

**Truth is not a crime! Solidarity to the
WikiLeaks Founder and Journalist, Julian Assange
#FreeAssange**

**COUNCIL MEETING
APR 23 2022**

MOTION

(Art. 14(4) Statutes)
(Art. 5 RoP)

In accordance with:
Julian Assange's US
extradition order

Proposed by:

Κόμμα Πειρατών Ελλάδας
(Pirate Party of Greece)

Truth is not a crime!

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Solidarity to the
WikiLeaks Founder
and Journalist,
Julian Assange

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#FreeAssange

Reasoning:



Julian Assange is an Australian journalist and activist, co-founder of the Wikileaks website, which first appeared in 2006. His vision for Wikileaks was to create a "Wiki" type platform (in the form of Wikipedia), which would function as a means of leaking information of public interest, respecting all the rules of anonymity of users and the validity of information.

Wikileaks became world famous when in 2010 it published the first audiovisual material¹ showing the inhumane dialogue of US soldiers seconds before and after the aerial killing of 18 Iraqi civilians, including two Reuters war correspondents. Both this audio-visual footage and a series of classified US military documents were released via Wikileaks (Iraq & Afghanistan War logs)² by Chelsea Manning, who was at the time an army intelligence analyst, and could not stand idly-by in the face of the heinous crimes committed by the US in the war zones (Iraq and Afghanistan), as described in the war logs, which were written by all the members of the military in the region. Furthermore, towards the end of 2010, Wikileaks published around 250,000 US diplomatic documents with other countries (also known as the "Cablegate files")³, which show acts of US espionage, tensions between the US and its allies, as well as incidents of

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rXPfnU3G0>

² <https://wardiary.wikileaks.org/>

³ [https://wikileaks.org/plusd/?qproject\[\]=cg&q=#result](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/?qproject[]=cg&q=#result)

extreme corruption in a multitude of countries, which ultimately helped to spark the Arab Spring^{4,5}. Finally, during the same period in 2011, Wikileaks also leaked a series of documents relating to the maximum security prison at Guantanamo, through which it was found that all notions of human rights were being eroded and information on the treatment of detainees was being withheld^{6,7}.

With the leak of all this information, the US government's narrative of destabilizing the Arab regions, and fighting terrorism in those regions, began to collapse like a house of cards, since the truth had now been exposed to the international community, and this began to make Assange dangerous to the US government. Indeed, in an interview in 2011⁸, Assange had stated:

One of the promising things I've discovered is that almost every war that has been started within the last 50 years has been the result of media lies. What does this mean? It basically means that populations don't want to fight wars, and that's why they have to be tricked into fighting.

Thus, the US launched a manhunt against him, charging him with:

1. *conspiracy to obtain and disclose national defense information,*
2. *conspiracy to commit computer intrusions,*
3. *seven counts of obtaining national defense information, and*
4. *nine counts of disclosing national defense information, even requesting his extradition to the US for trial.*

The first step in the manhunt against Assange were two unsubstantiated (as it turned out) accusations of sexual harassment and rape of two women by Assange in August 2010 in Sweden⁹. Finally, in November 2010, Sweden issued an international arrest warrant for Assange, who was in England at the time, on the pretext, as he says, of being extradited first there and then to the US, because of his role in the publication of classified US documents. However, he was handed over to the British police forces in December 2010, and at the hearings held, he was initially detained, but was then granted bail by the High Court (the highest court in England for matters falling under civil law), and released after his supporters paid £240,000 in cash and bail. In February 2011, another hearing was held, through which it was finally decided that Assange

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Spring

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange#Iraq_and_Afghan_War_logs_and_US_diplomatic_cables

⁶ https://www.wikileaks.org/wiki/Guantanamo_document_confirms_psychological_torture

⁷ https://www.wikileaks.org/wiki/Wikileaks_busts_Gitmo_propaganda_team

⁸ <https://youtu.be/630X89TbI74?t=1490>

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assange_v_Swedish_Prosecution_Authority

should be extradited to Sweden. This decision was upheld by the High Court on 2 November 2011 and by the Supreme Court (England's equivalent of the Supreme Court) on 30 May 2012. Thus, knowing that his extradition to Sweden and then to the USA was inevitable, Assange applied for political asylum at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, which was accepted by the Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa¹⁰ and in June 2012 he found himself trapped in the embassy building. From there, he continued to operate for several years¹¹:

1. In 2012, Wikileaks published a series of files concerning more than 2 million Syrian emails between politicians, government ministers and companies, the so-called "Syria Files"¹², with the aim, he says, *"not to condemn one interest group or another"* in the civil conflict that was taking place in the region at the time, *"but to understand their interests, their actions and their thoughts"*.
2. In 2013, Assange and other people working at Wikileaks helped Edward Snowden escape from the US, while exposing Western Europe's close ties with the US, eventually suggesting that he should seek political asylum in Russia.
3. By early 2015, Wikileaks had published more than 10 million documents and related analyses, and was described by Julian Assange as *"a vast library of the most persecuted documents on the planet."*
4. In 2015, Wikileaks began publishing classified and secret Saudi documents.
5. In 2016, Assange demanded the immediate release of Chelsea Manning from the US, saying that if that happened, he would agree to be tried in the US. However, this was not accepted, and Manning served 8 months of additional imprisonment. So, as Manning's release was delayed by about 1 year, violating Assange's conditions of surrender, she came out 2 days after her release and stated that while the Swedish charges had now been dropped, he would remain in the Ecuadorian Embassy to avoid extradition to the US.
6. On November 25, 2016, Wikileaks published emails and corresponding documents that provided details of US military interventions in Yemen from 2009 to March 2015.
7. In December 2016, Wikileaks published emails from the Turkish government in response to Erdogan's post-coup actions in Turkey (imprisonment and dismissal of hundreds of

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDCh--ejWBw>

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange#Activities_in_the_embassy

¹² <https://wikileaks.org/syria-files/>

thousands of people, the seizure of up to 50 billion euros worth of property, and the seizure of up to 50 billion euros worth of property). These emails covered the period 2010 - July 2016, and in response Turkey banned access to the Wikileaks website.

8. And more¹³.

In 2017, after Rafael Correa's term of office expired and he was no longer eligible for re-election, Lenín Moreno, who was known to be politically aligned with the US, was elected as the new president of Ecuador.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo holds a joint news conference with Ecuadorian President Lenín Moreno, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, July 20, 2019.

Thus, in 2019, the President of Ecuador, Lenín Moreno, following a series of events of photos that leaked to Wikileaks on 2 April, which exposed him as a participant in a corruption scandal¹⁴, he said that Assange had violated the terms of his asylum. This resulted in Assange being evicted from the Ecuadorian Embassy on 11 April, arrested by the UK police forces that were allowed to enter the building.

He has since been sentenced to 50 weeks in a maximum security prison (Belmarsh Prison) for violating his bail conditions (by entering

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Assange#Later_years_in_the_embassy

¹⁴

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ecuador-wikileaks-assange/ecuadors-president-says-assange-breached-terms-of-london-embassy-asylum-idUSKCN1RE1TL>

the Ecuadorian Embassy). There it was observed by a UN Special Representative that Assange had all the typical symptoms of prolonged exposure to psychological torture, such as extreme anxiety, chronic stress and severe psychological trauma.

Shortly before the end of his imprisonment, a trial was held that forbade Assange to be released, as from that moment his status would change from "prisoner serving his sentence" to "person facing extradition to another country", and the court asked his lawyer to demand for a bail. On 25 March 2020, following his lawyer's request for bail and release from the maximum security prison due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission, the court ruled that he should remain imprisoned. So, after a series of delays due to COVID-19, and while his psychosomatic health was deteriorating, on 4 January 2021, when the court finally held a hearing on whether or not to extradite him, a historic decision was made - Julian Assange was not going to be extradited to the US. However, at the very moment people were celebrating Assange's non-extradition to the US, the very same people realized that journalism is FORBIDDEN, by the international system through persecution and sentences of up to 175 years in prison, to reach the unprecedented and highly elevated levels that Assange has reached through his counter-example, Wikileaks.

Of course, the US appealed the decision of the court hearing to not extradite Julian Assange, and on 20 April 2022, the Westminster Magistrates' court in London approved his extradition to US. Specifically, the judge who oversees extradition requests authorized the case to be sent to Priti Patel, the UK home secretary - Priti Patel.

Assange's lawyers have until 18 May 2022 to make representations to Patel and could potentially launch further appeals on other points in the case.

Julian Assange spread the truth and that is why he is imprisoned. This trial is a trial against the publication of information of public interest, and against the free dissemination of knowledge! Truth is not a crime! **#FreeAssange**



As stated by Amnesty International,

If the UK Home Secretary certifies the US request to extradite Julian Assange, it will violate the prohibition against torture and set an alarming precedent for publishers and journalists around the world, Amnesty International said today following the UK Magistrates' Court's decision to issue an order to extradite him.

With regard to the aforementioned, the Pirate Party of Greece proposes to the 10th Council Meeting of the European Pirate Party to adopt the following motion.

Motion:

- We wholeheartedly condemn the decision of the UK Magistrates' Court to extradite Julian Assange to the US, as it constitutes a case that puts his life at great threat, laying out the worst-case scenario for the future of whistleblowers, publishers and journalists around the world.
- We will actively engage (if and however possible), to any possible degree (collectives, other political forces, city councils, state parliaments, the EU parliament, etc.), to raise awareness on this issue.
- With only 1 month left ahead of us, for the decision of the UK home secretary - Priti Patel, to approve/disapprove Assange's extradition, we propose the creation of a working group within the PPEU, in order to further organize on this matter.