

Made up your mind about the Assange case? Facts you really should

know:

- WikiLeaks and Julian Assange have not been charged with any crime in any country in the world. See <http://justice4assange.com>
- WikiLeaks and Julian Assange have been recognized for quality investigative journalism with many prestigious awards, including:
 - Julian was unanimously given the Sam Adams Award in 2010, for Integrity in Intelligence (Iraq War Logs) by a panel of retired senior U.S. military and intelligence officers.
 - Julian won the Amnesty UK Media Award in 2009 for the "Cry of Blood" report into extrajudicial killings and disappearances in Kenya.
 - Julian won The Economist magazine's Freedom of Expression Award in 2008.
 - Julian won the Sydney Peace Foundation's Gold Medal in 2011 "For exceptional courage and initiative in pursuit of human rights". The Sydney Peace Foundation has only awarded 4 Gold Medals in 16 years, with Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama being 2 of the other 3 recipients.
 - Julian won the Martha Gellhorn Prize For Journalism in 2011: "He is brave, determined and independent and a true agent of people not power... [WikiLeaks'] goal of justice through transparency is in the oldest and finest tradition of journalism."
 - Julian won a Walkley Award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Journalism in 2011 see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange for more.
- WikiLeaks has a perfect record regarding information reliability. No government has denied the authenticity of any documents.
- WikiLeaks redacts its documents, so to date not one person has been physically harmed by its publications.
- WikiLeaks exposes government and corporate corruption, fraud, shady deals, war crimes, torture, and kidnapping. It is in the public interest to know these things.
- WikiLeaks partnered with The Guardian, New York Times, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and El Pais to publish Cablegate yet it is only WikiLeaks that has been criticised.

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<http://wlcentral.org/> <http://www.swedenversusassange.com/>

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- Swedish police breach all their own procedures interviewing the complainants AA & SW involved in the Swedish case
- Police interviews with women AA & SW were not recorded (against procedure)
- SW was so upset that police were going to allege rape, she does not sign her interview statement
- SW has stated she felt "railroaded" into making the complaint
- In Sweden, consensual, non-violent sex can be legally defined as "rape"
- 1st prosecutor Maria Haljebo Kjellstrand unlawfully told the press Julian was wanted for rape
- Julian was not interviewed or informed. He found out in the tabloid newspaper "Expressen" that he was wanted for double rape
- Within hours there were millions of website hits for "Assange" + "rape" causing irreparable harm to Julian's reputation
- Next day, after reviewing the file, Stockholm's Chief Prosecutor Eva Finne threw out the rape allegation
- "I consider there are no grounds for suspecting he has committed rape," said Eva Finne, the Chief Prosecutor
- "It is completely false that we are afraid of Assange and therefore didn't want to file a complaint... He is not violent and I do not feel threatened by him," woman AA told Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet on 21st August 2010
- The alleged "deliberately torn" condom (submitted as evidence by AA) contained NO DNA from either AA or JA
- There are significant differences between the SW's original statement and the one that was released to the media

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- WikiLeaks acts in accordance with traditional journalism. It publishes information given by various sources
- WikiLeaks acts like traditional media but protects its sources with a secure anonymous Drop Box
- WikiLeaks is a legal, legitimate, online news publisher, recognized as such by other journalist organizations worldwide. In 2012, WikiLeaks is partnering with nearly 100 media organisations around the world
- WikiLeaks is a non-profit independent publisher funded by donations from ordinary citizens from around the world. Because WikiLeaks believes in transparency its financial records are publicly accountable
- WikiLeaks goal is altruistic: "Justice Through Transparency." WikiLeaks is a catalyst for democracy movements around the world
- WikiLeaks launched in 2006 to provide safety for whistleblowers in Third World regimes and dictatorships, and to inform the world of their plight
- For the first four years, WikiLeaks published government and corporate wrong-doings from many countries
- In line with WikiLeaks' harm minimization procedures, WikiLeaks asked the U.S. State Department to help with cable redactions. They refused
- The U.S. war videos and documents revealed war crimes, roting, and lying by the U.S. government, regarding civilian casualties and war progress
- December 7th 2010: Obama administration pressures Paypal, Visa and Mastercard to block donations to WikiLeaks, shutting off 95% of their funds. Western Union and Bank of America followed soon afterwards. In early December 2010 Paypal also froze 60,000 euros of WikiLeaks donations held by the German charity Wau Holland Foundation.

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- Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet's application for access to police file was granted on Sept 1st 2010. Julian's Swedish lawyer Mr Hurtig's applications for access to the police file (in September-November) were denied
- Julian remained in Sweden for 5 weeks to answer the allegations against him. Through his lawyer, Mr Hurtig, Julian made proactive attempts to arrange an interview with the Swedish prosecutor. Prosecutor Ny refused all Julian's offers for interview before giving him permission to leave Sweden on September 15th 2010
- In September 22nd 2010, an interview was finally agreed to by Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny for September 29th 2010. The US Pentagon announced a 120 man team dedicated to "taking action" against WikiLeaks, ahead of the release of the Iraq War Logs and Cablegate. Julian was maintaining a low profile regarding threats to his security and could not be contacted and informed of the September 29th interview date. Julian left Sweden on September 27th 2010 for a pre-arranged business meeting with Cablegate media partner Der Spiegel. Julian didn't "flee" Sweden. He stayed in Sweden a total of 37 days, after these allegations delayed his business overseas. He left with official Swedish permission.
- On September 29th 2010, Julian phoned his lawyer to report that his luggage (including three laptops) had disappeared on the Stockholm-Berlin flight. His Swedish lawyer Mr Hurtig then informed Julian (for the first time) of the 28th September interview. Julian offered to return to Sweden for an interview on the 9th or 10th of October. This was rejected because it was the weekend. Julian then offered to return to Sweden on October 11th 2010. This was rejected as "too far away".
- On December 7th 2010 Julian went voluntarily with his lawyer to the Kentish Town police station in London to answer the EAW. The EAW was the first document Julian received from Swedish Prosecutors in English (a translation was provided by UK police). This was also the first time Julian had been informed in writing of the specific allegations and potential charges against him.
- The EAW and Interpol Red Notice were issued just before and executed just after Cablegate began publishing. Had Julian returned to Sweden in October/November he would have been held incommunicado in prison and we may not have seen Cablegate

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- It has since come to light that the policewoman who had interviewed both women and initially reported the alleged rape to the Prosecutor was a friend of the first complainant, Ms A, and had also run for election for the Social Democrats (the same party for which Ms A and her lawyer, Mr Borgstrom, have stood for election) .
- Both women were interviewed only briefly over the telephone and their interrogation is in summary form only. Indeed, the second complainant's interview summary is not even signed or approved by her (she was upset at hearing Julian had been wanted for rape and her friend's later interview to the police states that she felt "railroaded" into making the complaint). This breaches police procedure: interviews with witnesses in sexual offence cases must be recorded in full (video or tape recorded) because the initial interview is important evidence at trial. It is notable that all of the Prosecution witnesses interviews are recorded in summary format so it is impossible to know what the police asked and what their precise answers were in response. Only the interviews with Mr Assange and his friendly witnesses were recorded in full. These irregularities in police procedure will cause evidential problems in any trial, particularly if the reliability of the complainants' testimony is in question
- Evidence at the extradition hearing in London brought to light that not one, but two well-regarded prosecutors in Stockholm do not believe there to be sufficient evidence to found a prosecution. Eva Finné dropped the rape investigation in August but was overruled on appeal. Ms Ny's own deputy, Prosecutor Erika Lejnefors, had told Mr Hurgig in November that the case would likely be dropped because it was so weak. Nevertheless, an international arrest warrant was sought for Julian's arrest. Second, expert evidence from the most respected criminal lawyer in England, Professor Andrew Ashworth of Oxford University, concludes that the facts as alleged in the EAW and the police statements of the two women would not constitute rape or any other crime in England.

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- -Julian has suffered immense adverse prejudicial media coverage in Sweden, fuelled both by the disclosure of police material to the press by the Prosecution and by the highly prejudicial media statements of the lawyer of the two complainants and funded by the Swedish government, Mr Borgstrom. Mr Borgstrom has called Julian a 'coward' for not returning to Sweden and has alleged that his refusal to return is indicative of his guilt.
- Given the nature of the press coverage in Sweden, we have grave concerns as to whether Julian will receive a fair trial: he will be tried in secret, behind closed doors, by a judge and three lay judges (jurors) who are appointed by political parties. The Swedish press does not seem at all concerned with the need for suspects to be presumed innocent and it is difficult to see how jurors could remain unaffected by this media coverage.
- In considering the risk of extradition to the US from Sweden, it must be recalled that Sweden has a history of complying with US requests to hand over persons of interest notwithstanding potential human rights concerns - international bodies have recently found Sweden liable for handing asylum seekers over to the CIA for torture (see Mohammed Alzery v. Sweden (Communication No. 1416/2005, UN Human Rights Committee) and Agiza v. Sweden (Communication No. 233/2003, UN Committee Against Torture, Decision of 24 May 2005 (CAT/C/34/D/233/2003)).
- Further, WikiLeaks cables released last December demonstrate that intelligence sharing and cooperation between Sweden and the US is far deeper than anyone had realised, calling into question Sweden's perceived neutrality, and the extent of this cooperation had been hidden from the Swedish Parliament and the Swedish people.

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- In October-November 2010 Julian's UK lawyers offered him for interview under the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Scheme between the UK and Sweden. Swedish prosecutor Ny refused all Julian's offers for interview by the usual MLA protocol
- On November 2nd 2010, Julian's lawyers informed U.K police that he could be contacted through them for the legal process
- Despite refusing to interview Julian for seven weeks, Sweden was granted a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) to question him (November 18th, 2010)
- Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny also sought to have Julian held incommunicado pending a future trial
- An EAW is used for prosecution, not questioning. Julian's EAW is highly irregular. "An EAW should not be used for the purposes of investigation." - UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights, June 2011
- November 20th 2010 Despite being informed of Julian Assange's whereabouts, Sweden authorized Interpol to make a PUBLIC Red Notice for him.
- "I consider it inappropriate and disproportionate that Ms Ny sought an Interpol Arrest Warrant and EAW for Mr Assange" said expert witness (retired) Swedish judge Britta Sundberg-Weitman. The only recent example of Sweden issuing an Interpol Red Notice and an EAW for a sex offence involved a repeat offending paedophile
- November 26th 2010 Sweden issued an EAW for Julian (2 days before WikiLeaks started publishing Cablegate). This would have lead to Julian's arrest within 10 days but the warrant was invalid and had to be re-issued on December 2nd 2010
- December 8th 2010 The Independent newspaper [cited](#) "diplomatic sources" confirming informal talks between Sweden and the US about extraditing Julian.

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- November 29th 2010: U.S. politicians 'declared war' on WikiLeaks:

"Assange is an anti-American operative with blood on his hands. Why was he not pursued with the same urgency as Al Qaeda?" - Sarah Palin.

"I would look at this as a military issue, with potentially military action against him and his organization." - Tom Shaffer, former Defence Intelligence Agency official, Fox News.

"Anything less than execution is too kind a penalty." - Mike Huckabee, Republican Presidential candidate.

"Well, I think Assange should be assassinated, actually. I think Obama should put out a contract and maybe use a drone or something. ... I would not feel unhappy if Assange 'disappeared'." - Tom Flanagan, former senior adviser to Canadian PM, November 30th 2010.

"We're at war. I hope (US Attorney General) Eric Holder... will... get our laws in line with being at war." - Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, November 30th 2010.

Julian Assange should be "prosecuted as a terrorist." - Senator Rick Santorum, GOP presidential candidate, November 30th 2010.

"He should be treated as an enemy combatant. WikiLeaks should be closed down." - Newt Gingrich, 5 December 2010.

"A dead man can't leak stuff... Illegally shoot the son of a bitch." - Bob Beckel, Fox News, December 6th 2010.

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