

“Wiki-Gate”: Julian Assange Was Framed by the People Who Supported Him

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)
Global Research, June 25, 2024

Region: [USA](#)
Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#),
[Intelligence](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

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Author’s Note and Update

1. Julian Assange is Free, but “Freedom of Speech has Passed”

Julian Assange left Belmarsh maximum security prison on the morning of 24 June. He was granted bail by the High Court in London and was released at Stansted airport during the afternoon, where he boarded a plane and departed the UK.

We must acknowledge the “dodgy nature” of the negotiations with the US DOJ: The deal reached on June 24, was that Assange:

“agrees to plead guilty to ONE felony related to the disclosure of national security information in exchange for his release from Belmarsh Prison in the United Kingdom” (Common Dreams, June 24, 2024)

Holding the Assange Court Case in a Remote “Territorial Court” in the Northern Mariana Islands. Why?

The Northern Mariana are remote islands of 50,000 inhabitants in the Pacific North of Guam which belong to the U.S. Commonwealth.



Confirmed by media reports (CBS, BBC): Assange will not spend time in US custody. He will receive “credit for the time spent incarcerated in the UK”.

“Assange will return to Australia, according to a letter from the Justice Department”.

His guilty plea to only ONE charge is slated to be finalized in the “Remote” “District Court” of the Northern Mariana Islands on June 26.



The Criminalization of Justice? Threat to the First Amendment

What is the End-Game of Assange’s “guilty plea” to be decided upon at the hearings of the “Territorial Court’ of the Northern Mariana Islands?

Assange had agreed to plead guilty to “one felony for conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information related to U.S. national defense”, as outlined in a DOJ Letter together with other documents (filed in the District Court in the [Northern Mariana Islands](#), a U.S. territory in the Pacific)

Below is the letter of the US Department of Justice (National Security Division) addressed to Hon. Judge Ramona N. Manglona

This letter dated June 24, 2024 (FILED on the District Court on June 25, 2024) reads as an Instruction to the Judge prior to the actual Court Procedure on June 26, 2024.

The Court hearings were pre-determined by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) Instructions contained in the Letter.

American Jurisprudence requires a Court Judge who is independent and cannot under any circumstances be receiving instructions from the DoD prosecutors.

The DoD Letter Overrides the Responsibility of the District Court Judge. It scraps the fundamental premise of Judicial Independence. Moreover, the Judge is NOT ALLOWED to make a statement or judgement in Support of Free Speech. Nor does it have the right to make an observation on the DoJ accusation against Assange.

It’s the criminalization of Justice.

[See here for supporting legal documents](#) (Document 1 Pages 1-4)



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

CR - 24 - 00014

June 24, 2024 (EST)

The Honorable Ramona V. Manglona
U. S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500687
Saipan, MP 96950
SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

FILED
Clerk
District Court

JUN 25 2024

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By JP
(Deputy Clerk)

Re: United States v. Julian Paul Assange

Your Honor:

We are attaching the electronically signed felony Information in the above-captioned matter and respectfully request that, as soon as possible, the clerk docket this letter and Information in order to provide public notice of the Rule 11 hearing scheduled before Your Honor in Saipan for Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 9am, during which we anticipate that the defendant will plead guilty to the charge in the Information of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information relating to the national defense of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 793(g), and be sentenced by the Court for that offense.

We appreciate the Court accommodating these plea and sentencing proceedings on a single day at the joint request of the parties, in light of the defendant's opposition to traveling to the continental United States to enter his guilty plea and the proximity of this federal U.S. District Court to the defendant's country of citizenship, Australia, to which we expect he will return at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. McKenzie
Deputy Chief
Counterintelligence and Export Control Section
U.S. Department of Justice
National Security Division

Shawn N. Anderson
United States Attorney
Districts of Guam and the NMI

Cc: Defense counsel (via email)



Establishing a Legal Precedent? Demise of the First Amendment

Is the objective of the federal court hearing in Saipan to establish a legal PRECEDENT, whereby both mainstream as well as independent journalists can be prosecuted for “conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified information related to U.S. national defense.”

There was a prior commitment to the effect that the Saipan NMI Judge would approve Assange’s plea in accordance with the terms set out in the letter of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) (National Security Division)

“You will be able to walk out of this courtroom a free man,” said Hon Judge Ramona Manglona upon approving your plea.

The terms of the deal were discussed. The Judgment was predetermined, decided in Washington.

Addressing the court, “Assange said he believed the Espionage Act under which he was charged contradicted First Amendment rights in the US Constitution, but that he [WAS FORCED TO] accept [in his plea] that encouraging sources to provide classified information for publication could be unlawful. As a condition of his plea, he will be required to destroy information provided to WikiLeaks.”

Image right. Saipan District Court

The Legal Status of the Saipan “Territorial District Court”

Bear in mind the Northern Mariana Islands District Court which was chosen by the US Department of Justice. is not an [Article III](#) U.S. District Court:

—Article III District Courts: The 13 [United States courts of appeals](#) and the 91 [United States district courts](#) (including the districts of D.C. and Puerto Rico.

— Article IV Territorial Courts: The territorial district courts of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the Virgin Islands

While Assange did not want a court procedure on U.S. territory, choosing the Saipan “District Court” was no doubt intentional on the part of the U.S. DoJ. Whereas judgments can be appealed Ninth Circuit, the Article IV territorial Courts are NOT “De Jure” Federal District Courts.

Does this not open up a Pandora’s box regarding the legality of the June 26 “Fake

Judgment” pertaining to Julian Assange, all of which emanates from a DoJ Letter? I should mention, that the DoJ had forced Assange to “plead guilty” for an alleged crime which he did not commit. In the words of Scott Ritter:

“By allowing the US government to compel Julian Assange to plead guilty to a crime he did not commit, America has condemned itself to be a land where telling the truth is a crime.” (Scott Ritter)

[See the procedures of the Mariana Islands District Court](#)

2. History: Assange was betrayed and misled by those who allegedly supported him.



In October 2021, the U.S. government began a legal challenge to extradite Julian Assange from the U.K. “to face charges of violating the Espionage Act”.

The U.K. Supreme Court turned down Assange’s appeal to “prevent his extradition to the United States”.

On April 20, 2022, a U.K magistrates court formally approved the extradition of Julian Assange to the US “on espionage charges”.

According to [Paul C. Roberts](#):

The most extraordinary thing about Julian Assange is that he is being treated as if he were an American citizen.

“Treason” was the original cry, now converted to “espionage.”

There was no espionage. Wikileaks published, and made available to the New York Times, The Guardian, and other media organizations leaked information. The media organizations published the information, just as did Wikileaks, but they are not charged.”

[In February 2024](#) . The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) confirmed that “the prosecution of Assange represents a [global threat to media freedom](#).”

“The ongoing prosecution of [Julian Assange](#) jeopardizes media freedom everywhere in the world,” the IFJ and EFJ said in a joint statement.

That statement is contradictory. The mainstream media continues to be the source of extensive media disinformation.

It sustains the lies concerning the Covid crisis and the mRNA vaccine, which has resulted in an upward trend of excess mortality.

It routinely endorses the US-NATO war agenda, while describing the Neo-Nazi Kiev regime as a flourishing democracy.

And now they allegedly come to his rescue.

3. Julian Assange's Relation with the Mainstream Media

Julian Assange was initially lauded and supported by the mainstream media. In 2008 The Economist, which is partly owned by the Rothschild family granted Assange The New Media Award.

Was this a genuine endorsement of Assange's commitment to "freedom of the press"? Or was it a public relations ploy?

Assange was framed by those who supported him:

The Guardian, The New York Times, The Economist, Vaughan Smith, George Soros, the Rothschilds, the Council on Foreign Relations, et al.

Assange has been accused by the same corporate media which praised his achievements.

In retrospect, it was a carefully planned operation. The Wiki "Leaks" were selectively "overseen".

Here are details regarding some of the key players. Below is my 2019 article entitled "Wiki-Gate": Julian Assange Was Framed, by the People Who Supported Him

4. Henry Vaughan Lockhart Smith

Vaughn Smith is a former British Grenadier Guards captain who came to his rescue. Assange was provided refuge at his house in Norfolk. They had a close friendship.

Vaughn Lockhart Smith was the founder of the London based Frontline Club (A Media entity supported by George Soros' Open Society Institute).

In 2010, the Frontline Club served as the de facto U.K "headquarters" for Julian Assange.

Vaughan Smith is not an "independent journalist", He actively [collaborated with NATO](#), as an [embedded reporter and cameraman in several US-NATO war theaters](#) including Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, and Kosovo

In 1998 -prior to the onslaught of NATO's war on Yugoslavia- he worked as a video journalist in Kosovo in a production entitled The Valley, which consisted in "documenting" alleged Serbian atrocities against Kosovar Albanians on behalf of US-NATO which invaded Yugoslavia on March 24, 1999.

The video production was carried out with the support of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA),

whose leader Hashim Thaci became president of Kosovo. In 1998, Thaci was on the Interpol list. Twenty-two years later, Thaci was indicted by the ICTY Hague Tribunal for crimes against humanity including “murder, enforced disappearances, persecution and torture”.

5. David E. Sanger, New York Times

The New York Times was complicit: David E Sanger, Chief Washington correspondent of the NYT was involved in the redacting of Wikileaks in consultation with the US State Department:

“[W]e went through [the cables] so carefully to try to redact material that we thought could be damaging to individuals or undercut ongoing operations. And we even took the very unusual step of showing the 100 cables or so that we were writing from to the U.S. government and asking them if they had additional redactions to suggest.” (See [PBS Interview; The Redacting and Selection of Wikileaks documents by the Corporate Media](#), PBS interview on “Fresh Air” with Terry Gross: December 8, 2010, emphasis added).

David E. Sanger is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the Aspen Group. The NYT also has links with U.S. intelligence.

It is worth noting that several American journalists, members of the Council on Foreign Relations had interviewed Wikileaks, including [Time Magazine’s Richard Stengel](#) (November 30, 2010) and The New Yorker’s Raffi Khatchadurian. ([WikiLeaks and Julian Paul Assange : The New Yorker](#), June 11, 2007)

6. The Insidious Role of the U.S. State Department

[In a February 20, 2024 report:](#)

“The United States’ bid to prosecute [Julian Assange](#) is “state retaliation”, the High Court has heard in his final bid to escape extradition.

The Wikileaks founder faces extradition to the US over an alleged conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defence information following the publication of hundreds of thousands of leaked documents relating to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

[In a January 2021 ruling](#), then-district judge Vanessa Baraitser said that Assange should not be sent to the US, citing a real and “oppressive” risk of suicide, while ruling against him on all other issues.”

The New York Times redaction of classified material was carried out in close consultation with the U.S. State Department (See David Sanger’s statement above).

It’s a bombshell: The State Department was collaborating with the NYT in facilitating the release of classified documents. This in itself raises legal issues.

[In a February 21, 2024 report:](#)

“The United States’ bid to prosecute [Julian Assange](#) is “state retaliation”, the High Court has heard in his final bid to escape extradition.

The Wikileaks founder faces extradition to the US over an alleged conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defence information following the publication of hundreds of thousands of leaked documents relating to the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

[In a January 2021 ruling](#), then-district judge Vanessa Baraitser said that Assange should not be sent to the US, citing a real and “oppressive” risk of suicide, while ruling against him on all other issues.”

From a legal standpoint, it is not “State Retaliation”, quite the opposite, it’s “State Collusion”:

The U.S. State Department is on record: It provided a green light to the NYT for the release of redacted classified documents.

Was there not a conflict of interest somewhere? From a legal standpoint, the U.S. State Department was in violation of the Espionage Act.

7. The Open Letter by the NYT, Guardian, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, El Pais

The five major news media which were instrumental in the release and “redacting” of the WikiLeaks documents issued in 2019 a somewhat contradictory joint statement (Open letter) requesting the release of Julian Assange.

They accuse Assange for releasing classified documents on corruption and US government fraud, while acknowledging their role in releasing redacted texts of classified documents. Are they not also in violation of the Espionage Act.

[Below is the text of the letter.](#)

An open letter from editors and publishers: Publishing is not a Crime

“Twelve years ago, on 28 November 2010, our five international media outlets – The New York Times, the Guardian, Le Monde, El País and DER SPIEGEL – published a series of revelations in cooperation with Wikileaks that made the headlines around the globe.

“Cable gate”, a set of 251,000 confidential cables from the US State Department disclosed corruption, diplomatic scandals and spy affairs on an international scale.

In the words of The New York Times, the documents told “the unvarnished story of how the government makes its biggest decisions, the decisions that cost the country most heavily in lives and money”. Even now in 2022, journalists and historians continue to publish new revelations, using the unique trove of documents.

For Julian Assange, publisher of Wikileaks, the publication of “Cable gate” and several other related leaks had the most severe consequences. On 11 April 2019, Assange was arrested in London on a US arrest warrant, and has now been held for three and a half years in a high security British prison usually used for terrorists and members of organised crime groups. He faces extradition to the US and a sentence of up to 175 years in an American maximum security prison.

This group of editors and publishers, all of whom had worked with Assange, felt the

need to publicly criticise his conduct in 2011 when unredacted copies of the cables were released, and some of us are concerned about the allegations in the indictment that he attempted to aid in computer intrusion of a classified database. But we come together now to express our grave concerns about the continued prosecution of Julian Assange for obtaining and publishing classified materials.

The Obama-Biden Administration, in office during the Wikileaks publication in 2010, refrained from indicting Assange, explaining that they would have had to indict journalists from major news outlets too. Their position placed a premium on press freedom, despite its uncomfortable consequences. Under Donald Trump however, the position changed. The DOJ relied on an old law, the Espionage Act of 1917 (designed to prosecute potential spies during World War 1), which has never been used to prosecute a publisher or broadcaster.

This indictment sets a dangerous precedent, and threatens to undermine America's First Amendment and the freedom of the press.

Holding governments accountable is part of the core mission of a free press in a democracy.

Obtaining and disclosing sensitive information when necessary in the public interest is a core part of the daily work of journalists. If that work is criminalised, our public discourse and our democracies are made significantly weaker.

Twelve years after the publication of "Cable gate", it is time for the U.S. government to end its prosecution of Julian Assange for publishing secrets.

Publishing is not a crime."

The editors and publishers of:

The Guardian, The New York Times, Le Monde, DER SPIEGEL, El País

8. Who are the criminals?

Those who leak secret government documents which provide irrefutable evidence of extensive crimes against humanity or the politicians in high office who order the killings and atrocities?

What is unfolding is not only "the criminalization of the State", the judicial system is also criminalized with a view to upholding the legitimacy of the war criminals in high office.

And the corporate media through omission, half truths and outright lies upholds war as a peace-making endeavor.

When the lie becomes the truth there is no moving backwards

We stand in solidarity with Julian Assange.

The following article first published in April 2019, 2022 focusses on how Julian Assange's was betrayed by the mainstream media.

“Wiki-Gate”: Julian Assange Was Framed by the People Who Supported Him

by

Michel Chossudovsky

April 2019

Julian Assange’s arrest (after almost seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy) constitutes a hideous and illegal act. He is imprisoned in Britain’s Belmarsh maximum security prison, pending his extradition to the United States.

Statements by US prosecutors suggest that Assange would not be charged under the 1917 Espionage Act. What is contemplated are accusations of conspiring “to commit unlawful computer intrusion based on his alleged agreement to try to help Ms. Manning break an encoded portion of passcode that would have permitted her to log on to a classified military network under another user’s identity.” (NYT, April 11, 2019).

The charges can of course be changed and shifted around. Bolton-Pompeo will no doubt play a role. In a 2017 statement when he was CIA Director [Mike Pompeo](#) “referred to WikiLeaks as a “non-state hostile intelligence service,” which needed to be eradicated.”

Assange is relentlessly accused by the corporate media of treason, acting on behalf of the Kremlin. An indictment invoking the 1917 Espionage Act remains a distinct possibility with a view to overriding The First Amendment of the US Constitution which guarantees Freedom of Expression.

Assange constitutes a new Russia-Gate media narrative? His arrest coincides with the release of the redacted version of the Mueller report.

Prepare for Wiki-Gate: a long and drawn-out legal procedure which will be the object of extensive media coverage with a view to ultimately misleading the public.

The unspoken objective of Assange’s indictment is to create a legal precedent which will enable Washington and its allies to arrest independent and anti-war journalists indiscriminately.

What is at stake, -revealed by Wikileaks- is that politicians in high office are the architects of war crimes. To protect them and sustain their legitimacy, they require the suppression of

freedom of expression, which in turn requires “the criminalization of justice”.

Ironically, from the very outset (over a period of more than 12 years) there has never been a concerted effort on the part of Washington (and its national security intelligence apparatus) to suppress the release of classified US government information or to close down the Wikileaks project. In fact, quite the opposite.

Why?

Because the carefully selected and redacted Wikileaks quotes by the mainstream media have been used to provide legitimacy to US “foreign policy” as well as obfuscate (through omission) many of the crimes committed by US intelligence and the Pentagon.

Wikileaks and the Mainstream Media

It is important to note that Julian Assange from the outset was supported by the mainstream media, which was involved in releasing selected and redacted versions of the leaks. And despite Assange’s arrest and imprisonment, Wikileaks continues to release compromising US diplomatic cables, the latest of which (reported by [McClatchy, April 17, 2019](#)) pertains to “evidence that US troops executed at least 10 Iraqi civilians” including a 5 month old infant.

At the outset of the Wikileaks project, the mainstream media including the New York Times, The Guardian and the Economist praised Julian Assange. The British elites supported him. Assange became a personality. It was a vast Public Relations campaign. It was a money-making undertaking for the corporate media.

In 2008 The Economist (which is partly owned by the Rothschild family) granted Assange The New Media Award.

#IndexAwards2008: Wikileaks, Economist New Media Award

Julian Assange and his organisation have made a huge global impact since winning an Index award

19 Apr 2017

BY SAMUEL ROWE



WORLD

Julian Assange: Readers' Choice for TIME's Person of the Year 2010

About-turn? Shift in the Mainstream Media Narrative.

Today, ironically these same corporate media which praised Assange are now accusing him (without a shred of evidence) of being involved in acts of conspiracy on behalf of the Kremlin. According to [John Pilger](#):

“The Guardian has since published a series of falsehoods about Assange, not least a discredited claim that a group of Russians and Trump’s man, Paul Manafort, had visited Assange in the [Ecuadorian] embassy. The meetings never happened; it was fake.”

Assange has been the object of an all out smear campaign by those who supported him.

According to [Pilger](#):

“A plan to destroy both WikiLeaks and Assange was laid out in a top secret document dated 8 March, 2008 [by] the Cyber Counter-intelligence Assessments Branch of the US Defence Department... Their main weapon would be personal smear. Their shock troops would be enlisted in the media.”

The Economist which granted Assange the New Media Award in 2008 now intimates that he is an enemy agent responsible for “information anarchy ... culminating in the destabilization of American democracy”.

WikiLeaks

Julian Assange: journalistic hero or enemy agent?

Dumping unredacted information is the act of a useful idiot, not a journalist

Others think it a long-overdue reckoning with justice for a man who had unleashed information anarchy upon the West, culminating in the destabilisation of American democracy. Is Mr Assange a heroic journalist, reckless activist or even an enemy agent? (*The Economist*, April 12, 2019, emphasis added)

The smear operation is ongoing:

Why Julian Assange should be extradited

The WikiLeaks co-founder is accused of hacking, not leaking, and that is a serious crime

Screenshot Economist headline, April 17, 2019

Starting in early 2017, coinciding with RussiaGate, Assange is depicted as a “Putin Stooge” working for the Kremlin, Why?

Assange is Putin's stooge

Times Colonist 14 Mar 2017 [+2 more](#)

In 2016, some of Mr. Assange's former American sympathizers turned sharply against him after he made WikiLeaks into an enthusiastic instrument of Russia's intervention in the American presidential election, doling out hacked Democratic emails to maximize their political effect, campaigning against Hillary Clinton on Twitter and promoting a false cover story about the source of the leaks. (*NYT*, April 2019, emphasis added)

And then [The Guardian, \(April 20\)](#) with which Assange actively collaborated goes into a high-gear smear operation and character assassination: “cheap journalism” by the Guardian

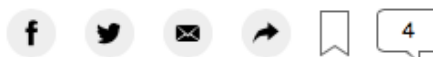
(read excerpt below):

According to Ecuador’s president, Lenín Moreno, Assange “accessed the embassy’s security files without permission”, and WikiLeaks “threatened the government of Ecuador”. You know, I think I once had a French exchange who behaved like that. But Ecuador’s UK ambassador, Jaime Marchan, put the cherry on my cake with **his claims** that Assange “ignored repeated warnings not to leave half-eaten meals and unwashed dishes in the sink” (classic bad houseguest) and once, as a protest, “put excrement on the walls and underwear with excrement in the lavatory” (possibly just classic Assange). Just the thought of the house meetings inside the embassy - “Come on, guys, he’s one of ours now, he has to stay”; “Ex-CUSE me, have you SMELT the bathrooms recently?!” - makes me want to quit my job and write a TV drama. I think I’ll call it This Embassy.

Was Julian Assange Framed by the People Who Supported Him?

The latest from the New York Times April 15, 2019, which previously collaborated with Assange, describes him as a threat to National Security, working on behalf of the Russians.

April 15, 2019



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Many have considered Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, to be a hero of the free speech movement and a partner to journalists. He also came to be seen as a threat to national security. Then, he helped Russia interfere in a United States election. And now, he has been arrested. Our colleague tells us about the moral complexities of working with Mr. Assange.

Flashback to 2010:

WikiLeaks published a series of controversial intelligence leaks including some 400,000 classified Iraq war documents, covering events from 2004 to 2009 (See Tom Burghardt, [The WikiLeaks Release: U.S. Complicity and Cover-Up of Iraq Torture Exposed](#), Global Research, October 24, 2010).

These revelations contained in the Wikileaks Iraq War Logs provided “further evidence of the Pentagon’s role in the systematic torture of Iraqi citizens by the U.S.-installed post-Saddam regime.” (Ibid).

The Role of the Frontline Club. Assange’s Social Entourage

While Assange was committed (through the release of leaked government documents) to revealing the “unspoken truth” of corruption and war crimes, many of the people (and journalists) who “supported him” are largely “Establishment”: Upon his release from bail in

December 2010 (Swedish extradition order over allegations of sexual offenses) Henry Vaughan Lockhart Smith, a friend of Assange, a former British Grenadier Guards captain and a member of the British aristocracy came to his rescue. Assange was provided refuge at Vaughan Smith's Ellingham Manor in Norfolk.

Vaughn Lockhart Smith is the founder of the London based Frontline Club (which is supported by George Soros' Open Society Institute). In 2010, the Frontline Club served as the de facto U.K "headquarters" for Julian Assange.

Vaughan Smith is a journalist aligned with the mainstream media. He had [collaborated with NATO](#), acted as an embedded reporter and cameraman in various US-NATO war theaters including Afghanistan and Kosovo. In 1998 he worked as a video journalist in Kosovo in a production entitled The Valley, which consisted in "documenting" alleged Serbian atrocities against Kosovar Albanians. The video production was carried out with the support of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Upon Assange's arrest on April 10, 2019 Vaughn Smith, while acknowledging his disagreements with Assange, nonetheless expressed his unbending support and concern for Assange:

Smith said that while he didn't agree that everything Assange released should have been released, he did think the Wikileaks founder "triggered a discussion about transparency that is incredibly important."

"I support Julian because I think his rights as an individual reflect on us, his fellow citizens," he told Tremonti.

"I think how we treat somebody who we may not agree with, that tells us truths that we may not wish to know ... is a great comment on us." (CBC, April 10, 2019)

The Role of the Corporate Media: The Central Role of the New York Times

The New York Times, the Guardian, Der Spiegel and El Pais (Spain) were directly involved in the editing, redacting and selection of leaked documents.

In the case of the New York Times, coordinated by Washington Bureau Chief David Sanger, the redacted versions were undertaken in consultation with the US State Department.

Even before the Wikileaks project got off the ground, the mainstream media was implicated. A role was defined and agreed upon for the corporate media not only in the release, but also in the selection and editing of the leaks. The "professional media", to use Julian Assange's words in an interview with The Economist, had been collaborating with the Wikileaks project from the outset.

Moreover, key journalists with links to the US foreign policy-national security intelligence establishment have worked closely with Wikileaks, in the distribution and dissemination of the leaked documents.

In a bitter irony, The New York Times, which has consistently promoted media disinformation was accused in 2010 of conspiracy. For what? For revealing the truth? Or for manipulating the truth? In the words of Senator Joseph L. Lieberman:

“I certainly believe that WikiLeaks has violated the Espionage Act, but then what about the news organizations — including The Times — that accepted it and distributed it?” Mr. Lieberman said, adding: “To me, The New York Times has committed at least an act of bad citizenship, and whether they have committed a crime, I think that bears a very intensive inquiry by the Justice Department.” ([WikiLeaks Prosecution Studied by Justice Department - NYTimes.com](#), December 7, 2010)

This “redacting” role of The New York Times was candidly acknowledged by David E Sanger, Chief Washington correspondent of the NYT:

“[W]e went through [the cables] so carefully to try to redact material that we thought could be damaging to individuals or undercut ongoing operations. And we even took the very unusual step of showing the 100 cables or so that we were writing from to the U.S. government and asking them if they had additional redactions to suggest.” (See [PBS Interview; The Redacting and Selection of Wikileaks documents by the Corporate Media](#), PBS interview on “Fresh Air” with Terry Gross: December 8, 2010, emphasis added).

Yet Sanger also said later in the interview:

“It is the responsibility of American journalism, back to the founding of this country, to get out and try to grapple with the hardest issues of the day and to do it independently of the government.” (ibid, emphasis added)

“Do it independently of the government” while at the same time “asking them [the US government] if they had additional redactions to suggest”?

David E. Sanger is not a model independent journalist. He is member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and the [Aspen Institute’s Strategy Group](#) which regroups the likes of Madeleine K. Albright, Condoleeza Rice, former Defense Secretary William Perry, former CIA head John Deutch, among other prominent establishment figures.

It is worth noting that several American journalists, members of the Council on Foreign Relations had interviewed Wikileaks, including [Time Magazine’s Richard Stengel](#) (November 30, 2010) and The New Yorker’s Raffi Khatchadurian. ([WikiLeaks and Julian Paul Assange : The New Yorker](#), June 11, 2007)

Historically, The New York Times has served the interests of the Rockefeller family in the context of a longstanding relationship. In turn, the Rockefellers have an important stake as shareholders of several US corporate media.

Concluding Remarks

Who are the criminals?

Those who leak secret government documents which provide irrefutable evidence of extensive crimes against humanity or the politicians in high office who order the killings and atrocities.

What is unfolding is not only “the criminalization of the State”, the judicial system is also

criminalized with a view to upholding the legitimacy of the war criminals in high office.

And the corporate media through omission, half truths and outright lies upholds war as a peace-making endeavor

see below

Globe and Mail



NATO and not EU deserves the Nobel Peace Prize

Business Insider



3 reasons why America's massive nuclear arsenal actually makes the world safer

Washington Post



In the long run, wars make us safer and richer

And Many More...

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About the author:

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