

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Outrage at political bias shown by judge sentencing Julian Assange today



Today, Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Julian Assange was sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for a UK bail charge related to a previously closed Swedish investigation. Unity4J is outraged at the obvious political bias shown by Judge Taylor in court.

Mr. Assange's legal defense brought forth substantial documentation supporting reasonable cause for seeking asylum in 2012, due to the imminent danger posed by threats from the United States.

He had already served 550+ days under house arrest before seeking asylum in 2012 and that should have been considered in today's sentencing hearing. The UK Taxpayers should be upset with their own government, not Mr. Assange, for wasting £16 million used to spy and patrol the Ecuadorian Embassy for nearly 7 years time at the direction of the United States.

Julian Assange and WikiLeaks have a 100 percent accuracy record spanning well over a decade in exposing war crimes and corruption across the world. This is the first event in a series that are ultimately intended to silence dissent and degrade press freedom.

We now turn our focus on fighting the US extradition request hearing that will begin tomorrow, on May 2nd, at Westminster Magistrates Court. Supporters are encouraged to show up at this hearing, and the many events, actions and rallies being held in support of Julian Assange in the coming days.

Background:

Julian Assange was granted asylum as a political refugee and was confined to the Ecuadorian Embassy in London for over six years. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled that Mr. Assange was illegally detained according to international law and should be immediately freed and compensated. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has also ruled that the UK must facilitate safe passage for him. The actions taken by both Ecuador and UK officials on behalf of the US, by revoking his asylum and allowing police to arrest him within the embassy, is in obvious contrast to these rulings and are an affront to the principles of justice and press freedom everywhere.

#Unity4J is a global mass movement in solidarity with Julian Assange, created in response to Ecuador's gagging of the publisher. Unity4J has been endorsed by more than fifty high profile activists, journalists, celebrities, academics and former US intelligence officials including Chris Hedges, Jimmy Dore, Ray McGovern, Bill Binney, John Kiriakou, and Daniel Ellsberg.

Take action:

Movement hashtag: #Unity4J

Official website: <https://unity4j.com>

Official Twitter: [@Unity4J](https://twitter.com/Unity4J)

Contribute directly:

WikiLeaks Legal Defence Fund:

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

WikiLeaks support website:

<https://iamwikileaks.org>

Courage Foundation:

<https://couragefound.org>

Credible accounts for Julian Assange updates:

<https://twitter.com/suzi3d/lists/assange-updates>

Media inquiries and interview requests:

Inquiries and interview requests should be made to Suzie Dawson, via DM on Twitter: [@Suzi3D](https://twitter.com/Suzi3D), or by emailing info@unity4j.com

For more background and context, we recommend the following articles:

Courage Foundation: Assange's protection from US extradition "in jeopardy"

<https://www.iamwikileaks.org/2018/05/25/assanges-protection-from-us-extradition-in-jeopardy/>

Did Rep. Adam Schiff Just Admit the US Has a Secret Indictment of Julian Assange?

<https://grayzoneproject.com/2018/05/26/did-rep-adam-schiff-just-admit-the-us-has-a-secret-indictment-of-julian-assange/>

Conspiracy to push Julian Assange into UK/US hands

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2018/05/16/assa-m16.html>

The UK's Hidden Role in Assange's Detention

<https://original.antiwar.com/cook/2018/02/12/uks-hidden-role-assanges-detention/>

Treatment of Assange is unjust, says former Ecuador minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/16/julian-assange-treatment-irresponsible-ecuador-foreign-minister-guillaume-long>

Ecuador's Ex-President Rafael Correa Denounces Treatment of Julian Assange as "Torture"

<https://theintercept.com/2018/05/16/ecuadors-ex-president-rafael-correa-denounces-treatment-of-julian-assange-as-torture/>

Opinion: Ecuador's Solitary Confinement Of Assange Is Torture

<https://disobedientmedia.com/2018/04/opinion-ecuadors-solitary-confinement-of-assange-is-torture/>

Being Julian Assange:

<https://contraspin.co.nz/beingjulianassange>