

House Intelligence Committee Seeks Answers from CIA on Plot Against Assange

By [Joe Lauria](#)

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The chairman of the House Intelligence Committee told Yahoo! News that the committee has asked Langley to explain reports of plans to kill or kidnap the WikiLeaks publisher.

Adam Schiff, the chairman of the U.S. House Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday the committee has requested information from the CIA about reported plans to assassinate or abduct Julian Assange, the imprisoned *WikiLeaks* publisher.

Schiff told *Yahoo! News* that the request has already been made to the agency but refused to comment on whether the CIA has yet replied, the news site [reported](#).

Schiff acted after reading a *Yahoo!* [story](#) last month that confirmed and expanded upon earlier reports from a Spanish court case that the CIA was seriously discussing killing or renditioning Assange.

Assange is next week to face a U.S. appeal of a January decision by lower court Judge Vanessa Baraitser not to extradite him because of a high-risk of suicide. The U.S. is seeking to overturn the ruling that Assange is too sick to be sent to a U.S. prison. U.S. prosecutors allege that Assange is a malingerer.

Assange’s lawyers intend to bring up the CIA’s plans. *Yahoo!* reported Tuesday that “lawyers for Assange intend to raise the issue of what they view as the CIA’s misconduct, arguing that returning him to a country where some top officials once plotted to kidnap him strengthens the judge’s conclusions about the risk of suicide and should be an additional basis for turning down the U.S. extradition request.”

Baraitser, who heard testimony in Assange’s extradition hearing about the CIA plot against him, showed little concern, even sympathy with the agency, [writing](#) in her [judgement](#) that “if the allegations are true, they demonstrate a high level of concern by the US authorities regarding Mr. Assange’s ongoing activities.”

The CIA plot against Assange was discussed at senior levels of the Trump administration and was instigated by Trump's CIA chief Mike Pompeo, *Yahoo!* reported. Schiff was a bitter foe of Donald Trump. The *Yahoo!* reporting mentions that discussions about covert action against Assange had already been discussed in the Obama administration, presumably by Obama's CIA director John Brennan.

Fears that he could be assassinated go back to at least October 2010, when the Obama CIA refused to say if there were such plans after a Freedom of Information Act [request](#). This tweet is from eleven years ago:

CIA refuses to confirm or deny plot to assassinate WikiLeaks editor; open government-Obama style <http://is.gd/gLvcn>

— WikiLeaks (@wikileaks) [November 6, 2010](#)

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Joe Lauria is editor-in-chief of Consortium News and a former UN correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, Boston Globe, and numerous other newspapers. He was an investigative reporter for the Sunday Times of London and began his professional work as a stringer for The New York Times. He can be reached at joelauria@consortiumnews.com and followed on Twitter @unjoe.

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