

NO TO EXTRADITION! **FREE ASSANGE**

Facing 175 Years For Exposing War Crimes

"The evidence is overwhelming and clear, Mr. Assange has been deliberately exposed, for a period of several years, to progressively severe forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the cumulative effects of which can only be described as psychological torture.

In 20 years of work with victims of war, violence and political persecution I have never seen a group of democratic States ganging up to deliberately isolate, demonise and abuse a single individual for such a long time and with so little regard for human dignity and the rule of law."

Nils Melzer,
UN Special Rapporteur on Torture
(following visit to Mr Assange in Belmarsh Prison 31 May 2019)

One of the best ways to achieve justice is to expose injustice
– **Julian Assange**

JOIN THE FIGHT!

Committee to Defend Julian Assange

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Free Julian Assange! No Extradition!

Free Chelsea Manning!

Julian Assange, journalist and WikiLeaks publisher, faces Espionage charges in the USA that carry a 175-year sentence – a death sentence in all but name. The US government – along with the UK and Sweden – has worked ceaselessly for the past 9 years to get him into its clutches. The British Home Secretary swiftly signed the Extradition Order to the USA on 12 June and the final decision now rests with the British courts. Those courts have shown repeated bias in the proceedings against him.

Since April, Julian Assange has been held in Belmarsh High-Security Prison – known as the UK's Guantanamo Bay. Although he finished his sentence for a bail breach on 22 September, a Judge has now ruled he will remain in Belmarsh indefinitely at least until his main extradition hearing in February 2020 and probably well beyond that.

A Political Prisoner

The case against Julian Assange is political. Julian Assange is being railroaded to the USA for one reason alone: he exposed the truth about US and UK war crimes. He showed the brutal realities of their war machine as it trampled over the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan leaving ruin and piles of corpses in its wake. But today the war criminals remain free whilst he is persecuted and imprisoned. He has been kept in virtual solitary confinement in Belmarsh, isolated, denied any serious means to prepare his legal defence and lacking the specialist medical care he urgently requires. As John Pilger has said: "... the treatment and persecution of Julian Assange is the way that dictatorships treat a political prisoner."

Fears for his Life after Torture and Persecution

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer and a team of doctors found in May that Julian Assange had been exposed for years *"to progressively severe forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the cumulative effects of which can only be described as psychological torture."* In Belmarsh his health has suffered further serious deterioration. Those who saw him in court on 21 October expressed fear and dismay. Julian Assange could barely state his name and date of birth. Craig Murray wrote: *"Everybody in that court yesterday saw that one of the greatest journalists and most important dissidents of our times is being tortured to death by the state, before our eyes."* Nils Melzer expressed alarm saying his life is now at risk.

US and UK Governments are Lawless

The Extradition Treaty between Britain and the USA rules out extradition on political grounds. Julian Assange is a journalist and a campaigner for free speech and transparency. His philosophy is clear: "If war can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth." His actions are political and so are the charges against him. On those grounds alone, his extradition should have been thrown out. In identifying truthful journalism as 'espionage', the US and British states have abandoned all laws protecting free speech and honest journalism.

We now know that UC Global, the security company being used in the Ecuadorian Embassy were bugging Julian's quarters and that he and his visitors were filmed 24 hours day including his legal team. Those tapes and films were given to the CIA. On those grounds alone, his extradition should have been thrown out.

In the USA, heroic whistleblower Chelsea Manning, who was released after 7 years of her 35-year sentence, has been re-imprisoned for the past 8 months and being fined \$1000 a day for refusing to testify against Julian Assange. By November her fines had risen to \$133,000.

It is no accident that the British government is doing its best to keep the extent of its collusion with the USA and its treatment and trial of Julian Assange secret. They have now moved his main extradition hearing to Belmarsh Court, next to the prison in a hard to access location and with a tiny public gallery. They want few witnesses to this great injustice.

Now is the Time to Stand with Julian Assange

"Julian Assange has performed an enormous service to all the people of the world who treasure the values of freedom and democracy and who therefore demand the right to know ... He has committed the grave crime of exposing power to sunlight." Noam Chomsky

The fight to free Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning is a crucial part of the fight for democratic rights, truth and peace. Join it now. Find Out about the Committee to Defend Julian Assange news and events at:

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