



PRESS RELEASE: Arrest of Julian Assange

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THE arrest of Julian Assange, inside the Ecuadorian Embassy, represents the most serious violation of international law and human rights. Political expediency is clearly the basis for the arrest of Mr. Assange but it also represents the most corrupt practices by the Ecuadorian, UK and American governments. It is reported that Ecuador has been offered considerable debt relief by the American government in exchange for abandoning Assange.

The only crime Assange has been accused of in the UK is jumping bail, a petty crime by most standards, yet the official reason for his arrest is given by the British police as “on behalf of the United States”. The clear intention is to extradite Assange to America who has already applied for his extradition.

As a journalist, Julian exposed war crimes committed by America. No country, including America, the most powerful country on earth, should have its war crimes, like the murder of a dozen innocent civilians, from a helicopter gunship, subjected to total blanket of secrecy or from being reported, and those found guilty of such crimes should be brought to justice.

What we are witnessing, with the arrest of Julian Assange, is not the guilty being brought to justice but the person who reported and exposed the crimes being treated as if he were the criminal.

His treatment and arrest have been condemned by “Reporters Without Borders” and a number of high-profile journalists, human rights activists and Lawyers.

This is a shameful crime committed by those who believe they should be immune from being exposed for the war crimes they commit. They profess to support press and journalistic freedoms but woe betide any journalist who exposes the crimes of the most powerful countries on earth. All self-respecting journalists (and there are not many) should condemn this blatant attack on freedom of speech and expression and the very principles of democracy. It is an infringement of the rights of every journalist who puts pen to paper.

We call upon all human rights lawyers to immediately offer their services – free of any charge – to defend Julian Assange against these trumped up charges and ensure this courageous man’s freedom.

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