

# Top Ecuadorian Diplomat Destroys Guardian's Claim that Manafort Visited Assange

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A former consul and first secretary at the Ecuadorian embassy in London has put the final nail in the coffin of credibility for *The Guardian*, refuting the paper's [fantastical and wholly unsupported claim](#) that former Trump campaign manager **Paul Manafort** visited WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in 2013, 2015 and the spring of 2016 – a charge vehemently denied by all parties involved.

**Fidel Narváez** – who worked at Ecuador's London embassy from 2010 – 2018 has told [The Canary](#) that *The Guardian's* claim is **entirely false**. *The Canary* has also reviewed a copy of correspondence between the *Guardian* and Narváez **in which he makes a formal complaint accusing the paper of fabricating an earlier story about a Kremlin plot to smuggle Assange to Russia**.

Both WikiLeaks and Manafort have said they plan to sue *The Guardian* over the publication, with Manafort slamming the report as “totally false and deliberately libellous.”

Narváez – initially consul and then first secretary at the embassy, told the Canary that to his knowledge, Manafort **never visited the embassy while he was employed there**. What's more, his account **supports points made by *The Intercept's* Glenn Greenwald** about visitation rights at the embassy.

**It is impossible for any visitor to enter the embassy without going through very strict protocols and leaving a clear record:** obtaining written approval from the ambassador, registering with security personnel, and leaving a copy of ID. **The embassy is the most surveilled on Earth;** not only are there cameras positioned on neighbouring buildings recording every visitor, but inside the building every movement is recorded with CCTV cameras, 24/7. In fact, **security personnel have always spied on Julian and his visitors. It is simply not possible that Manafort visited the embassy.**

*The Guardian* responded to Narváez's comments, stating:

“This story relied on a number of sources. We put these allegations to both Paul Manafort and Julian Assange's representatives prior to publication. **Neither responded to deny the visits taking place.** We have since updated the story to reflect their denials.”

This answer is counter to a statement made by Manafort following the story's publication, in which he said “We are considering all legal options against the Guardian who proceeded with this story **even after being notified by my representatives that it was**

**false.**”Furthermore, Manafort’s [passport stamps](#) also refute the *Guardian*’s reporting, after the *Washington Times* reported that Manafort’s three passports reveal just two visits to England in 2010 and 2012, which support his categorical denial of the “totally false and deliberately libelous” report in *The Guardian*, which said that Manafort visited Assange in the Ecuadorian Embassy – ostensibly to coordinate on the WikiLeaks release of Hillary Clinton’s emails.

WikiLeaks, meanwhile, bet *The Guardian* “**a million dollars and its editor’s head that Manafort never met Assange.**”

This is going to be one of the most infamous news disasters since Stern published the "Hitler Diaries".

— WikiLeaks (@wikileaks) [November 27, 2018](#)

No word on whether they’ve taken the organization up on its offer.

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