

The Illegal Treatment of Julian Assange: Surveillance in the Ecuadorian Embassy

On 20 December, 2019, at Westminster Magistrates Court, Julian Assange was interviewed by Spanish Judge, Judge Jose de la Mata of the National High Court, as a witness to UC Global's unlawful surveillance of him in the Ecuadorian Embassy. UC Global's Director, David Morales faces a criminal case on these matters in Spain.



It has now been shown that UC Global set up a surveillance operation inside the Embassy using video cameras, microphones and live-streaming, and that these recordings were supplied to US Intelligence agencies. Visitors to Julian Assange were not only recorded and filmed, but also had their laptops and phones illegally accessed. The recordings included conferences with Julian Assange's lawyers.

The UK authorities had fought since September to block Julian Assange giving evidence about surveillance by UC Global. No wonder. This spying operation on Assange's lawyers violates one of the most fundamental legal rights – the right to privileged and private communication with lawyers. This gross breach of Julian Assange's privacy and legal rights should be enough to stop his extradition in its tracks. There is clear precedent from the 1970s in the famous case of Daniel Ellsberg. He had leaked the Pentagon Papers showing persistent lying about the Vietnam War by US governments. In order to discredit him the White House and the CIA arranged a burglary of his

psychiatrist's office. The case against Ellsberg was dismissed due to gross governmental misconduct and illegal evidence gathering.

This latest violation of Julian Assange's rights only adds to the extraordinary number of breaches of national and international law in his case. The UN has ruled that he has been arbitrarily detained; the UN Rapporteur on Torture, Nils Melzer has found that Assange has been subjected to "psychological torture" and unprecedented state persecution in violation of his fundamental human rights; not convicted of anything; he is detained in Belmarsh High Security prison solely on the US extradition request; there he has been isolated and denied his right to prepare his legal defence against the most powerful state in the world; the decline of Julian Assange's health in Belmarsh has raised urgent concerns: over 100 doctors have warned that *'on the evidence currently available, that Mr Assange could die in prison. The medical situation is thereby urgent. There is no time to lose.'*

The gangster-like behaviour of the US state in the case, and the complicity of the UK government should be raising the loudest of alarm bells.

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NO TO EXTRADITION!