



runs a 'Non-state hostile intelligence agency ... It ends now.' The Ecuadorian Embassy, always heavily surveilled both by the US and UK, was in 2017 fitted internally with hidden 24-hour cameras and microphones (including the meeting room used by Assange and his lawyers) by the security company UC Global. That material was handed over to US 'intelligence agencies' as two employee's statements to the court showed. One of them reported that the Americans became so desperate they suggested 'extreme measures' such as kidnapping or poisoning Assange. The gross illegality of the surveillance alone should have stopped the extradition case going forward as it has breached major laws concerning legal confidentiality and thus compromised the ability of the Defence case.

After years of trying to get Julian Assange out of the Embassy, the US found a willing ally in the new and reactionary Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno. Trade deals and a \$4.2 billion IMF loan were dangled and the British police were unlawfully allowed into the Embassy to violently remove Julian Assange on 11 April 2019. UK Foreign Minister Alan Duncan's diaries also show that the highest

levels of the British state were heavily involved in this operation. Duncan writes that he watched the police raid on a live feed from the "Operations Room at the top of the Foreign Office." Codenamed "Pelican", Duncan recalled how one of its officials looked on, "wearing a pelican-motif tie." Duncan's diary entry concludes, "So, job done at last—and we take a commemorative photo of Team Pelican. It had taken many months of patient diplomatic negotiation, and in the end, it went off without a hitch. I do millions of interviews, trying to keep the smirk off my face."

### We must Stand with Assange

When the Prosecution objected to hearing witness Khaled El-Masri – victim of CIA rendition and nightmarish torture – Julian Assange stood up behind his glass screen and declared very loudly: 'I will not permit the testimony of a torture victim to be censored by this court.' This exemplifies his courage and his philosophy. Julian Assange's enemies are the enemies of all those fighting for democracy, peace, justice and progress. If we win this battle, it will be a major blow against our war-criminal governments. It will help every struggle. If we lose, the consequences are incalculable. Already many people have been brutalised by the police whilst demonstrating against the new Police Bill. We must oppose the state's illegality and violent repression on all fronts.



Julian Assange has stood up for us and now we must stand with him. Join us, find out what you can do.

The fight to free Julian Assange is a crucial part of the fight for democratic rights, truth and peace.

Find Out about the Committee to Defend Julian Assange news and events at:  
<https://wiseupaction.info>  
[www.facebook.com/CommitteeToDefendJulianAssange/](https://www.facebook.com/CommitteeToDefendJulianAssange/)  
On twitter: @WISEUpAction  
@ja\_defence

# FREE JULIAN ASSANGE!



- *Julian Assange, journalist and publisher, who revealed systemic war crimes by the US and UK*
- *Detained for the past 10 years in the UK, tortured, isolated in Belmarsh Maximum Security gaol for 2 years*
- *Despite a court decision in January 2021 against extraditing him to the USA, he has been refused bail and he remains in Belmarsh – a political prisoner*

## WHY?

The US government has appealed the decision not to extradite Julian Assange. If they are successful, he faces a possible 175-year sentence in the USA. For what? In 2010 he and WikiLeaks published millions of secret leaked documents showing the unvarnished, revolting facts about illegal western wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: the murder of civilians, corruption, torture, rendition and death squads. In doing so 'Wikileaks has allowed us to see raw, naked power before it puts on a suit and tie, slicks back its hair and conceals the knife'. (Jonathan Cook).

And the US, UK and other NATO partners have been after his blood ever since.

The US/UK/NATO partners' wars in Afghanistan and Iraq unleashed continuing disaster on the Middle East – with millions dead and 37 million people displaced. While none of the murdering war-criminals responsible – Blair, Bush,

Cheney etc – has suffered any consequence, the person who played a major role in their exposure has been hunted down and used as an example to

### Nils Melzer UN Rapporteur on Torture

'Julian Assange has exposed evidence for systematic state-sponsored torture and these crimes that he provided evidence for have never been prosecuted. Even after the evidence has been published no one has ever been prosecuted for those acts of torture.

He has been exposed to various forms of cruel inhuman and degrading treatment which amount to psychological torture ... If extradited to the US, he will not receive a fair trial and will be exposed to conditions of detention very probably in a Supermax prison under Special Administrative Measures which amount to torture and other ill-treatment.'

**JAIL  
THE WAR  
CRIMINALS!**  
**FREE  
JULIAN  
ASSANGE!**

# JOURNALISM IS NOT A CRIME

FREE ASSANGE NOW

show that anyone who dares expose the truth about our rulers' wars (and they are waging and planning many more) will be ground to dust and publicly annihilated. This will be a catastrophic defeat for freedom of the press but more than that, it will increase the confidence of the British ruling class to say: 'We can do anything, anywhere to anyone, and no national or international laws, treaties, rules can stop us'. Indeed there is legislation currently going through Parliament – the Overseas Operations Bill and the Spycops Bill that will together provide impunity for international crimes such as war crimes and permit intelligence agencies to commit serious crimes such as rape and murder in the UK.

Nor should anyone be surprised that the Biden administration has continued along the same lines as Trump and is pushing the US Appeal to extradite Assange. (And more US wars and war crimes).

## A Virtually Secret Political Trial

'... I have felt more welcome, respected, and able to do my job as an NGO observer in more professional conditions at a prison campus in Turkey than I have at Woolwich Crown Court or the Old Bailey Court'. (Rebecca Vincent, Reporters Without Borders)

'Courtroom evidence exposed illegality on an unprecedented scale by America's and Britain's intelligence, military, police, and judicial agencies to eliminate Assange.' (Award winning journalist Charles Glass)

The last decade's treatment of Julian Assange by the UK government was symbolised at the Old Bailey extradition hearings where, having daily been strip searched naked and X-rayed, he sat silent, guarded behind a glass screen at the back of the court, unable to speak to his lawyers except by kneeling down and speaking or passing notes through a slit in the glass. Prior to the hearings he had little access to his lawyers, limited access to his legal papers, was given a computer without internet access and with the keys glued down. All unlawful.

'The lack of media presence both outside and inside the Old Bailey was remarkable. The press annex was not at capacity – at times, it was half-empty.' (John McEvoy)

The Old Bailey extradition case was an extraordinary, politically dramatic event in central London. Multiple defence witnesses, some world famous such as Noam Chomsky and Daniel Ellsberg, tore the US case to shreds. Unfortunately, the public will have little idea of what happened in court because as Craig Murray who attended the whole trial notes: 'This entire hearing has been conducted in effective secrecy, a comprehensive secrecy ... Physical access to the courtroom has been extremely limited, with the public gallery cut to five people. Video link access has similarly been extremely limited, with 40 NGOs having their access cut by the judge from day 1 at the Old Bailey, including Amnesty International, PEN, Reporters without Borders and observers from the European Parliament, among many others. The state and corporate media have virtually blacked out this hearing, with a truly worrying unanimity, and despite the implications of the case for media freedom. Finally, the corporations that act as internet gatekeepers have heavily suppressed social media posts about Assange, and traffic to those few websites which are reporting.'

Finally, when the Judgement came in January 2021 there was widespread surprise that



Illegal surveillance film in Embassy – Assange meets lawyer Geoffrey Robertson

extradition had been refused. But it was refused on the narrowest of possible grounds that his health and life would be in danger if extradited. However, Judge Baraitser rejected every other defence argument and held that his extradition was not for 'political offences' or for acting as a journalist and publisher. This offers no protection to others, particularly politically independent media outlets who may offend those in power.

## The US and UK government's relentless campaign to destroy Assange

The US and UK government's relentless campaign to bury Assange in the darkest cell of the most torturous US prison for the rest of his life has never ceased since 2010 when a Secret Grand Jury was empanelled. The CIA, the FBI and other agencies set up task forces to 'Get Assange'. US operations were conducted in Europe, informers were recruited and intense collaborations took place with UK, Australian and Swedish governments. The Pentagon alone set up a special task force, deploying 120 counter-intelligence officers, to find at least one death that could be blamed on the published leaks. They failed. Smears on an industrial scale were fed to tame media outlets

and recycled endlessly with the Guardian taking the lead in this. So deep in the gutter was the Guardian that its reporting was used as 'evidence' by US Prosecutors. These smears were enough to frighten the wits out of our UK Parliamentarians (they seem easily scared) who failed to seriously question or investigate what was being done to Julian Assange. Indeed, the present leader of the Labour Party, Keir Starmer was Head of the Crown Prosecution Service which conspired with Swedish prosecutors to keep the biggest smear, the endless bogus Swedish 'investigation', going for 9 years

## Illegal Surveillance in the Embassy

Julian Assange had been granted asylum in the Ecuadoran Embassy in 2012 by a progressive government there. This infuriated the US and British governments. Operations against Assange were stepped up when Trump was elected with CIA Director, Mike Pompeo in 2017 making an open declaration of war on Wikileaks saying Assange

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