

Assange Statements

Julian Assange is a brave journalist, he must be released!

Dr. Daniele Ganser, historian and peace researcher

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Julian Assange deserves FREEDOM like no other!!! This has been stolen from him over the years, both unjustifiably and in violation of press freedom. Years that don't come back. Thank you very much to everyone who is fighting for justice for Julian Assange. Much strength to him and his loved ones!

Dr. Maria Hubmer-Mogg, doctor

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For me, the treatment of Julian Assange is the current crystallization point, the perfect mirror to check whether we are actually living our Western values. We are currently denouncing political persecution, lack of freedom, discrimination etc. in other countries while we keep Assange in political prison.

We must now overcome this form of schizophrenia and translate abstract values into concrete action.

And so I ask you from the bottom of my heart to stand up for Julian Assange, who has been subjected to torture-like conditions for years simply because he was the bearer of bad and unwelcome news.

With Assange, the so-called Western values are being put to the test - at the crossroads between right and wrong, between truth and illusion.

We cannot justifiably criticize Navalny's imprisonment for another 10 years and at the same time shrug our shoulders and agree to Assange's extradition to the USA, where he faces 175 years in prison.

This would be the height of hypocrisy and a swan song to compassion itself. With Julian Assange, the West is putting its credibility on the line to an unimaginable extent.

Let us put an end to this unworthy game and give Assange and all those who suffer injustice their dignity and freedom back.

Gerald Ehegartner, teacher and author

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Julian Assange is a courageous journalist who did his job and revealed the truth. For this he is being punished in a cruel and completely disproportionate manner and it is extremely disturbing that this even happens in a democracy. Speaking the truth is not a crime!

It's time to end this injustice and release Julian.

Mag. Daniela Lupp, sociologist and editor-in-chief at the online magazine „Unsere ZeitenWende“

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Why should Julian Assange be free?

Because there is not a single reason to lock him up.

With his work as an investigative journalist and the founding of WikiLeaks, he has made one of the most valuable and urgently needed contributions to the preservation and further development of democracy.

When his father, Gabriel Shipton, impressively admonishes us and says: "If he goes down so journalism will", then on the one hand he is right. After all, with Julian's indictment and imprisonment, the "fourth estate" in many democratic states has already fallen to its knees and forgotten what its mission is: to scrutinise the powerful, expose abuses and initiate change.

And on the other hand, I hope he is wrong. Because even in the worst-case scenario, there will be journalists who remember their professional ethics and are now even more committed to researching and disseminating the truth, which is far too often suppressed.

That is my confidence.

And my hope is that the inhumane proceedings, which are unworthy of a state governed by the rule of law, will take a turn for the better at the last moment and that Julian Assange can finally return to his exemplary and indispensable work as an investigative journalist as a free man.

Free Assange!

Michael Karjalainen-Dräger, editor-in-chief at the independent media platform „Idealism Prevails“ and editor at the online magazine „Unsere ZeitenWende“

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The "case" of Julian Assange seems quite simple & clear to me.

Julian Assange is locked up & has been for a very long time.

Under conditions of torture.

He has never been convicted in any court. No charge has been filed against him.

What has he done to suffer through this?

Julian Assange has made a lot of documents available to the public - to us. Document that belie some of the basic political narratives of our societies. Narratives that we are told incessantly. That we are supposed to believe without further asking.

The message of this "case" directed at all of us.

& against all of us.

The message is quite simple & clear.

Why on earth should we accept it?

Why should we accept this message of inhumanity, lawlessness & slavery?

I can't see one single reason.

Free Assange!

Dr. Alexander Mejstrik, historian and editor at the online magazine „Unsere ZeitenWende“

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Freedom for Julian Assange! Power needs control, and an intact democracy needs freedom of the press as well as independent journalists. If this is no longer granted, a society loses out at all levels. Because ethical values, moral courage and unhindered access to publicly relevant content are incompatible with censorship. Through whoever. From whoever. Freedom of the press is an unremovable fundamental right that cannot be politically reinterpreted in a democratic country. And courageous, value-oriented journalism is probably the most indispensable pillar of fundamental rights and freedoms. Also in our country. Julian Assange's fate is no longer just his personal fate. Although this is almost indescribably bitter. Rather, his fate reveals an almost unbearably painful wound. The wound of silence regarding this act of disregard for human rights. The wound of a lack of solidarity. But also the wound of a cross-border outcry that has so far failed to take place against the arbitrariness with which free journalistic work is manipulated, censored and suppressed in some places. However, we must not give up hope of experiencing a truly historic moment for independent journalism: the moment of acquittal for Julian Assange! Every well-meaning effort is worth it.

Dr. Angelika Mayrhofer-Battlogg, MSc, MBA, cultural and social scientist and editor at the online magazine „Unsere ZeitenWende“

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We, the Citizens' Initiative for the Common Good Lobby, have launched the campaign "Honorary citizenship for Julian Assange in every municipality and city" in Germany. This campaign is intended to highlight the injustice and arbitrariness of states everywhere and what happens to people like Julian when truths are published that point to crimes and human rights violations committed by these very states.

In doing so, we want to ensure that the municipalities, including the administrative authorities, have to deal with the inhumane treatment of J.A. and at the same time we keep Julian's thoughts alive until he is released.

The team of Common Good Lobby
Gerhard Fischer

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The now former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Swiss Nils Melzer, has made sufficiently public in his book "The Trial of Julian Assange" the serious breaches of law, the massive human rights violations, the absurd course of the trial and the extreme, torture-like prison conditions that here a person was and is exposed to. For almost 5 years, the Australian journalist has been held in London's Belmarsh maximum security prison in cruel and inhumane conditions that can be described as torture, in a place where only terrorists and highly dangerous murderers

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are imprisoned. And that's only because he published material that the US government didn't want to be published.

But this is not the top of the story. It's not just about Julian Assange, it's not just about saving him. It's about all of us. For all citizens of the Western world. Assange is being made an example of.

This puts us all at risk. Democracy is in danger, freedom of expression is in danger, fundamental rights are in danger, freedom of the press is in danger. If Julian Assange is extradited to the US, a precedent will be set. From then on, no journalist, anywhere in the world, of any nationality, can feel safe publishing material that the US government does not want to be published. The same thing could happen to him/her as Julian Assange.

The leading global media Spiegel, New York Times, Guardian, Le Monde and El País called on the US government to stop prosecuting the journalist more than a year ago. In addition, the NGOs Amnesty International, Reporters Without Borders and a large number of activist groups, artists and celebrities around the world are campaigning for him and demanding his release. 70 Australian politicians are calling for the case to be dropped, and many congressmen in the US are doing the same.

The final appeal hearing in the Julian Assange case will take place in London on February 20 and 21, 2024, dealing with the US request for his extradition. But we demand the immediate termination of all proceedings against Julian Assange and his unconditional release. Keeping him in prison any longer would violate all the values that the West is otherwise so proud of.

Ortwin Rosner, philosopher and germanist

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Assange used WikiLeaks to point out grievances and criminal activities and was eliminated for it. It cannot be said otherwise. There's a nice saying in English that goes: "Don't blame the messenger if the message is unpleasant." The things that he highlighted, that he made public, were of course a thorn in the side of some, and for that reason he probably had to be removed. I find it an absolute scandal that Western politicians have not yet come forward and said that Julian Assange must be freed. It can't be a mistake, it's actually the innermost intention of the fourth pillar of journalism to point out grievances, to put a finger in the wound and to show the public corruption, nepotism and crime, including within our own political elites. And in that respect he is actually a pawn, a deterrent example that is intended to intimidate other journalists because everyone thinks: "If I end up in the same waters as Julian, then I will also be locked up." That is actually an alarm signal for democracy. Then we actually no longer have democracy. For me, a country, a system that locks critics away is a dictatorship, and in this respect, I see it as a disgrace on our Western civilization that Julian Assange is still innocently sitting in prison today.

Marc Friedrich, financial expert and bestselling author

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Julian Assange is not in prison because he attacked someone. He is not being prosecuted by the judiciary because he lied, because he is corrupt or because he disregarded journalistic professional ethics. No, he is in prison because he found out the TRUTH! Because he took his job seriously, because he informed the public about something they have a right to know. If we journalists simply accept that those in power of democratic and free western states allow Julian Assange to be persecuted and condemned and make an example of him, then this will have an impact on all media professionals.

Dr. Gudula Walterskirchen, historian, journalist and author

We - the so-called "West" - like to emphasize our values of freedom and democracy. But there is no democracy without a free public opinion-forming process. And freedom of opinion also requires freedom of information and freedom of the press, because otherwise the public opinion may be based on false facts. That is why the protection of freedom of information, freedom of the press and whistleblowers is fundamental to the functioning of a democracy. This cannot simply be "switched off" just because some information is inconvenient and perhaps counteracts the political and military goals of a nation's political rulers. After all, it may be necessary to publicly question these goals, that is what democracy is all about: accountable government and responsible policy for and on behalf of informed citizens.

Nobody deserves to be locked away in prison for daring to bring important information into the public eye. The Assange case is therefore not just about the individual freedom of a single person, but about the future freedom of our society as a whole. I am deeply shocked that the USA, of all countries, which is committed to the fundamental value of freedom, is persecuting a single man so mercilessly simply because he has brought to light truths that some would have preferred to keep under wraps.

Ing. Mag. Ludwig Fliesser
Communications Manager
Social Anthropologist

Julian Assange is a journalist and publisher. He did his duty in publishing on WikiLeaks issues that are in the public interest worldwide.

At the Candles4Assange vigils, when discussing Julian Assange with the public, I am constantly astonished at the awareness and support shown, and with but a handful believing the lies and defamation spread against him over the years. It is about Julian Assange and the way we perceive he has been mistreated for doing his job. It is however also about the implications his case has on our democratic principles, the rule of law, freedom of the press, freedom of information, freedom of speech. It is clear to us that the mistreatment and defamation of Assange is an

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example set to build fear in the heart of any journalist who would, in future, dare wish to divulge the “dirty secrets of the mighty (corporate, government or individuals)” to the public. The people (from numerous countries) also express their indignation at the attitude taken by western politicians with their lack of action and bland statements about not interfering in a legal process which, in the eyes of the public is utterly flawed in its application. Equally, the public is angered by politicians using the Assange case to further their ambitions prior to elections, to join the bland statements after. The only democratic, lawful and just action to be taken is:

Dismiss the case against Julian Assange,
Do not extradite Julian Assange,
Cease all types of persecution against him and other journalists.
FREE JULIAN ASSANGE NOW!!

Marie-Odile Dorer
Candles4Assange, Vienna

Without the WikiLeaks platform founded by Julian Assange, we, the sovereigns, would not be informed about the misconduct and crimes of government branches and corporations or individuals. This information is in the public interest and Julian Assange must be protected and honored as the brave journalist he is.

Barbara Waschmann, film festival promoter and part of
Candles4Assange vigil team Vienna
