

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

New #Unity4J 'Non-Violent Digital Army' in Support of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks Draws Over 2,300 Volunteers Worldwide in 48 Hours



Amidst heightened concern for Julian Assange and journalistic freedoms around the world, over 2,300 everyday citizens from the US, Ecuador, Argentina, France, Australia, Spain, the UK, New Zealand, Sweden and more, have banded together to form a groundbreaking non-violent digital action force, following an emergency meeting called by the #Unity4J movement in solidarity with Julian Assange and WikiLeaks.

Led by internet entrepreneur Kim Dotcom, Internet Party of New Zealand President Suzie Dawson, Editor-in-Chief of Disobedient Media Elizabeth Lea Vos and veteran CIA analyst Ray McGovern, the meeting was called amidst reports that journalist Julian Assange may soon be handed over by Ecuador to UK authorities in violation of standing decisions by the United Nations' Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, both of which found in favor of Assange.

The meeting, held at 23:00 UTC on Saturday, drew an audience into the thousands to join a new collaborative platform for international quick response online and direct actions in the face of this threat to Assange and to the future of journalism itself.

At the meeting, organizer Suzie Dawson announced that the campaign was going global, creating a "non-violent, direct action, digital army, the likes of which has never been seen before. We have built a public platform that everybody in the world can join."

Regarding Assange's situation, Kim Dotcom said "If Ecuador does this [revoke Assange's asylum and release Julian into the custody of the UK] and the UK government takes custody of Julian Assange and arrests him and imprisons him, it is going to cause a global movement that we are going to start here today, where everyone is welcome to contribute, to participate in the fight to free Julian Assange, to make sure that institutions like WikiLeaks can continue to report the truth to us, the people."

Ray McGovern added regarding this new global movement: "I'd like to invoke the Noah principle: no more awards for predicting rain. Rewards only for building Arks. That's what we're about - we're starting to build Arks."

The movement includes many high-profile members from across the political spectrum including Daniel Ellsberg, Chris Hedges, George Galloway, Cynthia McKinney, David Swanson and William Binney just to name a few. All involved are putting aside any ideological differences to work towards this common cause of freeing Julian Assange.

Featured panelists at the emergency meeting spoke out on why they support the campaign and the most common threads were human rights, press freedoms and the importance of WikiLeaks' contributions to the historical record.

These panelists included:

Ciaron O'Reilly (United States Air Force Veteran, Writer and Activist)

Lisa Ling (Whistleblower and Drone Warfare Expert)

Cian Westmoreland (US Air Force Veteran, Whistleblower and Drone Warfare Expert)

Cathy Vogan (Media Artist and Journalist)

Vivian Kubrick (Filmmaker and Composer)

Kevin Zeese (Lawyer Activist, Writer and Drug Policy Alliance Founder)

Scott Ludlam (Member of the Australian Senate 2008-2017 and former Australian Green Party Deputy Leader & Senator)

Diani Barreto (Journalist Advocate and Researcher on Whistleblowing)

Ross Cameron (Sky Australia - Outsiders Host and former Australian Liberal Party House Member)

Gregory Barns (Lead Member of Julian Assange's Legal Team, Australian Barrister and Political Commentator)

The event is archived at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdzBFeWXSxY>

Anybody wanting to participate in this important campaign can do so via the following link: <https://unity4j.com/discord>

Event hashtag: #Unity4J

Official Website: <http://unity4j.com>

Official Twitter: @Unity4J

WikiLeaks Legal Defense Fund:

<https://justice4assange.com/donate.html>

WikiLeaks support website:

<https://iamwikileaks.org>

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Media inquiries and interview requests should be made via email to: info@unity4j.com

Or by direct message on Twitter to: Suzie Dawson @Suzi3D or Elizabeth Vos

@ElizabethLeaVos