

THE GUARDIAN'S ROLE IN THE PERSECUTION AND PROSECUTION OF JULIAN ASSANGE



A Disgrace to Journalism and a Mortal Danger to a Free Press

Julian Assange is responsible for publishing the most massive and important leaks of US government documents showing the reality of its (and UK/NATO partners) wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. These 2010 leaks created a tidal wave of disgust at the revelations of war crimes, corruption, torture, rendition and death squads. The US/UK were determined to annihilate Assange and ensure that such exposure would never happen again.

Consequently, today Julian Assange, a journalist and publisher sits silenced in Belmarsh Maximum Security prison, awaiting a ruling on his extradition to the USA on charges of espionage carrying a 175-year sentence. He is a victim of years of 'arbitrary detention' and psychological torture according to UN organisations and experts.

A journalist and publisher charged with espionage for publishing the truth? Surely you would expect other journalists – seeing the danger to honest journalism – to rally to his defense. Especially the Guardian which claims to stand for liberal values and benefited greatly by collaborating with Assange and WikiLeaks on publishing the Afghan and Iraq material.

Think Again. They did the Opposite.

The oh so liberal Guardian has in fact taken the lead media role for the past 8 years in smearing, lying about and ridiculing Julian Assange. More than any other media outlet, it has shaped and weaponised mainstream liberal opinion into an Anti-Assange lobby. By doing this the Guardian has given enormous support to a massively well-resourced US/UK campaign to 'Get Assange' and has helped to pave the way for his imprisonment in the USA.

Since 2012 they have printed a stream of outright lies and smears accusing Assange of being variously: A Russian agent and Putin Ally – PROBABLY FALSE A Trump supporter – PROBABLY FALSE A narcissist/egotist/outlaw – PROBABLY FALSE.

The Guardian has ignored repeated violations of his human and legal rights. They have shown not a flicker of curiosity about his prison conditions (effectively solitary confinement); his psychological torture; his court cases (he appears in court in a glass box as though a dangerous prisoner) or about US intelligence agencies extraordinary and illegal surveillance of Assange (24-hour video and audio recordings of his meetings with lawyers, doctors, journalists etc) in the Ecuadorian Embassy. Instead they have waged warfare against Julian Assange. In doing so they have removed attention from the state war crimes he exposed and instead tried to shoot the messenger.

Guardian gutter journalism – No smear too low

The following is just a small proportion of the Guardian's gutter journalism. In 2015 the UN Working Group Arbitrary Detention (a body of eminent lawyers and experts) ruled that Julian