

# Assange to be ‘Moved Around’ Sine Die

By [Ray McGovern](#)

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*Very bad news for those who still care about freedom of the press and what the fate of **Julian Assange** means for the artifact-First Amendment added to the U.S. Constitution 240 years ago. [The UK High Court just announced](#) it will hear the US appeal of a lower court decision against extraditing Julian Assange.*

Godot is likely to arrive before the US/UK finish the legal pantomime denying Assange his freedom.

The High Court decision solidifies Britain’s status as a US vassal state – the 800-year legacy of the Magna Carta be damned. Giving obsequious hypocrisy a bad name, the High Court’s announcement comes a week and half after the prime witness for the latest indictment of Assange [recanted his testimony](#).

It should come as no surprise that British “Justice” officials are following the detailed “Washington Playbook” approach that was [exposed by WikiLeaks itself in Feb. 2012](#).

Some readers may recall that WikiLeaks-revealed confidential emails from the US private intelligence firm Stratfor mentioned that the US already had a secret indictment against the WikiLeaks founder. Bad enough.

## Inspector Javert

What also showed up in the Stratfor emails was the unrelenting, Inspector-Javert-type approach taken by one Fred Burton, Stratfor’s Vice-President for Counterterrorism and Corporate Security. (Burton had been Deputy Chief of the Department of State’s counterterrorism division for the Diplomatic Security Service.)

Here’s Javert – [I mean Burton](#):

*“Move him [Assange] from country to country to face charges for the next 25 years. But seize everything he and his family own, to include every person linked to Wiki.” [my comment: “country to country”, or – equally effective – court to court]*

*“Pursue conspiracy and political terrorism charges and declassify the death of a source,*

*someone which could link to Wiki.”*

*“Assange is a peacenik. He needs his head dunked in a full toilet bowl at Gitmo.”*

*“Take down the money. Go after his infrastructure. The tools we are using to nail and de-construct Wiki are the same tools used to dismantle and track al-Qaeda.”*

*“Bankrupt the arsehole first; ruin his life. Give him 7-12 years for conspiracy.”*

*“Assange is going to make a nice bride in prison. Screw the terrorist. He’ll be eating cat food forever ... extradition to the US is more and more likely.”*

Nice people – once sworn under oath “to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic”. Since comparisons are invidious, apologies to “Javert” and Victor Hugo.

### **Meanwhile Back at Belmarsh**

It is not clear whether the likes of Fred Burton have been able to dictate the menu for Julian Assange (but who would be surprised?). What is clear is that, ***unless a major grassroots campaign can gather more steam, and soon***, Julian is likely to be moved from court to court, prison to prison – ***all under color of law*** – until they destroy what is left of him. It is a sad pantomime, a mockery of justice. Talk about *Les Miserables!*

As UN Rapporteur for Torture Nils Melzer has pointed out, Julian Assange is being subjected to psychological torture – in full view of the rest of the world. And, as reprehensible as this crime is – still more is at stake for democracies, which cannot exist without a free media.

Last Saturday Julian Assange “celebrated” his 50th birthday in London’s high-security Belmarsh Prison. I was asked to record a message to be loud-speakered at the demonstration in support of Julian before the prison that day. [Here is the recording](#). For those lacking appreciation for my singing, the 8-minute talk [is transcribed here](#).

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*Featured image: Julian Assange court sketch, October 21, 2019, supplied by Julia Quenzler.*

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