Brutal crimes of falling empires

From the war in Afghanistan to Assange’s persecution: this “justice” brings no peace

Why is Biden prosecuting Assange for telling the truth about Afghanistan?

Editorial

Julian Assange’s case is a historical focal point through which we observe what seems like the decline of the British and US empires, their global influence and their moral standing in the world. We stand at a crossroads, determining the future of our fundamental rights – namely the freedom of information and the freedom to publish.

The illegal actions and procedures initiated against Assange and WikiLeaks over more than a decade are too numerous to list here. From a revoked political asylum coupled with the storming of an embassy to the surveillance of private attorney-client conversations; from arbitrary detention without charge to indictments published beyond their legal deadlines; from kidnapping and assassination plots (see page 6) to the expunging of the crimes of a sociopath in return for false testimonies (see page 9). It appears that more steps against Assange were taken outside the boundaries of the law than within them. What is left of the ‘legal’ procedure? A sad farce, barely attempting to cover up the unjustifiable.

These brazen and brutal violations of core Western democratic values should be seen as a warning for us all. For if nation states, when sufficiently embarrassed by revelations of their own crimes and lies, are capable of such inhumane wrath, then anyone could one day be subjected to a similarly arbitrary and unjust treatment. Particularly as we collectively pursue the necessary endeavour of holding to account the war criminals, the war criminals and profiteers, while ensuring that those denouncing them remain safe and out of jail.

In a hopeful reading of history, the inevitable defeat of the US in their war in Afghanistan – foreseen if not precipitated by WikiLeaks publications (see page 14) – will come to symbolise the end of the global military interventionism and political expansionism of a single superpower. Likewise, in a hopeful future, the exposure of the persecution of Assange will be read as the falling out of relevance of an entire class of political and institutional actors who enabled this democratic disgrace (see centrefold map).

This history remains to be written. We all have, for better or worse, a part in writing it today.

Daniel Ellsberg, Alice Walker and Noam Chomsky
Co-chairs of Assange Defense
First published on 10 September 2021 in NewsWeek

As we approach the 20th anniversary of 9/11, in the midst of a wrenching reassessment of our endless wars, we cannot ignore the US government’s persecution of those who revealed the brutality of the Afghan war and the lies on which it was founded.

The Biden administration is stubbornly pursuing the extradition of Julian Assange, who exposed the corrupt motives and doomed policies behind the War on Terror. This unprecedented political prosecution poses a grave threat to truth telling and freedom of the press.

Commentators across the media have drawn parallels between the US withdrawal from Kabul and the fall of Saigon in 1975. Four years before the exit from Vietnam, The New York Times, The Washington Post and 17 other newspapers published the Pentagon Papers, a classified archive showing that US intervention in Vietnam had been wrong from the start, and was prolonged for decades through deliberate deception.

One of us, Daniel Ellsberg, released those files. Fifty years after his case was dismissed due to governmental criminal misconduct, the American bombing and occupation of Vietnam is viewed near-unanimously as an ill-fated policy whose pursuit was morally wrong. The parallels between that case and the work of Assange – and his source, US Army whistleblower Chelsea Manning – are striking. Thanks in large part to their revelations a decade ago, Americans are increasingly seeing our occupation and bombing of Afghanistan in a similar light to our Vietnam policy.

When Assange published hundreds of thousands of classified military and diplomatic documents in 2010, the public was given an unprecedented window into the lack of justification and the futility of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The truth was hidden by a generation of governmental lies. Assange’s efforts helped show the American public what their government was doing in their name.

Assange summed up his anti-war ethos at a 2011 rally in London. “The goal is justice, the method is transparency,” he said. “If wars can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth”.

Manning told the judge in her court-martial, “I wanted the American public to know that not everyone in Iraq and Afghanistan were targets that needed to be neutralised, but rather people who were...”

Biden’s Justice Department, which has proclaimed a renewed commitment to press freedom, could end these proceedings at any moment.

DANIEL ELLSBERG, ALICE WALKER AND NOAM CHOMSKY, CO-CHAIRS OF ASSANGE DEFENSE
**Why is Biden prosecuting Assange for telling the truth about Afghanistan?**

At meetings between senior Trump administration officials after WikiLeaks started publishing the Vault 7 materials, Pompeo began discussing kidnapping Assange.

**My son, Julian Assange John Shipton answers your questions**

As my son’s partner for over 10 years, I am determined to do everything I can to free Julian immediately. In America, he is being prosecuted for doing the work he was hired to do: the American public has a right to know what the US government was doing in Afghanistan, freedom from press filtering, the geopolitical facts from WikiLeaks and Julian Assange, and he has a solid legal basis in the UK for his release.

**EXCERPT FROM A YAHOO NEWS INVESTIGATION ON CIA PLANS TO KIDNAP AND ASSASSINATE JULIAN ASSANGE**

In 2017, the US government secretly managed a secret agreement to shield "US intelligence against foreign attack, if the need arises, including by WikiLeaks or Julian Assange." It made the connection between WikiLeaks and Assange.

**A day in the death of British justice**

I sat in Court 4 in the Royal Court of Justice in London on Tuesday, as Stella Moris, Julian Assange’s partner, was granted a second, and perhaps final, stay of execution to keep him out of the United States. The Judge, Justice Vanessa Baraitser, rejected the US requests to extradite Julian, arguing that the US was only interested in Julian because of "espionage" charges, and that the US was interested in Julian because of "espionage" charges.

**What has not been discussed today is why I feared for my safety and the safety of our children, and for Julian Assange.**

**Stella Moris, partner of Julian Assange**

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CIA plan to poison Assange

The US had already found a “lawful” way to disappoint him.

Jonathan Cook
First published on 4 October 2021
jonathon-cook.net

One plan was to kidnap Assange from his Ecuadorian embassy residence in London, where he had been seeking political asylum since 2012. The other was to kidnap him from the embassy. Both were to be carried out by the CIA, according to former officials who either served in the CIA during the Obama administration or were in contact with its former experts in the field.

One plan was to kidnap Assange from the embassy, according to the London-based former CIA counterintelligence official, as was the case with Trump administration officials. The idea was to kidnap him from the embassy and take him to the US, where he would be subject to questioning by US authorities.

The other plan was to kidnap him from the embassy and take him to another country, where he would be subject to questioning by US authorities.

The idea was to kidnap him from the embassy, according to the former CIA counterintelligence official, by allowing him to leave the embassy and then kidnapping him from the airport, before taking him to the US.

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In September 2020, under the US administration of President Donald Trump, ten Afghans and a woman were awarded a $1.1 million settlement for losing their lives in the 2011 US military strike on their home in Afghanistan. The strike, ordered by President Barack Obama, killed 11 civilians, including five children, and injured 18 others. The settlement was awarded by the US government to the families of the victims, who had filed a lawsuit against the US military in 2017. The lawsuit alleged that the strike was a war crime and that the US military had failed to take adequate precautions to protect civilians. The US government had previously denied the allegations, but was forced to settle the lawsuit after a series of hearings in the case.
Actors of a persecution

This map represents the web of actors, both institutional and individual, engaged in the persecution of Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks. It is an art and research project collectively imagined and created on a wiki (participatory web site). It aims to illustrate in a visual way the great complexity of the decade long "slow-motion murder" of Assange, WikiLeaks and press freedom.

Data on the map is mostly aggregated from "open source" information detailing what is known about these actors, and links them together according to their common goals, relationships and hierarchies. The use of colour attempts to differentiate the nature of these connections. However, such relationships are entangled in multiple and deeply ambiguous ways.

Join the effort! Participate in editing the wiki at challengepower.info

COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS

WIKILEAKS
WAR
BUSINESS
BRITISH POLITICS
US POLITICS
PROCEDURE
Weeks after Assange case ads to lies in indictment

**Their argument was that** if they could prove he was a criminal rather than a journalist the charges would stick, and that was where Thordarson’s testimony would be key.

This is not the law. It is about intimidating journalism; it’s about suppressing press freedom; it’s about protecting immunity for state officials – Assange’s case has become impossible to ignore.

I would encourage journalists from all media outlets to look deeply into this case, assemble all the evidence and expose misconduct, because the public deserves to know the truth.

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The New York Times

Weekly Leaks

**US press freedom bill would protect journalists facing persecution... but not Julian Assange**

US senators say they want to protect foreign journalists from government aggression. But what happens when the US is the aggressor?

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NIKE MELZER, UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL REPORTER ON TERROR

**Defending Rights & Dignity** has been covering Assange’s case for decades. "As a human rights journalist, but... it is massively hyped. We have no notes... We are not looking for a way out of a situation that Assange is in," Kaine said.

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We now know that this unprecedented criminal case was launched in part because of the defensively dangerous plans that the CIA was considering. This provides all the more reason for the Biden Justice Department to quit a feeble way to end this case.

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BEN WINDER, DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

**FBI first contacted Icelandic authorities here [in Iceland] and use people in their man. What followed was an opportunity to implicate Julian Assange.**

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When Thordarson was being pursued towards the end of August, anything of substance coming out of WikiLeaks could use as a pretext for later visits, "web had already started then with FBI first contacted Icelandic authori..."
Citizens in the war

There were a lot of expert killers in Afghanistan. The Afghan War Diary documented all of these carefully in detail. The large volume of detailed information in the documents is overwhelming. The volume of information is tremendous. It is overwhelming. The volume of information is tremendous. The volume of information is tremendous. The volume of information is tremendous. The volume of information is tremendous. The volume of information is tremendous.

In another section, the report provides a valuable insight into the reasons for any congressional opposition to the war. A congressional committee analysis of the military strategy in Afghanistan illustrates the treatment of prisoners.

Finally, this report briefly describes initiatives introduced in the US Congress that addresses international accountability for human rights violations.

From its beginning, the US war in Afghanistan included official reliance on torture, official violations of human rights and international conventions, and disregard for human dignity...

The PENTAGON WAS HELPING FUND THE TALIBAN INSURGENCY

Hundreds of millions of dollars paid to the Taliban hollow passage of trucks

While that stark reality had been known to small circles before, WikiLeaks again provided detailed examples of how it worked

The Pentagon was helping fund the Taliban insurgency

Any soldier who wishes to pass the board could have to start the armorer's and fire it and be fired for the correct answer. The soldier who answered the correct question was provided a .45-caliber M1911A1 handgun and a 50-round box of ammunition.

massacre of the day...
**Write to Julian**

**Address**
Mr Julian Assange
Prisoner #A3979AY
HMP Belmarsh
Western Way
London SE2 8EB
UK

**Do**

- Send an email request
- Send greeting cards, postcards, packages, loose stamps or cash
- Send books or magazines
- Send some amount of money (as stated on the check)

**Return postage**

[Return postage to be paid by the person who is writing]

**Write to Craig**

**Address**

Craig Murray
The Scottish Greens
Southside 26
Edinburgh EH11 1BJ

**Do**

- Pay postage
- Send a letter

**Printed by the Glasgow Times page 2**

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**COURAGE IS CONTAGIOUS**

- The register is an important role for secrecy, and there is a legitimate role for openness. Unfortunately, those who commit abuses against humanity or their own conscience have foundinasafeguard to secrecy to conceal their abuses all too easy.

People of good conscience have always revealed abuses by ignoring strictures of secrecy. It is not WikiLeaks that decides to reveal something, it is a whistleblower or a journalist who decides to reveal it. Our job is to make sure that these individuals are protected, the public and the historical record is not denied.

**JULIAN ASSANGE IN A 2020 INTERVIEW WITH DER SPIEGEL**

- 89alphabetical order
- 9Alaghi
- 10American Civil Liberties Union
- 11International Human Rights
- 12Center for Constitutional Rights
- 13Committee to Protect Journalists
- 14Defending Rights & Dissent
- 15ProPublica
- 16Fred Hiatt’s Fund for Investigative Journalism
- 17Project on Government Oversight
- 18Partnership for Civil Justice Fund
- 19Open The Government
- 20First Amendment Coalition
- 21Fight for the Future
- 22Index on Censorship
- 23Open Newspaper
- 24Whistleblower and Source Protection
- 25Free Press
- 26First Amendment Coalition
- 27Open Newspaper
- 28Whistleblower and Source Protection
- 29First Amendment Coalition
- 30Open Newspaper

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**Craig Murray’s jailing is the latest battle in a suits independent journalism**

- Anyone who followed the Assange trial last summer which excludes most journalists in the corporate media will notice right off the bat that the legal rights of the editors of those newspapers who have stood up for a number of months or years to cover important political stories, effectively criminalising independent journalism. All this has been achieved by degree of one person - the Attorney General.

- It is quite extraordinary that two separate cases - one that has been in the courts for some time, the former member of staff at The Guardian - and the other, Assange, who has been on trial for more than two years, both about the same thing. The trial judge in the Secretary of State case had already ruled that the government’s case was “highly hollow.” But the government was not deterred.

- To release Assange from the court in Britain for contempt of court in his failure to turn up was a matter of some urgency. Last week, the UK Supreme Court overturned the lower court’s decision, saying that there was no legal basis for Assange’s conviction. This decision has been widely condemned by human rights organizations.

- Assange and Murray are the two cases in the court, one of the big cases in the growing crackdowns on investigative journalists and is an echo to hold back public account to power. The case is of course, one of those cases in which the corporate media, which makes claims that they were independent, and the independent journalist, it is actually the independent journalists are being educated about what this modern period of journalism and the legal right to publish evidence of US crimes against humanity.

- As we explained in our earlier letter, journalists routinely engage in much of the conduct described in the indictment. As we explained in our earlier letter, journalists routinely engage in much of the conduct described in the indictment.

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Amnesty International expert on national security: "Assange should be released"

Amnesty International called on the Biden administration to drop the charges against Julian Assange for the purpose of promoting condemnation of torture and the global ban on torture. It also argued that Assange should not be sent to the United States because the conditions he would face there would be in violation of international law.

Amnesty International expert on national security, Julia Hall, said: "If the US administration did not drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture and the international prohibition on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture.

Julia Hall added: "The US has never been a party to the international prohibition on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to send Assange to the US, they would be promoting the global ban on torture. If they were to drop the charges against Assange, they would be promoting the global ban on torture.
Amnesty International expert on national security: “Assange should be released”

Continued from page 19

Journalists and experts who have followed the case for the last decade believe that what the US and the UK authorities want is for him to either commit suicide or leave the UK prison brain dead. Do you agree with this?

I am not a forensic or medical expert on torture, what I can tell you is that international standards will be violated if he is transferred to the US, and we do have very serious concerns about the proceedings. They have been carried out for over two years with Assange in Belmarsh, during Covid, in conditions that have exacerbated his mental health conditions. It’s clear to us that he should be released on bail, pending the conclusion of the proceedings in the UK. In the absence of the administration dropping the case, the court process has to continue, but in the middle of that, he should be released.

You cannot have a court judgement saying: this person is at risk, because his mental health condition is fragile, and then keep him in Belmarsh, which just continues to help degrade his mental health condition. There is action on the US part to drop the charges, but there are immediate actions that the UK can take right now, to alleviate and to mitigate the conditions that actually continue to exacerbate his mental health condition. There is action on the US part to drop the charges, but there are immediate actions that the UK can take right now, to alleviate and to mitigate the conditions that actually continue to contribute to his mental health status, which is quite fragile.

Before his arrest, Julian Assange and his visitors were spied inside the Ecuadorian Embassy. This week, Amnesty International greatly contributed to revealing how thousands of journalists, human rights activists and political leaders were potentially targeted by a cyberweapon called Pegasus, marketed by an Israeli company, NSO Group. Do you think it’s time for a global moratorium?

Yes, we’ve called for a moratorium until a strong, effective, meaningful human rights regulatory framework is in place. Stop now, and let’s come together and create a framework where people like human rights defenders, journalists, opposition politicians, lawyers, they will not be targeted by that software and – or, if they are, they have recourse. Our call is strong and direct, it’s not ambiguous. It’s time to make people who defend the use of such tools for anti-terrorism purposes understand that these are weapons: the so-called cyberweapons.

I actually think they already know. Governments are buying from this company, they can buy under the guise of only pursuing criminals and alleged terrorists, but it is key to the notion of the state monopoly on power that the state is going to use any new tool that it gets to maintain that power for purposes beyond those for which it was intended. It’s very clear what happens with this spyware. This is a wakeup call, really, to the rest of the world, that simply trusting that the government is going to purchase spyware only to catch the so-called bad guys is not true. It has been exposed through the work we have done as technical partners on this report, and our partners in Paris, Forbidden Stories, have done. This is such an important story and hopefully the public will be educated to roll back surveillance of this type.

Twenty years after 9/11, we see that in our Western democracies the war criminals and the torturers are free, whereas a journalist, Julian Assange, is in prison precisely for revealing those crimes. Can’t it be time for public opinion to wake up before it is too late for our democracies?

That is precisely what we are trying to do with this report [on Pegasus], with the work on Assange. Who is really the perpetrator of the human rights violations, who is violating the human rights laws, who is committing war crimes? Is it not Julian Assange, it is not dedicated journalists and publishers who put information in the public interest into the public domain. The perpetrators of these crimes are state actors or agents of the state, and that is why Assange is a threat and other publishers who do the same are a threat, because they push way beyond their weight in terms of holding the states accountable, and states don’t like it. Assange is such an important test case, because he is representative of all that, of state power, and if the US extradites him, if the US gets that long arm to reach out and grab a foreign publisher and bring him into the United States, and says he doesn’t have First Amendment rights to do what he does, that precedent can be damaging so far beyond this case, and that is why we are trying to forestall. ■


courtesy of WeeklyLeaks, K Dwyer, Western Way, Plumstead SE28 0EB, London, United Kingdom

Hacking Justice (2021)

Documentary - 1h 29min

by Clara López and Juan Pancorbo

In the aftermath of the Vault 7 leak, viewed at the time as the largest data loss in the CIA’s history, Pompeo was enraged and demanded a multi-pronged campaign to dismantle WikiLeaks.

Publicly, he described the group as a “non-state hostile intelligence service”. But privately, he pushed for aggressive action at meetings with top Trump administration officials, including a snatch operation to abduct Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

When you’re more than a journalist, you need more than a lawyer

Containing the latest developments from the US extradition ruling, the film depicts Baltasar Garzón, a former Spanish judge who jailed Pinochet.

With unique access to the characters, the film witnesses the struggle for the control of information, the growing influence of intelligence services and the difficult balance of individual rights and state security.