev fel.

– Han gjorde säkert sitt bästa men tillsattes för tre veckor sedan och har inte fått enda papper från akten och kan inget om svensk rätt eller det svenska fallet.

TT: Vad tror du nu om utgången?

–Jag hoppas verkligen att åklagarna kan vara lyhörda och titta på hans berättelse objektivt. Gör de det — då ska det här läggas ned rätt snabbt.

TT/SVT  
15 november 2016

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### **Assange can face justice in Sweden if given guarantee against US extradition— Ecuadorian FM**

RT  
17 Nov. 2016

Ecuador sees no problem with Julian Assange facing justice in Sweden over an ongoing rape allegation, but insists on a guarantee that the WikiLeaks founder will not be extradited to the US.

**"If we can obtain guarantees that Mr. Assange will not face extradition to the third country, I think it's fine for him to face Swedish justice — if there are charges, because are there still no charges,"** Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Guillaume Long said during an interview with a local radio station, as quoted by Reuters.

Assange fled to Ecuador's London embassy in 2012, after the country granted him asylum following his publishing of secret US diplomatic cables.

If he leaves the embassy, the WikiLeaks founder would most likely be extradited to Sweden to face an allegation of rape from 2010, and potentially further extradited to the US, where he could face life in prison for leaking US secrets.

Long's remarks came as prosecutors concluded a two-day interview with Assange at the embassy on Tuesday, as part of an inquiry to determine whether to charge him with the alleged sex crime.

The questions were asked by Ecuadorian prosecutors, in the presence of a Swedish prosecutor and a police investigator. A decision on a further possible investigation has not yet been made public.

Assange has not been indicted for the alleged sex crime and denies any wrongdoing.

Although officials said on Monday that they would seek a DNA sample from the WikiLeaks founder, it is unclear whether he gave his consent.

<https://www.rt.com/news/367231-ecuador-assange-sweden-extradition/>

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## **Julian Assange: Ecuador says no 'quick way out' of embassy impasse**

*Ecuadorian prosecutor says standoff 'attributable to Swedish prosecutors' as transcript is prepared of evidence given in London interview*

*Staff and agencies in Quito*

*The Guardian*

*29 November 2016*

The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has no “quick way out” of the Ecuadorian embassy in London where he took refuge more than four years ago, Ecuador’s prosecutor has said.

An Ecuadorian state attorney accompanied by a Swedish prosecutor questioned Assange at the embassy on 14 November over allegations that he committed rape in Sweden in 2010.

Ecuador’s prosecutor, Galo Chiriboga, said Ecuadorian officials would send the official transcript of Assange’s evidence to Swedish authorities “in mid-December”.

Assange, who is Australian, has said he fears deportation to Sweden and the United States, where he could be charged for the publication of hundreds of thousands of secret US diplomatic cables.

Julian Assange faces Swedish prosecutor in London over rape accusation

Read more

“Four years have passed and we are only at this stage, but that is no longer attributable to Ecuador, it is attributable to Swedish prosecutors. I do not think there is a quick way out,” Chiriboga said.

Assange, who has denied the rape charges, is also wanted by British authorities for violating the conditions of his house arrest, which he fled to seek refuge at the embassy.

Ecuador’s foreign minister, Guillaume Long, has said Assange should receive guarantees that he will not be extradited if he faces justice in Sweden.

A DNA sample had been taken by British police from Assange at the embassy for Swedish prosecutors to use in their investigation against him, Chiriboga said.

“Therefore Sweden will now have to request that DNA sample from the British police,” the prosecutor said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/nov/29/julian-assange-ecuador-says-no-no-quick-way-out-of-embassy-impasse>

## **FBI sent planeload of agents to frame Assange in Iceland, got snubbed by minister**

*RT*

*10 Dec. 2016*

The US sent a “planeload of FBI agents” to Iceland in 2011 to frame WikiLeaks and its co-founder Julian Assange, according to a former Icelandic minister of interior, who refused them any cooperation and asked them to cease their activities.

In June 2011, Obama administration **implied to Iceland's authorities they had knowledge of hackers wanting to destroy software systems in the country, and offered help**, then-Interior Minister Ogmundur Jonasson, said in an interview with the Katoikos publication.

However, Jonasson said he instantly became “suspicious” of the US good intentions, “well aware that a helping hand might easily become a manipulating hand.”

Later in the summer 2011, the US “sent a planeload of FBI agents to Iceland seeking our cooperation in what I understood as an operation set up to frame Julian Assange and WikiLeaks,” Jonasson said.

Icelanders seemed like a tough nut to crack, though.

**“Since they had not been authorized by the Icelandic authorities to carry out police work in Iceland and since a crack-down on WikiLeaks was not on my agenda, to say the least, I ordered that all cooperation with them be promptly terminated and I also made it clear that they should cease all activities in Iceland immediately,”** the politician said.

So the US were told to leave, and moreover, the politician made things quite clear for them.

**“If I had to take sides with either WikiLeaks or the FBI or CIA, I would have no difficulty in choosing: I would be on the side of WikiLeaks,”** he said.

Jónasson went on to discuss other whistleblowers like Edward Snowden: the Althing, the Icelandic parliament, debated whether Snowden should have been granted citizenship, but “there hasn't been political consensus” on the matter.

**“Iceland is part of NATO and such a decision would be strongly objected to by the US,”** Jonasson said.

Both whistleblowers have spent several years under protection: Assange has been staying in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for about four years, while Snowden was granted asylum in Russia in 2013, and he is still staying at an undisclosed location there.



## Assange interview with John Pilger

RT

5 Nov. 2016

Whistleblower Julian Assange has given one of his most incendiary interviews ever in a John Pilger Special, courtesy of Dartmouth Films, in which he summarizes what can be gleaned from the tens of thousands of Clinton emails released by WikiLeaks this year.

John Pilger, another Australian émigré, conducted the 25-minute interview at the Ecuadorian Embassy, where Assange has been trapped since 2012 for fear of extradition to the US. Last month, Assange had his internet access cut off for alleged “interference” in the American presidential election through the work of his website.

*John Pilger: What's the significance of the FBI's intervention in this last week of the US election campaign in the case against Hillary Clinton?*

Julian Assange: If you go to the history of the FBI, it has become effectively America's political police. And the FBI demonstrated with taking down the former head of the CIA over classified information given to his mistress [that] almost no one was untouchable. The FBI is always trying to demonstrate that, "No one can resist us." But Hillary Clinton very conspicuously resisted the FBI's investigation. So, there is anger within the FBI because it made the FBI look weak. Well, we have published quite a number of different sets of emails, so, about 33,000 of Clinton's emails while she was Secretary of State. They come from a batch of just over 60,000 emails. In those 60,000 emails, Clinton has kept about half, 30,000, to herself, and we have published about half. And then there are the Podesta emails we've been publishing. Podesta is Hillary Clinton's primary campaign manager. So, there's a thread that runs through all of these emails. There is quite a lot of "pay for play," as they call it—taking... giving access in exchange for money for many individual states, individuals and corporations—combined with the cover-up of Hillary Clinton's emails while she was Secretary of State has led to an environment where the pressure on the FBI increases.

*JP: But the Clinton campaign has said that Russia is behind all of this. It says that Russia has manipulated the campaign and is the source for WikiLeaks and its emails.*

JA: The Clinton camp has been able to project that kind of neo-McCarthyist hysteria that Russia is responsible for everything....

Hillary Clinton stated multiple times— falsely— that 17 US intelligence agencies had assessed that Russia was the source of our publications. OK. That's false. We can say that the Russian government is not the source. WikiLeaks has been publishing for 10 years. In that 10 years, we've published 10 million documents. Several thousand individual publications, several thousand different sources. And we have never got it wrong.

All the emails that give evidence of access for money and how Hillary Clinton herself benefitted from this and how she is benefitting politically are quite extraordinary. I'm thinking of where **the Qatari representative was given five minutes with Bill Clinton for a million-dollar check** and many other examples.... Or \$12 million from Morocco.

JP:...\$12 million from Morocco....

JA: ... for Hillary Clinton to attend.

JP:*In terms of the foreign policy of the United States, that's where — for me, anyway — where the emails are most revealing, where they show the direct connection Hillary Clinton and the foundation of jihadism, of ISIL in the Middle East. Can you talk something about that? What the... how the emails demonstrate this connection between... those who are meant to be fighting the jihadist ISIL are actually those who have helped create it.*

JA: There's an early 2014 email from Hillary Clinton, so not so long after she left [her job as] Secretary of State, to her campaign manager John Podesta. That email, it states that ISIL, ISIS is funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar— the governments of Saudi Arabia and Qatar. Now, this is a... **I actually think this is the most significant email in the whole collection...**

And perhaps because Saudi and Qatari money is spread all over the place, including into many media institutions, all serious analysts know, even the US government has mentioned or agreed with that some Saudi figures have been supporting ISIS, funding ISIS. But the dodge has always been, that's... what... it's just some rogue princes using their cut of the oil money to do what they like but actually the government disapproves. **But that email says that no, it is the governments of Saudi and the government of Qatar that have been funding ISIS.**

JP:*The Saudis, the Qataris, the Moroccans, the Bahrainis — particularly the Saudis and the Qataris giving all this money to the Clinton Foundation while Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State and the State Department is approving massive arms sales, particularly to Saudi Arabia.*

JA: Under Hillary Clinton, and Clinton emails reveal significant discussion about it, **the largest ever arms deal in the world was made with Saudi Arabia— more than \$80 billion. In fact, during her tenure as Secretary of State, total arms exports from United States in terms of the dollar value doubled.**

JP: *Doubled. And of course, the consequence of that is that this notorious terrorist jihadist group called ISIL, or ISIS, is created largely with money from the very people who are giving money to the Clinton Foundation.*

JA: Yes.

JP:*That's extraordinary.*

JA: Look. Hillary Clinton is just a person. I actually feel quite sorry for Hillary Clinton as a person because I see someone who is eaten alive by their ambitions, tormented literally to the point where they become sick. You know, they faint as a result of going on and going on with their ambitions. **But she represents a whole network of people, and a network of relationships also with particular states.** The question is, how does Hillary Clinton fit in this broader network? She's this centralizing cog, so that you've got a lot of different gears in operation from the big banks like Goldman Sachs, and major elements of Wall Street, and intelligence, and people in the State Department, and the Saudis, and so on. **She's is the, if you like, the centralizer that interconnects all these different cogs.** She's smooth central representation of all that, and all that is

more or less what is in power now in the United States. It's what you call the establishment, or the DC consensus, and its influences. In fact, one of the most significant Podesta emails that we released was about how the Obama cabinet was formed— and **half the Obama cabinet was basically nominated by a representative from Citibank**. It is quite amazing.

JP: *Well, it is... Didn't Citibank supply a list?*

JA: Yes.

JP: *...Which turned out to be...*

JA: Which turned out to be...

JP: *...to be mostly the Obama cabinet.*

JA: Yes.

JP: *So, Wall Street decides the cabinet of the president of the United States.*

JA: If you were following the Obama campaign back then closely, you could see it had become very close to banking interests. It wasn't so close to oil interests but it was very close to banking interests....

So, I think **you can't properly understand Hillary Clinton's foreign policy without understanding Saudi Arabia**. The connections with Saudi Arabia are so intimate.

JP: *Why was she so demonstrably enthusiastic about the destruction of Libya? Can you talk a little about just what the emails have told us — told you — about what happened there? Because Libya is such a source for so much of the mayhem now in Syria: the ISIL, jihadism, and so on. And it was almost Hillary Clinton's invasion. What do the emails tell us about that?*

JA: Libya more than anyone else's war was Hillary Clinton's war. Barack **Obama initially opposed it**. Who was the person who was championing it? Hillary Clinton. That's documented throughout her emails. She had... She put her favored agent in effect, Sidney Blumenthal, onto that. There's more than 1,700 emails out of the 33 thousand of Hillary Clinton's emails we published just about Libya.

It's not about that Libya has cheap oil. **She perceived the removal of Gaddafi and the overthrow of the Libyan state something that she would use to run in the general election for president**. So late 2011, there's an internal document called the "Libya Tick Tock" that is produced for Hillary Clinton, and it's all the... it's a chronological description of how Hillary Clinton was the central figure in the destruction of the Libyan state.

**As a result, there are around 40,000 deaths within Libya. Jihadists moved in, ISIS moved in. That led to the European refugee and migrant crisis**, because not only did you have people fleeing Libya, people then fleeing Syria, destabilization of other African countries as a result of arms flows. The Libyan state itself was no longer able to control movement of people through it. So, Libya faces on to the Mediterranean. So, **it had been effectively the cork in the bottle of Africa**. So, all problems, all economic problems, the civil war in Africa... Previously, the people fleeing those problems didn't end up in Europe because Libya policed the Mediterranean. **And that was said**

**explicitly at the time, back in 2011, by Gaddafi: what do these Europeans think they are doing, trying to bomb and destroy the Libyan state? There's going to be floods of migrants out of Africa, and jihadists into Europe. And that is exactly what happened.**

*JP: You get a lot of complaints from people saying, "What is WikiLeaks doing, are they trying to put Trump into White House?"*

JA: My analysis is that Trump would not be permitted to win. Why do I say that? Because he's had every establishment offside. Trump doesn't have one establishment—**maybe with the exception of the Evangelicals, if you can call them an establishment. But banks, intelligence, arms companies, big foreign money, etc.—it's all united behind Hillary Clinton. And the media as well: so, media owners and even journalists themselves.**

*JP: The accusations that WikiLeaks is in league with the Russians and you hear people saying, "Well, why doesn't WikiLeaks investigate and publish emails on Russia?"*

JA: **We have published over 800,000 documents of various kinds that relate to Russia. Most of those are critical.** And... a great many books have come out of our publications about Russia, most of which are critical. And our documents have gone on to be used in quite a number of court cases, refugee cases of people fleeing some kinds of claimed political persecution in Russia, which they use our documents to back up.

*JP: Do you take yourself a view of the US election? Do you have a preference for Clinton or Trump?*

JA: Donald Trump—what does he represent in the American mind and in the European mind? He represents American "white trash," deplorable and irredeemable. Basically, the same thing. It means, from a... establishment or educated, cosmopolitan, urbane perspective, these people are, you know, like the rednecks, and you can't... like, they are just... you can never deal with them. And because he so clearly—through his words and actions and the type of people that turns up at his rallies—represents the people who are not the upper-middle-class-educated, there is a fear of seeming to be associated in any way with that, a social fear that lowers the class status of anyone who can be accused of somehow assisting in any way Trump, including criticizing Clinton. And if you look at how the middle class gains its economic and social power, it makes absolute sense. *[Not to mention the policies that Trump has actually trumpeted, apparently. Why not? --A.B.]*

*JP: I'd like to talk about Ecuador, a small country that has given you refuge and has given you asylum in this embassy in London. Now, Ecuador cut off the Internet from here, where we're doing this interview, in the embassy for the clearly obvious reason that they were concerned about appearing to intervene in the US election campaign. Can you talk about why they would take that action and your own views on Ecuador's support for you?*

JA: Let's go back four years ago. I made an asylum application to Ecuador in this embassy because of the US extradition case. And the result was after a month, I was successful in my application, and then the embassy has been surrounded by the police. Quite an expensive police operation, which the British government admits they're

spending more than 12.6 million pounds— they’ve admitted that over a year ago. And now there’s undercover police and there’s robot surveillance cameras of various kinds.

So, there has been a quite serious conflict right here in the heart of London between Ecuador— a country of 16 million people— and the United Kingdom. And the Americans, who’ve been helping on the side. So, that was a brave and principled thing for Ecuador to do. Now we have the US election afoot. The Ecuadorian election is in February next year. You have the White House feeling the political heat as a result of the true information that we have been publishing. WikiLeaks does not publish from the jurisdiction of Ecuador, from its embassy or the territory of Ecuador. **We publish from France, we publish from Germany, we publish from the Netherlands and a number of other countries.** So, the attempted squeeze on WikiLeaks is through my refugee status. And this is really intolerable: When you try and get at a publishing organization, to try and prevent it publishing true information that is of intense interest to the American people and others about an election.

*JP: Tell us what would happen if you walked out of this embassy.*

JA: So, I would be immediately arrested by the British police, and I would then be extradited, either immediately to the United States, or to Sweden. In Sweden, I am not charged, I’ve already been previously cleared, etc. So, we’re not certain exactly what would happen there, but then we know that the Swedish government has refused to say that they will not extradite me to the United States. And they have extradited 100 percent of people that the US has requested since at least 2000. So, **over the last 15 years, every single person that the US has tried to extradite from Sweden has been extradited.** And they refuse to provide the guarantees. So, it’s... yeah.

*JP: People often ask how you cope with the isolation here.*

JA: Look, one of the best attributes of human beings is that they are adaptable. One of the worst attributes of human beings is that they are adaptable. They adapt and start to tolerate abuses. They adapt to being involved themselves in abuses. They adapt to adversity and continue on. So, in my situation... frankly, I’m a bit institutionalized. This is the world— visually, this is the world.

*JP: It’s a world without sunlight, for one thing...*

JA: It’s a world without sunlight, but I haven’t seen sunlight in so long like I don’t remember it. So, yeah, you adapt. The one real irritant is that my young children— they also adapt. They adapt to being without their father. That’s a hard adaptation, which they didn’t ask for.

*JP: Do you worry about them?*

JA: Yeah, I worry about them, I worry about their mother.

*JP: Some people would say, “Well, why don’t you end it and simply walk out the door and allow yourself to be extradited to Sweden?”*

JA: The UN has looked into this whole situation. They spent 18 months in formal adversarial litigation: me, at the UN, versus Sweden and the UK— who is right? The

UN made a conclusion—I'm being arbitrarily detained, illegally, deprived of my freedom. What has been... occurred, has not occurred within the laws that the United Kingdom and Sweden must obey. It is an illegal abuse.

I mean, the United Nations formally asking what's going on here, what's your legal explanation for this. He says you should be... you should recognize his asylum. Sweden formally writing back to United Nations, says "No, we're not going to," leaving open their ability to extradite.

**I just find it absolutely amazing that the narrative about this situation is not put out publicly and in the press.** Because it doesn't suit the Western establishment narrative that, "Yes, the West has political prisoners." It's a reality. It's not just me, there's a bunch of other people as well. The West has political prisoners. No state accepts to call the people it is imprisoning or detaining for political reasons "political prisoners." They don't call them political prisoners in China, they don't call them political prisoners in Azerbaijan, and they don't call them political prisoners in the United States, the UK or Sweden. It's absolutely intolerable to have that kind of self-perception.

But here we have a case. Talking about the Swedish case, where I have never been charged with a crime, where I have already been cleared and found to be innocent, where the woman herself said that the police made it up, where the United Nations formally said the whole thing is illegal, where the state of Ecuador also investigated and found that I should be given asylum. Those are the facts. But what is the rhetoric?

*JP: Different.*

JA: The rhetoric is pretending, constantly pretending that I have been charged with a crime, never mentioning that I have been already previously cleared, never mentioning that the woman herself says that the police made it up, trying to avoid that the UN formally found that the whole thing is illegal. Never even mentioning that Ecuador made a formal assessment through its formal processes and found that yes, I am subject to persecution by the United States.

[www.rt.com/news/365405-assange-pilger-full-transcript](http://www.rt.com/news/365405-assange-pilger-full-transcript)

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## Assange Testimony

*Justice for Assange*  
7 December 2016

Cover letter by Julian Assange:

Six years ago today, on 7 December 2010, I was handcuffed and locked into Wandsworth prison by order of a Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny. I had not and still have not been charged with an offence. The claimed grounds for my arrest and extradition without charge were so that Ny could question me. But it was not until six years later — three weeks ago — that I was questioned for the first time. I have decided to release my responses. But first, some background:

I am Australian. I am not Swedish. I do not speak Swedish. I have never resided in Sweden.

I am entirely innocent. I was already cleared of exactly this allegation in 2010 by the Chief Prosecutor of Stockholm, Eva Finne, who closed the case.

During the height of the Pentagon's conflict with me the following month, the allegation was resurrected by the current prosecutor, Marianne Ny. It was immediately seized on to extinguish my freedom of movement and harm my reputation.

Without even bothering to take my statement, the Swedish Prosecution Authority broke its own rules and released my name to a tabloid newspaper. **Prosecutor Ny went on to produce more than 40 press releases and press conferences about me. As a result, to this day more than half a million webpages falsely conflate my name with the word "rape".**

For six years I called for my statement to be taken so that the 'preliminary investigation' might again be swiftly closed.

In February this year the United Nations found that Prosecutor Ny has caused Sweden and the UK to breach their international human rights obligations. The UN found that her actions are subjecting me to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" and an unlawful deprivation of liberty which must immediately cease.

Finally, as a result, last month Marianne Ny sent a deputy and a policewoman to London to question me over two days, but — true to form — my Swedish lawyer was excluded from the room in yet another breach of my basic rights.

On 30 November the United Nations re-affirmed its decision in relation to my case. I am now releasing my statement to the public. The reason is simple. I want people to know the truth about how abusive this process has been. Furthermore, in the past the prosecution has fed partial information to tabloids that politically oppose me. It is better that my statement, which I am happy with, and which makes it obvious to all that I am innocent, sees the light in full.

*Julian Assange  
London  
7 December 2016*

**Link to full text of Assange testimony**

<https://justice4assange.com/IMG/html/assange-statement-2016.html>

<https://justice4assange.com/Assange-Testimony.html>

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## **Julian Assange says texts show he is 'entirely innocent' of rape**

*WikiLeaks founder criticises Swedish prosecutor*

*Steve Cannane  
ABC (Australia)  
7 Dec. 2016*

Julian Assange has **gone public for the first time** with his version of events surrounding a rape allegation made against him, saying he is "entirely innocent" and text messages show "it is clearly consensual sex between adults".

The questioning of Mr Assange in November was the latest move in a six-year saga that has seen Sweden issue an international arrest warrant and the WikiLeaks founder seeking political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy.

In the statement Mr Assange says he has been subjected to "six years of unlawful, politicised detention without charge", and documents selected extracts of his lawyers' notes of text messages sent by the two women at the centre of the allegations.

The 19-page statement also suggests Mr Assange may not have directly answered all of the questions asked by the Ecuadorian prosecutor, on behalf of the Swedish prosecutor.

A Swedish prosecutor and an Ecuadorian prosecutor were in the embassy for a day-and-a-half, but Mr Assange's own statement suggests when he was asked a question, he would likely refer the prosecutor to his statement.

"I want people to know the truth about how abusive this process has been," Mr Assange said in releasing the statement.

"Furthermore, in the past the prosecution has fed partial information to tabloids that politically oppose me.

"It is better that my statement, which I am happy with, and which makes it obvious to all that I am innocent, sees the light in full."

Mr Assange reiterates in his statement that he is "entirely innocent" of the one remaining allegation of rape and says text messages seen by his Swedish lawyers show that "it is clearly consensual sex between adults".

The ABC has not seen the text messages.

Mr Assange details notes taken by his lawyers at a Swedish police station after they were allowed to read text messages sent between SW and AA — the two women who made allegations against the WikiLeaks founder.

**According to Mr Assange's statement the text messages included the following:**

On 17 August, SW wrote "JA did not want to use a condom".

On 20 August, while at the police station, SW wrote that she "did not want to put any charges on Julian Assange" but that "the police were keen on getting their hands on him".

According to the statement she was "chocked (sic shocked) when they arrested him" because she "only wanted him to take [an STD test]".



On 21 August, SW wrote that she "did not want to accuse" Julian Assange "for anything" and that it was the "police who made up the charges (sic)"

On 23 August, SW wrote that it was the police, not herself, who started the whole thing.

On 26 August, AA wrote that they ought to sell their stories for money to a newspaper.

On 28 August, AA wrote that they had a contact on the biggest Swedish tabloid and SW wrote that their lawyer negotiated with the tabloid.

Mr Assange was accused of starting to have sex with SW while she was asleep. Under Swedish law this could constitute rape.

He says a text message sent by SW shows this did not happen.

According to his statement, SW said "I was half asleep".

The WikiLeaks founder *[and the prosecutor --A.B.]* says he has been denied permission to read all of the text messages.

**In his statement, Mr Assange wonders whether the interview process was "simply a ruse to tick a box to ensure the technical possibility to indict me, irrespective of how I answer any questions".**

Mr Assange points out that he has tried for six years to give a statement to the Swedish prosecutor via various means, including in Sweden before he left, in London via video link or in an embassy, or back in Sweden if he was given a guarantee that he would not be extradited to the US, where he fears being prosecuted on some form of espionage-related charge.

The WikiLeaks editor-in-chief says he does not believe Swedish prosecutor Ms Ny is "acting in good faith or with the objectivity and impartiality required of her office".

When contacted for comment, the Swedish Prosecutor's office told the ABC prosecutors cannot provide information concerning the interview.

"As the investigation is ongoing, it is subject to confidentiality," a spokesperson said. "This confidentiality also applies according to Ecuadorian legislation for the investigative measures conducted at the embassy."

Elisabeth Fritz, the Swedish lawyer who represents one of the women involved in the case, said Mr Assange "seems to be desperate".

"As soon as he has something to say, he calls on the media, and this time he conducts the investigation through the media," she said. *[This is the first time that Assange has given his version of the events in question. --A.B.]*

"The only thing I can say is that Assange has low credibility and we will prove [that during the] prosecution."

Ms Fritz said the ongoing investigation should be respected. "I also expect that Assange stops violating my client in the media," she said. "She has suffered enough." *[Massi Fritz has herself conducted a lengthy, aggressive and mendacious "trial by media", quite possibly because she doubts that she can prevail in court. --A.B.]*

**Per Samuelson, one of Mr Assange's lawyers based in Sweden, said Ms Fritz's response was proof that she would work towards an indictment irrespective of what Mr Assange said in his defence.**

"Thus it is of utmost importance for the defence of Julian Assange to see to it that the merits of the case — the truth — is made public before his statement is distorted by people in Sweden who want him indicted at any cost," Mr Samuelson said.

**"In Sweden the pre-investigation is since long poisoned by prestige and politics. This is the only way for Julian Assange to secure that the true facts of the case are made clear."**

On the first day of questioning in the Ecuadorian embassy, Mr Assange read from his 19-page statement, but it is unclear whether he subsequently answered any of the questions directly.

At the bottom of his statement he says:

"You have subjected me to six years of unlawful, politicised detention without charge in prison, under house arrest and four-and-a-half years at this embassy.

"You should have asked me this question six years ago.

"Your actions in refusing to take my statement for the last six years have been found to be unlawful by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and by the Swedish Court of Appeal.

"You have been found to have subjected me to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. You have denied me effective legal representation in this process.

"Despite this, I feel compelled to cooperate even though you are not safeguarding my rights. I refer you to my statement where all these questions were answered."

This part of the statement suggests that if Mr Assange answered any questions at all he did so with this rote answer, a tactic which would have no doubt infuriated Ms Ny, who while not present during the questioning, has been leading the investigation for the past six years.

For some reason Mr Assange's Swedish lawyer Per Samuelsson was not allowed to be in the Ecuadorian embassy during the questioning. *[This presumably helps to explain his "rote answers" from his written statement. --A.B.]*

When asked whether Mr Assange answered questions asked by the prosecutor or did he simply say 'I refer you to my statement?' **Mr Samuelson responded, "He did both".**

Key points:

- Julian Assange details accounts of what he calls consensual sex with woman known as SW
- Assange says he has been subjected to "six years of unlawful, politicised detention without charge"
- Assange's 19-page statement suggests he may have referred prosecutors to statement when asked questions
- The ABC has obtained a copy of the statement the WikiLeaks founder gave prosecutors from his refuge inside the Ecuadorian embassy in London on November 14.

The statement includes:

- Detailed accounts of what he calls consensual sex with the woman known as SW
- Claims he had consensual and enjoyable sex four or five times with SW
- Alleged specifics of text messages from SW
- A virulent rejection of Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny's actions

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-12-07/julian-assange-goes-public-on-rape-allegations/8099276>

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## **Assange Releases SMS Records Showing He Was Framed by Police in Rape Cases**

*Matt Agorist  
Free Thought Project  
December 7, 2016*

Julian Assange, for the last six years, has been persecuted and held captive because of rape allegations; allegations that we have now found out are entirely fabricated by police.

Today marks the first time that Assange has gone public with his version of events surrounding the rape allegations for which he was arrested in 2010.

"Six years ago today, on 7 December 2010, I was handcuffed and locked into Wandsworth prison by order of a Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny," Assange explains in a testimony released on Wednesday. "I had not and still have not been charged with an offence. The claimed grounds for my arrest and extradition without charge were so that Ny could question me. But it was not until six years later — three weeks ago — that I was questioned for the first time. I have decided to release my responses."

In November, Assange was finally questioned over a two-day period. However, as Assange points out, "my Swedish lawyer was excluded from the room in yet another breach of my basic rights."

In a 19-page statement, also released on Wednesday, Assange details the events leading up to his persecution, including being railroaded by the American, Swedish, English and Australian governments.

You have subjected me to six years of unlawful, politicized detention without charge in prison, under house arrest and four and a half years at this embassy. You should have asked me this question six years ago. Your actions in refusing to take my statement for the last six years have been found to be unlawful by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and by the Swedish Court of Appeal. You have been found to have subjected me to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. You have denied me effective legal representation in this process. Despite this, I feel compelled to cooperate even though you are not safeguarding my rights. I refer you to my statement where all these questions were answered.

Not coincidentally, all of these allegations of Assange's alleged sexual misconduct came after he began exposing the war crimes of the US government, after being leaked information by the heroic Chelsea Manning.

"I... could not believe my eyes when five days later I saw a headline in a Swedish tabloid that I was suspected of a crime and arrested in my absence. I immediately made myself available to Swedish authorities to clarify any questions that might exist, even though I had no obligation to do so."

In his statement, Assange outlines the details of what he refers to as "consensual and enjoyable" sex with a woman known as 'SW,' which he says occurred four or five times.

Assange is accused of having sex with SW while she was asleep which is considered rape under Swedish law. However, on Wednesday, he released SMS messages showing that this did not happen. According to the statement:

Her behaviour towards me on the night in question and in the morning made it clear that she actively and enthusiastically wanted me to have sex with her. This is also shown by text messages "SW" sent to her friends during the course of the evening I was at her home and during that week, which the Swedish police collected from her phone. Although the prosecutor has fought for years to prevent me, the public and the courts from seeing them, my lawyers were permitted to see them at the police station and were able to note down a number of them, including:

On 14 August 2010 "SW" sent the following text to a friend: I want him. I want him. Followed by several more of similar content (all referring to me) in the lead-up to the events in question (13:05);

On 17 August "SW" wrote that we had long foreplay, but nothing happened (01:14); then it got better (05:15);

On 17 August, after all sex had occurred, "SW" wrote to a friend that it "turned out all right" other than STD/pregnancy risk (10:29);

On 20 August "SW", while at the police station, wrote that she "did not want to put any charges on Julian Assange" but that "the police were keen on getting their hands on him" (14:26); and that she was "choked (sic shocked) when they arrested him" because she "only wanted him to take a test" (17:06);

On 21 August “SW” wrote that she “did not want to accuse” Julian Assange “for anything”, (07:27); and that it was the “police who made up the charges (sic)” (22:25);

On 23 August “AA” (the other woman whose case was dropped in August 2015) wrote to “SW” that it was important that she went public with her story so that they could form public opinion for their case (06:43);

On 23 August “SW” wrote that it was the police, not herself, who started the whole thing (16:02);

On 26 August “AA” wrote to “SW” that they ought to sell their stories for money to a newspaper (13:38);

On 28 August “AA” wrote that they had a contact on the biggest Swedish tabloid (12:53); and “SW” wrote that their lawyer negotiated with the tabloid (15:59);

“Without even bothering to take my statement, the Swedish Prosecution Authority broke its own rules and released my name to a tabloid newspaper,” explains Assange in his testimony. “Prosecutor Ny went on to produce more than 40 press releases and press conferences about me. **As a result, to this day more than half a million webpages falsely conflate my name with the word “rape”.**

Luckily for Assange, the world is waking up to his mistreatment. Just last week, the United Nations rejected an appeal by the U.K. of a previous ruling as “not admissible,” noting that London and Stockholm must end the ‘arbitrary detention’ of the WikiLeaks founder.

As Claire Bernish pointed out last week, Julian Assange has the unimpeded right to walk away from the Ecuadorian Embassy that has graciously provided asylum to the arbitrarily detained Wikileaks founder without fear of being arrested and taken into custody — at least theoretically.

Without grounds for further appeal, the British and Swedish governments are left without tangible justification for continuing to tacitly force Assange to remain secreted inside his haven in London.

But it remains to be seen what, precisely, will happen next.

<http://thefreethoughtproject.com/assange-sms-records-framed-police/>

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## **Julian Assange defies Swedish prosecutors by releasing rape statement**

*WikiLeaks founder publishes answers he gave during questioning in Ecuador’s London embassy over rape allegation*

*David Crouch  
The Guardian  
7 December 2016*

Julian Assange has thumbed his nose at Swedish investigators, who he says have robbed him of his freedom for six years, by releasing the answers he gave to them under questioning in Ecuador’s London embassy last month.

The decision to issue the statement, which contains for the first time a detailed account by the WikiLeaks founder of his encounter with a woman in August 2010 who made rape allegations against him, marks a fresh twist in a case in which Assange claims an early leak of information from the Swedish police has shaped opinion.

The transcript of a police interview with the woman was leaked to media in December 2010, which the Australian, who has not been charged with any crime, says helped to establish an aura of guilt around him.

Since then, Assange has repeatedly asked to be allowed to tell his side of the story to prosecutors, but until recently they insisted he come to Sweden for questioning. Assange has been confined to Ecuador's cramped London embassy since June 2012, after claiming asylum to avoid extradition over the allegations.

"I am now releasing my statement to the public," Assange says in a letter accompanying the document. "The reason is simple. I want people to know the truth about how abusive this process has been."

The release of the statement is likely to be met with dismay in Sweden, where prosecutors' desire for personal aspects of the case to remain confidential has led them to deny Assange access to evidence against him, because of the risk that it might become public *[so they say --A.B.]*.

The move was condemned by Elisabeth Massi Fritz, the lawyer for Assange's accuser, who said that his decision to release details of their relationship the statement was "unfortunate".

She later accused Assange of "violating" her client in the media. "Assange seems to be desperate. As soon as he has something to say he calls the media and is conducting the investigation through the media," she told Swedish broadcaster SVT.

"The only thing I can say is that Assange has low credibility, which we will prove when we prosecute. I expect the prosecutor to issue charges. I also expect Assange to stop violating my client in the media. She has suffered more than enough for six years."

In correspondence with Ecuador over the conditions of Assange's interrogation, the Swedish prosecutor in the case, Marianne Ny, insisted the proceedings remain private to protect the plaintiff. A spokesperson for Ny told the Guardian she was awaiting the formal report on the interviews from Ecuador, due this month, before deciding on her next step.

The statement, which Assange read out to investigators in response to their questioning, contains a sustained attack on the prosecutor, for whom he claims the interview in London was "simply a ruse to tick a box to ensure the technical possibility to indict me". Under Swedish law, an interview with the suspect is an essential step before issuing charges.

The statement fleshes out Assange's argument that he is at risk of extradition from Sweden to the US to face espionage charges—and potentially a life behind bars.

Last week, the UN's working group on arbitrary detention rejected an appeal by the UK against its February ruling that the risks facing Assange if he leaves the embassy mean his situation amounts to a prolonged deprivation of liberty "in breach of the principles of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality".

Until now, Assange has not described his sexual encounter with his accuser. He has not publicly apologised to her or tried to mitigate the distress she has been caused [*probably because he did not cause it — not to mention, for some reason, that Assange has suffered considerably greater distress --A.B.*].

Assange's statement says that, owing to US hostility towards WikiLeaks, his bank cards were blocked after his arrival in Sweden in the summer of 2010 at the peak of the Pentagon's conflict with him over the release of a trove of diplomatic and military documents. This made him highly dependent on the hospitality of others.

The woman "appeared to be sympathetic to my plight and also appeared to be romantically interested in me", Assange told prosecutors. "She was not close to people I was close to, so it seemed that those who meant me harm would be unlikely to try to find me by monitoring her movements."

She "made it very clear that she wanted to have sexual intercourse" with Assange and placed his hands on her breasts while in a cinema, he continued. "I felt concerned about the intensity of [her] interest and I also deeply loved another woman, which played on my mind and left me emotionally distracted."

The intensity of her interest made him fear how she might react if she felt he was rejecting her, he said. He claimed he later discovered she had collected dozens of photos of him in the weeks before they met, **her Flickr photo account filled with "pages and pages" of photos of Assange.**

After they had unprotected sex, she wanted him to have a test for sexually transmitted diseases, the statement continues.

"We were in agreement and arranged to meet the following day in the nearby park around lunchtime, when I would have time to get tested. She said she was fine and seemed at ease. You can imagine my disbelief when I woke the next morning to the news that I had been arrested in my absence for 'rape' and that police were 'hunting' all over Stockholm for me."

Assange claims that text messages sent by the woman at the time — access to which his lawyers were allowed only briefly and early in the case — show that she was not asleep during the sex.

"I was certain [she] was not asleep. I was also certain she expressly consented to unprotected sex before such intercourse started." The woman has insisted that a prerequisite of intercourse was that a condom be used.

He claims the texts also show that the woman said at the time she "did not want to put any charges on Julian Assange", but that "the police were keen on getting their hands

on him” and that she was “shocked when they arrested him” because she “only wanted him to take a test”.

According to the transcripts leaked to the Guardian in 2010, the woman told police she met Assange at a seminar at which he was speaking, and afterwards went to the cinema with him, where they kissed in the back row.

Two days later, she arranged to meet him and they went to her flat. They started to have sex, she said, but she moved away because Assange had not wanted to wear a condom, and he fell asleep. She told police they later had sex at least once when he had “unwillingly” worn a condom, but the following morning, after she had gone to buy breakfast and then climbed back into bed and fallen asleep, she had woken to find him having sex with her without a condom.

According to the statement, she told him: “You better not have HIV” and he answered “Of course not,” but “she couldn’t be bothered to tell him one more time because she had been going on about the condom all night. She had never had unprotected sex before.” The statement says that she bought the morning after pill and took an STD test but when she telephoned Assange asking him to be tested he said he didn’t have the time.

Assange has made no secret of his contempt for the Swedish prosecutor, but his decision to release his side of the story appears calculated to place further pressure on Ny to end the stalemate in the case, either by issuing a rape charge— and implicitly explaining the evidence for the charge — or lifting the arrest warrant against him.

“In the past the prosecution has fed partial information to tabloids that politically oppose me,” Assange said. “It is better that my statement, which I am happy with, and which makes it obvious to all that I am innocent, sees the light in full.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/07/julian-assange-defies-swedish-prosecutors-by-releasing-statement>

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## **Julian Assange is not alone in his lack of empathy for women**

*The WikiLeaks founder portrays himself as a victim of the sexual machinations of others. That attitude is horribly widespread.*

Deborah Orr  
The Guardian  
7 December 2016

Six years on from the leak of accounts by two women of allegations of sexual assault and rape, Julian Assange has released his own interview with Swedish prosecutors, offering an alternative narrative to that offered by one of the women.

Somehow he has managed to persuade himself that his testimony satisfies the questions, but all it really does is advertise that he is a man who appears to have little respect for boundaries and who, far from even beginning to recognise this in himself, casts himself wholly as a victim of the sexual machinations of others.



Rather in the manner of Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Assange portrays himself as someone who always relies on the comfort of strangers. His argument is that during his time in Sweden he was a marked man. He had to be careful where he stayed, in case his cohort of known supporters was being monitored, in order that they would lead the spies to Assange. I don't dispute that this worry might have been real and important for Assange. Nevertheless, quite why the perfect answer was to stay at the homes of women who wanted to have sex with him is completely glossed over.

In fact, he said one of the women was so "very clear" that she wanted to have intercourse that he "felt concerned about the intensity of her interest". Now, plenty of people ignore "red flags" in the undertaking of sexual dalliances, as Assange apparently did. An emotionally healthy person would understand that this concern was something to be heeded, and that it was a situation to be avoided. Assange did not choose to take that course. This in itself suggests a man who does not shrink from entering into situations that some may view as exploitative.

Assange's position is that the charges have been trumped up, because he is viewed by the US establishment as a dangerous and powerful insurgent. Yet even his own supposedly vindictory evidence reflects wider sexually exploitative attitudes. It's not a crime to be sexually exploitative, to have little regard for the emotions or the boundaries of others, or to decide to have sex with someone because you need a place to spend the night. Indeed, this sort of behaviour seems pretty widespread, and hardly particular to Assange. And that is the really depressing thing.

People in the public eye are far more likely to be exposed for indulging in this sort of behaviour. Of course they defend themselves— and when they do so, they tend to feel they are being held to a different standard to others, and an unfair one. Often, a high-profile individual who has been implicated in a sexual scandal will attract many sympathisers, who understand that the behaviour of their hero is not so very unusual, and therefore believe there is nothing wrong with it. That's depressing too— there is something wrong with it.

Interpersonal exploitation— emotional, sexual or physically violent— is a blight on human relations and on human psychological health, for perpetrators as well as victims. It corrupts the social bonds that are so important to a decent society or culture.

Any person who gives himself (or herself) leave to behave in such a way is unlikely to understand quite where other lines should be drawn. And in those circumstances, it might be possible for such a person to fail to comprehend his behaviour as sexual assault or rape. His insight into and ability to understand his behaviour, its impact on others, and the ways in which others might experience or interpret it, is severely impaired.

Assange's leaked document illustrates a lack of empathy for the women he slept with. It's understandable if not admirable that he shouldn't be spending much time considering the feelings of two women who have brought him so much trouble. But his testimony shows that he most certainly wasn't spending much time considering their feelings long before events took the course they did.

This may not be a crime. The courts or prosecuting authorities will pronounce on that. But it is an attitude of mind that is pretty abject, very destructive and horribly widespread.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/07/julian-assange-empathy-women-wikileaks>

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## Massi Fritz: "Assange verkar vara desperat"

Mathias Gerdfeldter

SVT

7 december 2016

"Jag förväntar mig att Assange slutar kränka min klient i media." Så skriver Elisabeth Massi Fritz [*som ideligen kränker Assange i media --A.B.*], som företräder kvinnan i det uppmärksammade våldtäktsmålet mot Julian Assange. Hon och hennes klient har reagerat på det nya, offentliga nekandet, och beskriver Assange agerande som desperat.

Den sexbrottsmisstänkte Julian Assange, känd som grundare av Wikileaks, har för första gången offentliggjort sin version av händelserna vid tillfället då han misstänks ha våldtagit en svensk kvinna under ett besök i Stockholm 2010.

Kvinnan har i förhör tidigare berättat att de två hade samtyckande samlag under natten, och att hon då är noga med att han ska använda kondom. På morgonen ska hon sedan vakna av att han har samlag med henne igen, utan kondom. [*Hon sade till polisen att hon var "halvvaken". --A.B.*]

Enligt polisanmälan sker det oskyddade samlaget mot hennes vilja och händelsen rubriceras som våldtäkt.

I sin kommentar bestrider Assange flera detaljer i redogörelsen.

**"Detta är felaktigt. Jag var säker på att [kvinnan] inte sov. Jag var också säker på att hon uttryckte samtycke till att ha oskyddat sex innan samlaget inleddes,"** hävdar Julian Assange i den skriftliga redogörelsen, som han gav till utredarna i samband med att han förhördes på Ecuadors ambassad i London i mitten av november.

Kvinnans målsägarbiträde, Elisabeth Massi Fritz, har tagit del av Assanges nya offentliga nekande och diskuterat det med sin klient.

"Assange verkar vara desperat. Så fort han har något att säga kallar han på media och denna gång bedriver han förundersökningen via media," skriver Massi Fritz i en skriftlig kommentar till SVT Nyheter. [*Detta är första gången han har uttalat sig om själva skeendet. --A.B.*]

"Det enda jag kan säga är att Assange har låg trovärdighet och det kommer vi att bevisa när åtal väcks."

Om det blir något åtal är dock ännu inte klart, men beslutet om att antingen lägga ner utredningen, som pågått i över sex år, eller fortsätta och så småningom väcka åtal, kan nu komma innan årsskiftet.

”Jag förväntar mig att åklagaren väcker åtal i målet. Jag förväntar mig också att Assange slutar kränka min klient i media. Hon har lidit tillräckligt och det i sex år,” skriver Elisabeth Massi Fritz.

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DN: 2016-12-07

## **Assange ger sin version av sexbrottsanklagelserna**

Wikileaks grundare Julian Assange meddelade på onsdagen att han har offentliggjort sitt vittnesmål som han nyligen lämnade till svenska åklagare. Han förklarar att han är helt oskyldig till anklagelserna om sexualbrott i Sverige — och anklagar Sverige för att ha berövat honom sex års frihet.

På hemsidan ”Justice for Assange” har wikileaksgrundaren lagt ut ett 19 sidor långt dokument som han beskriver som det fulla vittnesmålet från honom angående anklagelser om sexualbrott i Sverige.

– Jag vill att folk ska få reda på sanningen om hur kränkande (abusive) den här processen varit, skriver han i uttalandet.

De svenska åklagarna har tidigare meddelat att man väntar på att Ecuador ska sammanställa förhöret och skicka det till Sverige. Förhören har ännu inte anlänt till Åklagarmyndigheten.

I dokumentet anklagar Julian Assange de svenska åklagarna för sex års olaglig politiserad häktning. Det är utformat som ett uttalande från Julian Assange och det framgår inte vad han har fått för frågor under förhören. Att hålla förhöret med honom kallar han för 'ett simpelt trick för att att kunna åtala mig'.

Ett kortare avsnitt handlar om anklagelserna om våldtäkt mot en kvinna i Sverige. Julian Assange berättar att det sex som förekommit har varit frivilligt mellan två vuxna personer. Han tillbakavisar uppgifter om att han vid något tillfälle skulle ha haft sex med kvinnan när hon sov.

Han berättar också att han och kvinnan har haft oskyddade samlag och att kvinnan efteråt ville att han skulle genomgå medicinska undersökningar för att visa att han inte hade några sexuellt överförbara sjukdomar, bland annat hiv.

Julian Assange ska då ha förklarat att han var upptagen den dagen och kvinnan ska då ha sagt att hon skulle gå till polisen för att tvinga Assange att testa sig.

De båda ska sedan ha kommit överens om att mötas följande dag när Assange hade tid att testa sig.

Men dagen därpå vaknade Assange till nyheten att han var anhållen i sin frånvaro, misstänkt för våldtäkt, enligt dokumentet.

Expressen: 7 dec. 2016

## **Assange offentliggör nu hela sina förhör**

Julian Assange gick i dag till skarpt angrepp mot chefåklagare Marianne Ny.

Han offentliggör sin version av vad han påstår hände med den svenska kvinna som anklagar honom för våldtäkt 2010.

"Jag vill att allmänheten ska veta sanningen om hur ovetting denna process har varit", säger han.

Den svenska rättsprocessen mot Julian Assange har varit en långdragen affär där Wikileaksgrundaren vägrat att överlämna sig till svenskt rättsväsende.

Men efter flera diskussioner åkte svenska åklagaren Ingrid Isgren till London i mitten av november i år för att förhöra honom på Ecuadors ambassad.

Assanges inställning till det brott han misstänks för och vad som framkom i förhöret har varit hemlig— fram tills nu, rapporterar The Independent.

På onsdag förmiddag valde han att offentliggöra sin 19 sidor långa version av vad som hände i Stockholm för sex år sedan då han hade sex med två kvinnor - som sedan anklagat honom för våldtäkt respektive sexuellt ofredande.

Assange redogör enligt The Independent detaljerat för händelserna och menar att han och den kvinna han hade samlag med var överens om att ha sex vid fyra eller fem upprepade gånger. Han refererar även till sms som enligt honom bekräftar att kvinnan gett samtycke till sex.

"Jag kunde inte tro mina ögon när jag fem dagar senare såg rubriken i en svensk kvällstidning att jag var brottsmisstänkt och anhållen i min frånvaro" skriver Assange.

Han fortsätter:

"Jag gjorde mig genast tillgänglig för svenska myndigheter för att klargöra alla frågor som kunde finnas, även om jag inte hade någon skyldighet att göra det."

Det var Expressen som 20 augusti 2010 avslöjade att Julian Assange anhållits i sin frånvaro misstänkt för våldtäkt efter att två kvinnor anmält honom.

I det 19 sidor långa dokumentet som The Independent tagit del av beskriver Wikileaksgrundaren de senaste sex åren som "sex år under en olaglig, politiserad häktning" och att han utsatts för "en grym, omänsklig och förnedrande behandling".

"Jag vill att folk ska veta sanningen om hur förnedrande den här processen varit."

Han fortsätter:

"Tidigare har åklagarsidan gett partisk information till kvällstidningar som motsätter sig mig. Då är det bättre att min deklaration, som jag är nöjd med och som tydliggör att jag är oskyldig, blir helt tillgänglig."

Claes Borgström har varit målsägandebiträde åt en av kvinnorna som Julian Assange anklagas för att ha förgripit sig på. Men dessa misstankar preskriberades för ett år sedan då de rörde olaga tvång och sexuellt ofredande.

De andra misstankarna som finns kvar är våldtäkten— där den anmälade kvinnan företräds av målsägandebiträdet Elisabeth Massi Fritz. I det fallet preskriberas brottet först 2020.

Eftersom Claes Borgström inte längre är inblandad i utredningen så avböjer han först att uttala sig. Men när Expressen berättar att Julian Assange skrivit att han "vill att folk ska veta sanningen om hur förnedrande den här processen varit" så blir Claes Borgström upprörd och väljer ändå att uttala sig.

– Jag kan ge den kommentaren då att hans sanning är inte min klients sanning. Och det djupt förnedrande, och jag talar för min tidigare klient då, har varit att utsättas för ett sexuellt övergrepp och sedan bli föremål för trakasserier på nätet. Och nu påstår han att det varit förnedrande för honom— det är upp och nervända världen, säger Claes Borgström.

Det låter som du är upprörd över det här?

– Ja, du har rätt i det. Jag blir det. Jag känner inte till så många målsägande som först är brottsoffer och sedan utsätts för så mycket som min klient har utsatts för. Åklagaren vill inte kommentera

Överåklagare Marianne Ny är förundersökningsledare i målet mot Julian Assange. Hon vill inte kommentera de uppgifter som Wikileaksgrundaren publicerade på onsdagen.

– Det pågår en förundersökning så vi kan inte kommentera det helt enkelt, säger Robin Simonsson, presstalesperson på åklagarmyndigheten.

Har åklagaren tagit del av Assanges 19 sidor långa dokument?

– Det kan jag inte svara på om åklagaren har gjort. Men det är väl troligt att hon på något vis har fått del av det, men det påverkar inte utredningen på något sätt.

Åklagarsidan väntar nu på att få en utskrift av förhöret på Ecuadors ambassad. Utskriften ansvarar den ecuadorianska åklagarmyndigheten för. Därefter kommer Marianne Ny ta ställning till om förundersökningen ska fortsätta eller läggas ned.

*Åsa Asplid  
Johan Ronge  
Mats Larsson*

DN: 12 december 2016

## Rolf Söderberg: Hanteringen av fallet Assange är helt barock

Fallet Julian Assange har fått mig att tappa förtroendet för Sveriges rättsväsende och för svensk press. Hela historien är fullständigt barock. Ingen ska försöka inbilla oss att en svensk åklagare i sex år skulle efterspana och samtidigt göra allt för att fördröja att lagföra en man för ett eventuellt brott, om det inte vore för alldeles speciella skäl.

Julian Assange är inte vem som helst. Han har som nästan fanatisk rättskämpe med hjälp av sin organisation Wikileaks blottlagt myndigheters hemligheter runt om i världen. Han började med att avslöja korruption i Kenya, gick vidare med bland annat bankskandaler på Island, men allvarligast av allt, avslöjade obehagliga detaljer om USA:s krigföring i Irak.

Det är inte på något sätt en hemlighet att USA vill ställa Julian Assange inför rätta för spioneri. Det har USA-senatens utrikesutskott enats om för länge sedan. En begäran om överföring kommer förstås inte förrän Assange eventuellt är överförd till Sverige. Det är utan tvekan en sådan resa åklagaren Marianne Nys handlande syftar till.

Självfallet skulle Sverige i ett sådant läge ha svårt att motsätta sig den viktigaste stormaktens begäran. Vårt land har en lång tradition av att söka blidka stormakter. Själv kommer jag ihåg balternas utlämnande till Sovjetunionen samt de nazityska militärtågen till och från det ockuperade Norge över svenska järnvägsspår.

Nationer och statsledningar må tänka på statsnyttan och offra en bonde i något högre syfte. Men rättsväsendet ska vara oberoende och inte låta sig utnyttjas. I det här fallet rör det sig om ett frivilligt samlag mellan två personer. **Kvinnan, som hela tiden vägrat påstå att hon våldtagits, har utnyttjats av rättsväsendet.**

**Den svenska pressen har inte ställt sig kritisk till vad som pågår, utan har gjort allt vad som varit möjligt för att skandalisera Julian Assange.**

Jag är säker på att detta går till historien, och att man inom något decennium kommer att finna både rättsväsendets handlande— eller brist på handlande— och pressens attityd som obegriplig och sorglig.

• Rolf Söderberg, pensionerad journalist, tidigare utrikesreporter på DN, Dagens Eko och Rapport



<http://asikt.dn.se/asikt/debatt/hanteringen-av-fallet-assange-ar-helt-barock/>

## Wikileaks cofounder: "Our source Chelsea Manning tortured in Usa"

STEFANIA MAURIZI  
*La Repubblica*  
23 dicembre 2016

LONDON - When they appeared on the scene for the first time in 2006, few noticed them. And when four years later they hit worldwide media headlines with their publication of over 700,000 secret US government documents, many assumed that Julian Assange and his organisation, WikiLeaks, would be annihilated very shortly.

Since 2010 Assange has lived first under house arrest and then confined to the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he has been granted asylum by Ecuador. The country's officials judged his concerns of being extradited to Sweden and then to the US to be put on trial for the WikiLeaks' revelations well-grounded.

*Repubblica* met Julian Assange in the embassy, nicely decorated for the Christmas season. These last ten years have been intense ones for his organisation, but the last two months have been truly hectic: WikiLeaks' publication of Hillary Clinton's and US Democrats' emails hit headlines around the world. The US government hit back, accusing WikiLeaks of having received these materials from Russian cybercriminals with the political agenda of influencing the US elections, a claim some experts question.

In the midst of these publications, Ecuador even cut off Julian Assange's internet connection. Finally, in November, Swedish prosecutors travelled to London to question the WikiLeaks' founder after six years of judicial paralysis. In a matter of a few weeks, they will be deciding whether to charge or absolve him once and for all. Next February, Ecuador will be holding political elections. If Julian Assange loses asylum, will he be extradited to Sweden and then to the US?

*How did it all start? Back in 2006, why did you think a new media organisation was necessary?*

I had watched the Iraq War closely, and in the aftermath of the Iraq War a number of individuals from the security services, including the Australian [ones], came out saying how they had attempted to reveal information before the war began and had been thwarted. **People who wanted to be whistleblowers before the Iraq war had not found a channel to get the information out.** I felt that this was a general problem and set about to construct the system which could solve this problem in general.

*In a famous interview, you declared that at the beginning you thought that your biggest role would be in China and in some of the former Soviet states and North Africa. Quite the opposite, most of WikiLeaks' biggest revelations concern the US military-industrial complex, its wars in Afghanistan and in Iraq and its serious human rights violations in the war on terror. These abuses have had a heavy impact in an open and democratic society like the United States and produced 'dissidents' like Chelsea Manning willing to expose them. Why aren't human rights abuses producing the same effects in regimes like China or Russia, and what can be done to democratise information in those countries?*

In Russia, there are many vibrant publications, online blogs, and Kremlin critics such as [Alexey] Navalny are part of that spectrum. There are also newspapers like "Novaya Gazeta", in which different parts of society in Moscow are permitted to critique each other and it is tolerated, generally, because it isn't a big TV channel that might have a mass popular effect, its audience is educated people in Moscow.

So my interpretation is that in Russia there are competitors to WikiLeaks, and no WikiLeaks staff speak Russian, so for a strong culture which has its own language, you have to be seen as a local player. **WikiLeaks is a predominantly English-speaking organisation with a website predominantly in English.** We have published more than 800,000 documents about or referencing Russia and president Putin, so we do have quite a bit of coverage, but the majority of our publications come from Western sources, though not always. For example, we have published more than 2 million documents from Syria, including Bashar al-Assad personally. Sometimes we make a publication about a country and they will see WikiLeaks as a player within that country, like with Timor East and Kenya. **The real determinant is how distant that culture is from English. Chinese culture is quite far away.**

*What can be done there?*

China banned us in 2007, we have worked around that censorship at various times, publishers there were too scared to publish [our documents]. The feeling is mixed within China: they of course like to see the Western critique that a number of our publications enable. **China is not a militaristic society, they don't see they have a comparative advantage in making warfare, so they presumably like general critiques of war, but it is a society that is authority-structured, which is terrified of dissidents, whereas if you compare it to Russia, it too is an increasingly authoritarian society, but one that has a cultural tradition of lionising dissidents.**

*Why aren't the US and UK intelligence agencies leaking to WikiLeaks about their enemies, like Russia or China? They could do it using NGOs or even activists as a cover and they could expose WikiLeaks, if your organisation didn't publish their documents...*

We publish full information, pristine archives, verifiable. That often makes it inconvenient for propaganda purposes, because for many organisations you see the good and the bad, and that makes the facts revealed harder to spin. If we go back to the Iraq War in 2003, let's imagine US intelligence tried to leak us some of their internal reports on Iraq. Now we know from US intelligence reports that subsequently came out that there was internal doubt and scepticism about the claim that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Even though there was intense pressure on the intelligence services at the political level to create reports that supported the rush towards the war, internally their analysts were hedging. The White House, Downing Street, the New York Times, the Washington Post and CNN stripped off those doubts. If WikiLeaks had published those reports, these doubts would have been expressed and the war possibly averted.

*WikiLeaks published documents on Hillary Clinton and the US Democrats. How do you reply to those who accuse you of having helped to elect Mr. Trump?*



What is the allegation here exactly? We published what the Democratic National Committee, John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, and Hillary Clinton herself were saying about their own campaign, which the American people read and were very interested to read, and assessed the elements and characters, and then they made a decision. That decision was based on Hillary Clinton's own words, her campaign manager's own words. That's democracy.

*Do you agree with those who say that it was a hit job, because you hit Hillary Clinton when she was most vulnerable, during the final weeks of her campaign?*

No, we have been publishing about Hillary Clinton for many years, because of her position as Secretary of State. **We have been publishing her cables since 2010 and her emails also.** We are domain experts on Clinton and her post 2008 role in government. This is why it is natural for sources who have information on Hillary Clinton to come to us. They know we will understand its significance.

*So Clinton is gone, has WikiLeaks won?*

We were pleased to see how much of the American public interacted with the material we published. That interaction was on both sides of politics, including those to the left of Hillary Clinton those who supported Bernie Sanders, who were able to see the structure of power within the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and how the Clintons had placed Debbie Wasserman Schultz to head up the DNC and as a result the DNC had tilted the scales of the process against Bernie Sanders.

*What about Donald Trump? What is going to happen?*

If the question is how I personally feel about the situation, I am mixed: Hillary Clinton and the network around her imprisoned one of our alleged sources for 35 years, Chelsea Manning, tortured her according to the United Nations, in order to implicate me personally. According to our publications Hillary Clinton was the chief proponent and the architect of the war against Libya. **It is clear that she pursued this war as a staging effort for her Presidential bid. It wasn't even a war for an ideological purpose. This war ended up producing the refugee crisis in Europe, changing the political colour of Europe, killing more than 40,000 people within a year in Libya, while the arms from Libya went to Mali and other places, boosting or causing civil wars, including the Syrian catastrophe.** If someone and their network behave like that, then there are consequences. Internal and external opponents are generated. Now there is a separate question on what Donald Trump means.

*What do you think he means?*

**Hillary Clinton's election would have been a consolidation of power in the existing ruling class of the United States. Donald Trump is not a DC insider, he is part of the wealthy ruling elite of the United States, and he is gathering around him a spectrum of other rich people and several idiosyncratic personalities. They do not by themselves form an existing structure, so it is a weak structure which is displacing and destabilising the pre-existing central power network within DC. It is a new patronage structure which will evolve rapidly, but at the moment its looseness**

**means there are opportunities for change in the United States: change for the worse and change for the better.**

*In these ten years of WikiLeaks, you and your organisation have experienced all sorts of attacks. What have you learned from this warfare?*

**Power is mostly the illusion of power.** The Pentagon demanded we destroy our publications. We kept publishing. Clinton denounced us and said we were an attack on the entire "international community". We kept publishing. I was put in prison and under house arrest. We kept publishing. We went head to head with the NSA getting Edward Snowden out of Hong Kong, we won and got him asylum. Clinton tried to destroy us and was herself destroyed. Elephants, it seems, can be brought down with string. Perhaps there are no elephants.

*You have spent six years under arrest and confinement, the UN established that you are arbitrarily detained, the UK appealed against the UN decision and lost, so this decision is now final. What is going to happen now?*

That's all politics, that's something that people cannot properly understand, unless they been through the legal system themselves in high-profile cases. This decision by the UN in my case is really an historical decision. What is someone to do when they are in a multi-jurisdictional conflict, that is politicised and involves big powers? **There is too much pressure for domestic courts to resist, so you need an international court with representation from different countries which are not allied to each other to be able to come to a fair decision.** That is what happened in my situation. Sweden and the United Kingdom have refused to implement this decision so far, of course it costs both Sweden and the UK on a diplomatic level and the question is how long they are willing to pay that cost.

*After six years, the Swedish prosecutors questioned you in London, as you had requested from the beginning. What happens if you get charged, extradited to Sweden and then to the United States? Will WikiLeaks survive?*

Yes, we have contingency plans that you have seen in action when my Internet was cut off and while I was in prison before. An organisation like WikiLeaks cannot be structured such that a single person can be a point of failure in the organisation, it makes him or her a target.

*You've declared on more than one occasion that what you really miss after 6 years of arrest and confinement is your family. Your children gave you a present to make you to feel less alone: a kitten. Have you ever reconsidered your choices?*

Yes, of course. Fortunately I'm too busy to think about these things all the time. I know that my family and my children are proud of me, that they benefit in some ways from having a father who knows some parts of the world and has become very good in a fight, but in other ways they suffer.

*One of the first times we met I noticed a book on your table: "The Prince" by Machiavelli. What have you learned about power in 10 years of WikiLeaks?*

**My conclusion is that most power structures are deeply incompetent, staffed by people who don't really believe in their institutions and that most power is the projection of the perception of power. And the more secretively it works, the more incompetent it is,** because secrecy breeds incompetence, while openness breeds competence, because one can see and can compare actions and see which one is more competent. To keep up these appearances, institutional heads or political heads such as presidents spend most of the time trying to walk in front of the train and pretending that it is following them, but the direction is set by the tracks and by the engine of the train. Understanding that means that small and committed organisations can outmanoeuvre these institutional dinosaurs, like the State Department, the NSA or the CIA.

[http://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2016/12/23/news/assange\\_wikileaks-154754000/](http://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2016/12/23/news/assange_wikileaks-154754000/)

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## **The Guardian's Summary of Julian Assange's Interview Went Viral and Was Completely False**

*Glenn Greenwald*  
*The Intercept*  
 2016-12-29

Julian Assange is a deeply polarizing figure. Many admire him and many despise him (into which category one falls in any given year typically depends on one's feelings about the subject of his most recent publication of leaked documents).

But one's views of Assange are completely irrelevant to this article, which is not about Assange. This article, instead, is about a report published this week by *The Guardian* that recklessly attributed to Assange comments that he did not make. This article is about how those false claims — fabrications, really — were spread all over the internet by journalists, causing hundreds of thousands of people (if not millions) to consume false news. The purpose of this article is to underscore, yet again, that those who most flamboyantly denounce Fake News, and want Facebook and other tech giants to suppress content in the name of combating it, are often the most aggressive and self-serving perpetrators of it.

One's views of Assange are completely irrelevant to this article because, presumably, everyone agrees that publication of false claims by a media outlet is very bad, even when it's designed to malign someone you hate. Journalistic recklessness does not become noble or tolerable if it serves the right agenda or cause. The only way one's views of Assange are relevant to this article is if one finds journalistic falsehoods and Fake News objectionable only when deployed against figures one likes.

The shoddy and misleading *Guardian* article, written by Ben Jacobs, was published on December 24. **It made two primary claims — both of which are demonstrably false. The first false claim was hyped in the article's headline: "Julian Assange gives guarded praise of Trump and blasts Clinton in interview."** This claim was repeated in

the first paragraph of the article: “Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, has offered guarded praise of Donald Trump. ...”

The second claim was an even worse assault on basic journalism. Jacobs set up this claim by asserting that Assange “long had a close relationship with the Putin regime.” **The only “evidence” offered for this extraordinary claim was that Assange, in 2012, conducted eight interviews that were broadcast on RT. With the claimed Assange-Putin alliance implanted, Jacobs then wrote: “In his interview with *la Repubblica*, [Assange] said there was no need for WikiLeaks to undertake a whistleblowing role in Russia because of the open and competitive debate he claimed exists there.”**

The reason these two claims are so significant, so certain to attract massive numbers of clicks and shares, is obvious. **They play directly into the biases of Clinton supporters and flatter their central narrative about the election:** that Clinton lost because the Kremlin used its agents, such as Assange, to boost Trump and sink Clinton. By design, the article makes it seem as though Assange is heralding Russia as such a free, vibrant, and transparent political culture that — in contrast to the repressive West — no whistleblowing is needed, all while praising Trump.

But none of that actually happened. Those claims are made up.

Despite how much online attention it received, Jacobs’s *Guardian* article contained no original reporting. Indeed, it did nothing but purport to summarize the work of an actually diligent journalist: Stefania Maurizi of the Italian daily *la Repubblica*, who traveled to London and conducted the interview with Assange. Maurizi’s interview was conducted in English, and *la Repubblica* published the transcript online. Jacobs’s “work” consisted of nothing other than purporting to re-write the parts of that interview he wanted to highlight, so that he and *The Guardian* could receive the traffic for her work.

Ever since the *Guardian* article was published and went viral, Maurizi has repeatedly objected to the false claims being made about what Assange said in their interview. But **while Western journalists keep re-tweeting and sharing *The Guardian*’s second-hand summary of this interview, they completely ignore Maurizi’s protests** — for reasons that are both noxious and revealing.

To see how blatantly false *The Guardian*’s claims are, all one needs to do is compare the claims about what Assange said in the interview to the text of what he actually said.

To begin with, **Assange did not praise Trump, guardedly or otherwise. He was not asked whether he likes Trump, nor did he opine on that.** Rather, he was asked what he thought the consequences would be of Trump’s victory: “What about Donald Trump? What is going to happen? ... What do you think he means?” Speaking predictively, Assange neutrally described what he believed would be the outcome:

Hillary Clinton’s election would have been a consolidation of power in the existing ruling class of the United States. Donald Trump is not a D.C. insider, he is part of the wealthy ruling elite of the United States, and he is gathering around him a spectrum of other rich people and several idiosyncratic personalities. They do not by themselves form an existing structure, so it is a weak structure which is

displacing and destabilizing the pre-existing central power network within D.C. It is a new patronage structure which will evolve rapidly, but at the moment its looseness means there are opportunities for change in the United States: change for the worse and change for the better.

Most of those facts — “Clinton’s election would have been a consolidation of power” and Trump is creating “a new patronage structure” — are barely debatable. They are just observably true. But whatever one’s views on his statements, they do not remotely constitute “praise” for Trump.

**In fact, Assange says Trump “is part of the wealthy ruling elite of the United States” who “is gathering around him a spectrum of other rich people and several idiosyncratic personalities.”** The fact that Assange sees possibility for exploiting the resulting instability for positive outcomes, along with being fearful about “change for the worse,” makes him exactly like pretty much every political and media organization that is opportunistically searching for ways to convert the Trumpian dark cloud into some silver lining.

Everyone from the *New York Times* and ThinkProgress to the ACLU and Democratic Socialists has sought or touted a massive upsurge in support ushered in by the Trump victory, with hopes that it will re-embolden support for critical political values. Immediately after the election, **Democrats such as Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Chuck Schumer said exactly what Assange said:** that they were willing and eager to exploit the ways that a Trump presidency could create new opportunities (in the case of the first two, Trump’s abrogation of the TPP, and in the case of the latter, fortified support for Israel; as Sanders put it: “To the degree that Mr. Trump is serious about pursuing policies that improve the lives of working families in this country, I and other progressives are prepared to work with him”). None of that remotely constitutes “praise for Trump.” And if it were anyone but Assange saying this, nobody would pretend that was so — indeed, in those other cases, nobody did.

If one wants to be generous and mitigate that claim as sloppy and deceitful rather than an outright fraud, one could do so. But that’s not the case for *The Guardian’s* second and far more inflammatory claim: that Assange believes Russia is too free and open to need whistleblowing.

In that part of the interview, Assange was asked why most of WikiLeaks’ publications have had their biggest impact in the West rather than in countries such as Russia or China. To see how wildly deceitful Jacobs’s claim was about his answer, just read what he said: **He did not say that Russia was too free to need whistleblowing. Instead, he explains that any Russian whistleblower who wanted to leak information would have many better options than WikiLeaks given that Assange’s organization does not speak Russian, is composed of English-speaking Westerners, and focuses on the West:**

In Russia, there are many vibrant publications, online blogs, and Kremlin critics such as [Alexey] Navalny are part of that spectrum. There are also newspapers like *Novaya Gazeta*, in which different parts of society in Moscow are permitted to critique each other and it is tolerated, generally, because it isn’t a big TV channel that might have a mass popular effect, its audience is educated people in Moscow.

So my interpretation is that in Russia there are competitors to WikiLeaks, and no WikiLeaks staff speak Russian, so for a strong culture which has its own language, you have to be seen as a local player. WikiLeaks is a predominantly English-speaking organization with a website predominantly in English. We have published more than 800,000 documents about or referencing Russia and President Putin, so we do have quite a bit of coverage, but the majority of our publications come from Western sources, though not always. For example, we have published more than 2 million documents from Syria, including Bashar al-Assad personally. Sometimes we make a publication about a country and they will see WikiLeaks as a player within that country, like with Timor East and Kenya. The real determinant is how distant that culture is from English. Chinese culture is quite far away.

What Assange is saying here is so obvious. He is not saying that Russia is too free and transparent to need whistleblowing; indeed, he points out that WikiLeaks has published some leaked documents about Russia and Putin, along with Assad. What he says instead is that Russian whistleblowers and leakers perceive that they have better options than WikiLeaks, which does not speak the language and has no place in the country's media and cultural ecosystem. He says exactly the same thing about China ("The real determinant is how distant that culture is from English. Chinese culture is quite far away").

**To convert that into a claim that Assange believes is Russia is too free and open to need whistleblowing — a way of depicting Assange as a propagandist for Putin — is not merely a reckless error. It is journalistic fraud.**

But, like so much online fake news, this was a fraud that had a huge impact, as *The Guardian* and Jacobs surely knew would happen. It's difficult to quantify exactly how many people consumed these false claims, but it was definitely in the tens of thousands and almost certainly in the hundreds of thousands if not millions. Here's just one tweet, by the *Washington Post*'s Clinton-supporting blogger (and Tufts political science professor) Dan Drezner, that spread the claim about Assange's purported belief that Russia is too open to need whistleblowing; as of today, it has been re-tweeted by more than 7,000 people and "liked" by another 7,000:

[Image]

Nothing illustrates the damage done by online journalistic deceit better than this: **While Drezner's spreading of Jacobs's false claim was re-tweeted thousands and thousands of times, the objection from the actual reporter, Maurizi, pointing out that it was false, was almost completely ignored.** At the time this article was published, it had a grand total of 14 re-tweets:

Worse still, the most vocal Clinton-supporting pundits, such as *The Atlantic*'s David Frum, then began promoting a caveat-free version of the false claims about what Assange said regarding Trump; he was now converted into a full-fledged Trump admirer:

[Image]

**Part of why this happened has to do with *The Guardian*'s blinding hatred for WikiLeaks, with whom it partnered to its great benefit, only to then wage mutual**

**warfare. While the paper regularly produces great journalism, its deeply emotional and personalized feud with Assange has often led it to abandon all standards when reporting on WikiLeaks.**

But here, the problem was deeply exacerbated by the role of this particular reporter, Ben Jacobs. Having covered the 2016 campaign for *The Guardian* U.S., he's one of those journalists who became beloved by Clinton's media supporters for his obviously pro-Clinton coverage of the campaign. He entrenched himself as a popular member of the clique of political journalists who shared those sentiments. He built a following by feeding the internet highly partisan coverage; watched his social media follower count explode the more he did it; and generally bathed in the immediate gratification provided by online praise for **churning out pro-Clinton agitprop** all year.

**But Jacobs has a particularly ugly history with WikiLeaks.** In August 2015, news broke that Chelsea Manning — whose leaks became one of *The Guardian's* most significant stories in its history and whom the U.N. had found was subjected to “cruel and inhumane” abuse while in detention — faced indefinite solitary confinement for having unapproved magazines in her cell as well as expired toothpaste. **Jacobs went to Twitter and mocked her plight: “And the world’s tiniest violin plays a sad song.”** He was forced to delete this demented tweet when even some of his *Guardian* colleagues publicly criticized him, though he never apologized publicly, claiming that he did so “privately” while blocking huge numbers of people who objected to his comments (including me).

The absolute last person anyone should trust to accurately and fairly report on WikiLeaks is Ben Jacobs, unless the goal is to publish fabrications that will predictably generate massive traffic for *The Guardian*. Whatever the intent, that is exactly what happened here.

The people who should be most upset by this deceit are exactly the ones who played the leading role in spreading it: namely, those who most vocally claim that Fake News is a serious menace. Nothing will discredit that cause faster or more effectively than the perception that this crusade is really about a selective desire to suppress news that undermines one's political agenda, masquerading as concern for journalistic accuracy and integrity. Yet, as I've repeatedly documented, **the very same people most vocal about the need to suppress Fake News are often those most eager to disseminate it when doing so advances their agenda.**

If one really wants to battle Fake News and deceitful journalism that misleads others, one cannot selectively denounce some Fake News accounts while cheering and spreading those that promote one's own political agenda or smear those (such as Assange) whom one most hates. Doing that will ensure that nobody takes this cause seriously because its proponents will be seen as dishonest opportunists: much the way cynically exploiting “anti-Semitism” accusations against Israel critics has severely weakened the sting of that accusation when it's actually warranted.

It is well-documented that much Fake News was disseminated this year to undermine Clinton, sometimes from Trump himself. For that reason, a poll jointly released on Tuesday by *The Economist* and YouGov found that 62 percent of Trump voters — and 25 percent of Clinton voters — believe that “millions of illegal votes were cast in the election,” an extremely dubious allegation made by Trump with no evidence.

But this poll also found that 50 percent of Clinton voters now believe an absurd and laughable conspiracy theory: that “Russia tampered with vote tallies to help Trump.” It’s hardly surprising they believe this: Some of the most beloved Democratic pundits routinely use the phrase “Russia hacked the U.S. election” to imply not that it hacked emails but the election itself. And the result is that — just as is true of many Trump voters — many Clinton voters have been deceived into embracing a pleasing and self-affirming though completely baseless conspiracy theory about why their candidate lost.

By all means: Let’s confront and defeat the menace of Fake News. But to do so, it’s critical that one not be selective in which type one denounces, and it is particularly important that one not sanction Fake News when it promotes one’s own political objectives. Most important of all is that those who want to lead the cause of denouncing Fake News not convert themselves into its most prolific disseminators whenever the claims of a Fake News account are pleasing or self-affirming.

That’s exactly what those who spread this disgraceful Guardian article did. If they want credibility when posing as Fake News opponents in the future, they ought to acknowledge what they did and retract it — beginning with *The Guardian*.

UPDATE: *The Guardian*, to its credit, has now retracted one of the baseless claims in Jacobs’ article, and corrected and amended several others:

This article was amended on 29 December to remove a sentence in which it was asserted that Assange “has long had a close relationship with the Putin regime”. A sentence was also amended which paraphrased the interview, suggesting Assange said “there was no need for Wikileaks to undertake a whistleblowing role in Russia because of the open and competitive debate he claimed exists there”. It has been amended to more directly describe the question Assange was responding to when he spoke of Russia’s “many vibrant publications”.

Unfortunately, those falsehoods were tweeted and re-tweeted and shared tens of thousands of times, consumed by hundreds of thousands of people, if not millions. We’ll see if those who spread those falsehoods now spread these corrections with equal vigor.

<https://theintercept.com/2016/12/29/the-guardians-summary-of-julian-assanges-interview-went-viral-and-was-completely-false/>

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## **Julian Assange gives guarded praise of Trump and blasts Clinton in interview**

*WikiLeaks founder said there are opportunities for the US to change under the Trump administration — ‘change for the worse and change for the better’*

Ben Jacobs  
*The Guardian*  
 24 December 2016



Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, has offered guarded praise of Donald Trump, arguing the president-elect “is not a DC insider” and could mean an opportunity for positive as well as negative change in the US.

Assange described his feelings about the US election results in an interview as “mixed” before going on to sharply criticize Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and providing a more ambivalent assessment of Trump’s ascent to the White House.

“Hillary Clinton’s election would have been a consolidation of power in the existing ruling class of the United States,” Assange told the Italian newspaper *la Repubblica*.

“Donald Trump is not a DC insider, he is part of the wealthy ruling elite of the United States, and he is gathering around him a spectrum of other rich people and several idiosyncratic personalities.”

He added: “They do not by themselves form an existing structure, so it is a weak structure which is displacing and destabilising the pre-existing central power network within DC. It is a new patronage structure which will evolve rapidly, but at the moment its looseness means there are opportunities for change in the United States: change for the worse and change for the better.”

In the week leading up to the election, Assange used his whistleblowing website to publish a cascade of emails connected to the Democratic party and the Clinton campaign.

Trump adviser reveals how Assange ally warned him about leaked Clinton emails  
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The releases were highly damaging to Clinton, and US intelligence officials now believe they were hacked by Russia and passed to WikiLeaks to boost Trump’s bid for the White House. Assange has repeatedly declined to be drawn on the source of the hacked emails he published.

Roger Stone, a longtime Republican operative and associate of Trump, said in August that he had been in communication with Assange over an “October surprise” to foil Clinton. WikiLeaks began publishing emails hacked from the Democratic National Committee and the email account of Clinton’s campaign chairman, John Podesta, in October.

It is impossible to know how much the email disclosures affected the outcome of the race, but there is little doubt the revelations harmed Clinton’s prospects during the crucial last weeks of the campaign.

Assange made the disclosures from the Ecuadorean embassy in London, where he has been held up for more than four years, claiming asylum to avoid extradition to Sweden, where prosecutors are investigating allegations of rape against him. Assange denies the accusations.

Some of the earliest and most high-profile WikiLeaks revelations, including those based on leaks by Chelsea Manning, occurred when Clinton was secretary of state.

“Hillary Clinton and the network around her imprisoned one of our alleged sources for 35 years, Chelsea Manning, tortured her according to the United Nations, in order to implicate me personally,” Assange claimed in the interview. He went on to accuse Clinton of being the “chief proponent and architect” of the military intervention in Libya, which he claimed had created instability in throughout the region and the refugee crisis in Europe.

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Appearing to suggest the disclosures in the run-up to the election were a form of payback, he added: “If someone and their network behave like that, then there are consequences. Internal and external opponents are generated. Now there is a separate question on what Donald Trump means.”

Assange, who briefly hosted his own talk show on the state-owned television network Russia Today, has long had a close relationship with the Putin regime. In his interview with *la Repubblica*, he said there was no need for WikiLeaks to undertake a whistleblowing role in Russia because of the open and competitive debate he claimed exists there.

“In Russia, there are many vibrant publications, online blogs, and Kremlin critics such as [Alexey] Navalny are part of that spectrum,” he said. “There are also newspapers like *Novaya Gazeta*, in which different parts of society in Moscow are permitted to critique each other and it is tolerated, generally, because it isn’t a big TV channel that might have a mass popular effect, its audience is educated people in Moscow. So my interpretation is that in Russia there are competitors to WikiLeaks.”

Dozens of journalists have been killed in Russia in the past two decades, and Freedom House considers the Russian press to be “not free” and notes: “The main national news agenda is firmly controlled by the Kremlin. The government sets editorial policy at state-owned television stations, which dominate the media landscape and generate propagandistic content.”