



Assange had been arbitrarily detained since 2012, a ruling made against enormous pressure from the US and UK governments. The Guardian's Marina Hyde (who later called Assange "*the biggest arsehole in Knightsbridge*") taking the Government line wrote: "*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 ...*" She was happy to torch not only

Assange's rights but also the last hope of those illegally detained by repressive governments.

After the Ecuadorian and UK governments illegally breached Assange's asylum and dragged him out of the Ecuadorian Embassy in 2019, the Guardian's Hadley Freeman wrote mockingly: "*I love stories about badly behaved houseguests and Julian Assange has raised the bar*" followed by her recycling of the most insulting and unfounded insults about his behaviour.

In 2018 Luke Harding and other Guardian writers began a concerted campaign to link Assange with the Kremlin. Offering no evidence whatsoever, Harding and others simply increasingly referred to his "*ties to the Kremlin*." Kathleen Hall Jamieson asserted that "*it is now clearer than ever*" that "*the Russian cyber-theft*" of thousands of Democratic Party emails was "*abetted by Assange's WikiLeaks*." James Ball wrote "The only barrier to Julian Assange leaving Ecuador's embassy is pride ... The WikiLeaks founder is unlikely to face prosecution in the US." Harding and others wrote the evidence-free article "*Revealed: Russia's secret plan to help Julian Assange escape from the UK*." Finally, Harding wrote a fictional episode in which he claimed that former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort had held three secret talks with Assange in the Ecuadorian Embassy. This was

strenuously denied by all and, given that the Embassy was amongst the most surveilled building in London, evidence would have existed. Any functional journalist would have known these stories were intelligence plants designed, as we now see, as part of the softening up process for Julian Assange's 2019 ejection from the Embassy and current Extradition proceedings against him.

Most recently the Guardian has barely covered his Extradition hearing at the Old Bailey nor the enormous threat to press freedom represented by his case. They covered Jonny Depp's court case more.

The Guardian has lied so much it is now part of the US Prosecution case

The US Extradition case against Assange is wholly politically motivated, but the US Prosecutors have to pretend crimes have been committed by Julian Assange. One of their accusations is that Assange risked lives and caused harm by failing to redact names. At the Old Bailey US lawyers repeatedly quoted from a book about WikiLeaks authored by Guardian journalists, David Leigh and Luke Harding which claims that Assange was recklessly indifferent to the safety of US informants named in leaked files. This is not true. Serious journalists who had worked with Assange on the leaks testified at the Old Bailey that Assange was scrupulous about risk minimisation and redaction. The Leigh/Harding book also, unforgivably revealed a complex password entrusted to Leigh by Assange that provided access to an online cache of unredacted documents. Assange is now in the dock for this and still the Guardian continues to lie.

If a plane takes off from the UK with Assange shackled on board destined for life in a US supermax prison – the Guardian will bear a large part of the blame.

Free Julian Assange Dump the Guardian