

George Bignell

From: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 25 November 2024 10:34 am
To: FormalComplaints
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - 20241124 New Zealanders For Julian Assange OIA request extension not granted

From: New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 24 November 2024 8:48 PM
To: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz
Cc: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>; office@betterpublicmedia.org.nz; MediaWatch <MediaWatch@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20241124 New Zealanders For Julian Assange OIA request extension not granted

Kia ora.

Radio NZ have ignored my OIA request submitted on the 15th of October 2024 and have just granted themselves a 6 week extension until just before Christmas.
I was NOT consulted nor has any reason been given.

This is a continuation of the very behaviour this request is about. Omission and a general reluctance to engage with this case.

Alan William Preston
for New Zealanders For Julian Assange
20241124

https://fyi.org.nz/request/28764-new-zealanders-for-julian-assange-e-mail-correspondence-received-dsma-notice?fbclid=IwY2xjawGvt-IleHRuA2F1bQlxMQABHXLfxUzpdBEL3NWMvnRbWTIa2CS9GVrOdG5ZxDS8pNmv71i4k3ClpsCS7w_aem_gzRtAHzHRD4_koCbft0GHg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

George Bignell

From: Alan William Preston <alanwilliampreston@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 3 May 2024 9:51 am
To: RNZ
Cc: MediaWatch; News; Morningreport; Ninetonoon; Afternoons; ThePanel; Nights; Saturday; Sunday
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20240503 To Radio New Zealand Staff and Listeners on World Press Freedom Day : Julian Assange remains arbitrarily detained

20240503 To Radio New Zealand Staff and Listeners on World Press Freedom Day : Julian Assange remains arbitrarily detained.

Kia ora to everyone at Radio New Zealand (forwarding from my personal email as emails sent from newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com don't seem to have been received by the 550 journalists, 220 academics teaching media and political studies,nor by our 120 Members of Parliament who we've been writing to since January 2021) .

This Friday, the 3rd of May 2024 is [World Press Freedom Day](#).
"Journalism is not a crime. Not here . Not there . Not anywhere in the world."
(President Joe Biden at the [Whitehouse Press Dinner](#) (28th of April 2024)

From [New Zealand Media Council Principles](#) :

"In dealing with complaints, the Council will give primary consideration to freedom of expression and the public interest."

The outcome of the case of arbitrarily detained multi-award winning journalist Julian Assange, but also the ongoing tolerance and under - or actually non- reporting by our media of his perpetual persecution, is a very serious matter that is - or should or would otherwise be of great interest and concern to the public of New Zealand - if our media were to be doing their own investigations into or reporting and commentary on it.

The lack of interest in this case is a result of our media not having performed its role to inform the public of New Zealand of its implications which has translated into a lack of political support for a diplomatic protest that might otherwise have contributed to effecting a favourable outcome i.e. The release, repatriation and compensation of Julian Assange with investigations and prosecutions of those responsible for the war (and other) crimes that he published evidence of. This is your profession and it is OUR democracy that is at stake.

Is Radio New Zealand going to report on the case of Julian Assange on World Press Freedom Day ?

Multi-journalism-award-winning Australian journalist/editor/publisher Julian Assange (Prisoner # A9379AY) remains ARBITRARILY DETAINED in conditions [deemed by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture to be 'psychological torture'](#).

Friday will be Julian's 1,849th day in solitary confinement in a 2x3 metre cell in London's Belmarsh Maximum Security Prison where he is awaiting the High Court Judges' decision as to whether to accept the U.S. governments' assurances (that, actually, only their courts can provide), before deciding to allow his extradition to the U.S. to face charges under the Espionage Act for having published evidence of the U.S. military's [multiple,serious breaches of the Geneva Conventions](#) during their illegal invasions and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The United Nations Human Rights Council has deemed that Julian Assange had [the right to publish the evidence he received, that he has the right to be free and that he has the right to be compensated.](#) This is a case of what the United Nations calls ['intimidation and reprisals'](#).

Both the U.K. and New Zealand are signatories to the February 2021 [Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State To State Relations](#) with the U.K. government on the 20th of September 2021 [reiterating its intention](#) to comply with this Agreement [stating that](#) "

"Arbitrary detention is a hallmark of authoritarian regimes and its use is a tool of political intimidation.

Arbitrary detention not only violates human rights, but also undermines the trust in institutions that keeps societies safe and open.

We know that persons in marginalised and vulnerable situations, as well as [human rights defenders, journalists, and civil society activists](#) are more often arbitrarily detained.

We further recognise that persons who are arbitrarily detained are at greater risk of being subjected to other human rights violations.

This year, the United Kingdom has supported the Canadian-led Declaration against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State relations, and we have committed to working with the G7 and other like-minded partners to end the practice."

Since late 2021 New Zealanders For Julian Assange has been bringing this refusal by the U.K. government to comply with this Declaration to the attention of our media organisations, to [academics teaching Media and Political studies](#) and to [all our elected Members of Parliament](#), and we have made multiple [requests to successive Ministers of Foreign Affairs](#) and Trade to lodge a diplomatic protest with the U.K. Government , as a co-signatory, over their ongoing obstinate non-compliance with the agreement.

None of the individuals or organisations we have contacted have ever responded to our requests - apart from what appears to be a PRO-FORMA [letter sent by the office of Hon. Nanai Mahuta](#) which implied they were oblivious to the inconsistencies with 'the rule of law' in the handling of this case: i.e [Section 134 of the U.K. Criminal Justice Act](#) prohibiting all forms of torture, the other U.N. rulings on arbitrary detention, freedom of speech etc....

Despite Julian Assange having been in some form of arbitrary detention for the last 13 years, New Zealanders remain largely oblivious to or are under- or mis-informed about the case of Julian Assange and are therefore unaware of the serious implications on the willingness of journalists to perform their role to scrutinise and to hold power to account because it will allow overreach by the U.S. into other jurisdictions to extradite any journalist who dares to publish anything that negatively affects their national security interests.

Press Freedom, according to [U.S. President Joe Biden's speech \(2024-04-28 \) to the White House Correspondents' Dinner](#) is a foundation of democracy and his government will do everything within their powers to ' free all journalists who are wrongfully detained around the world'.

The New Zealand Media Council's principles state that : "An independent press plays a vital role in a democracy. The proper fulfilment of that role requires a fundamental responsibility to maintain high standards of accuracy, fairness and balance and public faith in those standards.

There is no more important principle in a democracy than freedom of expression. Freedom of expression and freedom of the media are inextricably bound. The print media is jealous in guarding freedom of expression, not just for publishers' sake but, more importantly, in the public interest. In dealing with complaints, the Council will give primary consideration to freedom of expression and the public interest."

The outcome of this case , but also the ongoing tolerance and under - or actually non- reporting by our media of this perpetual persecution of Julian Assange, a multi-award winning journalist, is a very serious

matter that is - or should or would otherwise be of great interest to the public of New Zealand - if our media were to be doing their own investigations into or reporting and commentary on.

"Journalism is not a crime. Not here . Not there . Not anywhere in the world."

Alan William Preston for New Zealanders For Julian Asssng
29th of April 2024.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/un-special-rapporteur-torture-urges-uk-government-halt-imminent-extradition>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/03/ukus-time-end-prosecution-julian-assange-un-expert-says>

The text of this email has been uploaded to our site @ :

<https://sites.google.com/view/newzealandersforjulianassange/get-active/new-zealanders-can-do-this/media/to-radio-new-zealand/20240429-world-press-freedom-day>

newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

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Alan William Preston.
Mangawhai, Northland
New Zealand.

Landline: 0064 9 431 5389

Mobile: 021 02377242

skype : alan.preston

Facebook [Alan William Preston](#)

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George Bignell

From: New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 12 April 2024 1:46 pm
To: Simon Morris; RNZ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20240412 To Simon Morris @ Radio NZ : At the Movies : Recommendation : The Trust Fall

Kia ora Simon.

With today marking the 5th anniversary of multi-award winning Australian journalist/publisher Julian Assange's 1,828 days of arbitrary detention in London's Belmarsh Maximum Security Prison, the crowd-sourced documentary about his case 'The Trust Fall' is into its 2nd month of screenings [at cinemas throughout New Zealand](#), Australia and the U.K.

Radio New Zealand has been suspiciously reluctant to do any of its own reporting on this extremely important case or to carry out any of its own investigations using the evidence published by Wikileaks. You might like to include some mention of this important film in your next reviews - before Julian is extradited to the U.S to spend the next 175 years in a SuperMax or dies in prison in the U.K.

<https://www.thetrustfall.org/>

Thank you. Alan William Preston in Mangawhai , Northland for [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#).



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newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

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George Bignell

From: New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 15 March 2024 5:49 pm
To: RNZ
Cc: Morningreport; Ninetonoon; Afternoons; Checkpoint; Nights; Saturday; Sunday; MediaWatch
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20240315 To Radio New Zealand From New Zealanders For Julian Assange : 3 songs addressing the persecution of a multi-award winning journalist

Kia ora to presenters of Radio New Zealand's programs...

Multi-award winning Australian journalist/publisher/creator of Wikileaks , Julian Assange has been locked up for 1,800 days now (since the 11th of April 2019) in London's Belmarsh Maximum Security Prison for having published (among other horrors) the U.S. militarys' own (secret) records of their having killed 66,810 civilians during their illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention have deemed Julian Assange's detention to be arbitrary which is contravention to the 2021 Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State To State Relations to which New Zealand, the U.K, the U.S. and Australia are all signatories.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture has deemed the conditions of Julian Assange's arbitrary detention to equate to 'psychological torture' which is prohibited under Section 134 of the U..K Criminal Justice Act.

Here are 3 pieces of music which you might like your listeners to hear that give support to Julian and will help to raise awareness of this case on which the future of transparency and accountability under the democratic governance model and indeed human civilization is pivoting.

"Like a Movie" - by Stephen Taberner & Trio (from Melbourne)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvslCJ7BO_8

Free The Truth - DJ Roto (who runs www.a4a.nz)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqFhxpRyE_A

Lowkey | Free Assange (Acoustic Version) | featuring Mai Khalil and The Grime Violinist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hytO-oSzdD8>

newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

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George Bignell

From: Kym Staton <kjstaton@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2024 9:54 am
To: New Zealanders For Julian Assange
Cc: RNZ; News; Morningreport; Ninetoon; Afternoons; Saturday; Sunday
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Re: 20240309 Julian Assange - Documentary 'The Trust Fall' Screening in Auckland - Director available for interviews SUNDAY p.m./MONDAY/TUESDAY a.m only

Thanks Alan!

Hi Radio New Zealand team. We had another amazing session yesterday afternoon with 160 attending Academy Cinemas. The film is currently showing at 45 cinemas around NZ!

I have some availability for an interview this afternoon or tomorrow morning if you'd like to cover this hot topic!

I hope you will! Its important! Did you know that over 500 journalists are behind bars around the world today??

Warm regards,

Kym
+61 413 236 525

On 9 Mar 2024, at 12:25 pm, New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com> wrote:

To all journalists at Radio New Zealand
Kia ora.

Multi-award winning Australian journalist/publisher Julian Assange has been locked up in solitary confinement in London's Belmarsh maximum security prison for the last 1793 days (since the 11th of April 2019) for having published evidence of multiple, systematic breaches of the Geneva Conventions during their illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq.

(previous interviews about Julian Assange by Radio New Zealand journalists are listed [here](#))

A panel of judges in the U.K. are currently deliberating about whether Julian Assange has the right to appeal against extradition to the U.S. to face charges that have a potential sentence of 175 years.

['The Trust Fall'](#) - by Films for Change (Australia), a crowd-funded documentary about this case and the implications it has for the future of journalism/ the importance of transparency and accountability to our democracy / is showing [in Auckland at the Academy Cinema](#) TOMORROW, Sunday the 10th of March 2024 from 3 p.m. and director [Kym Staton](#) is flying into Auckland on Sunday at 1.30 p.m. from Europe to answer questions after the screening.

Kym will be in New Zealand / Auckland (staying near Te Henga) and will be available to do interviews on Sunday evening and Monday and or before flying out to Sydney at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 12th of March 2024.

Please get in touch with Kym on +61 413 236 525 and use that number on WhatsApp as he'll be staying in an area with poor mobile coverage (but with good internet)

[Kjstaton@icloud.com](mailto:kjstaton@icloud.com)

<https://www.thetrustfall.org/>

[BBC interview with Kym Staton](#) (21st of February 2024) about [The Trust Fall](#) (trailer).

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242 if all else fails...

<https://filmsforchange.stream/pages/meet-our-team>
newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

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George Bignell

From: New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 9 March 2024 12:25 pm
To: RNZ; News
Cc: Morningreport; Ninetoon; Afternoons; Saturday; Sunday; Kjstaton@icloud.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20240309 Julian Assange - Documentary 'The Trust Fall' Screening in Auckland - Director available for interviews SUNDAY p.m./MONDAY/TUESDAY a.m only

To all journalists at Radio New Zealand
Kia ora.

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Kjstaton@icloud.com

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[BBC interview with Kym Staton](#) (21st of February 2024) about [The Trust Fall](#) (trailer).

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242 if all else fails...

<https://filmsforchange.stream/pages/meet-our-team>

newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

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George Bignell

From: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 4 March 2024 11:24 am
To: FormalComplaints
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - 20240302 To Radio New Zealand from New Zealanders For Julian Assange : 'The Trust Fall documentary director in New Zealand

Thoughts??

From: New Zealanders For Julian Assange <newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 2 March 2024 3:10 PM
To: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Cc: MediaWatch <MediaWatch@rnz.co.nz>; Checkpoint <Checkpoint@rnz.co.nz>; Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 20240302 To Radio New Zealand from New Zealanders For Julian Assange : 'The Trust Fall documentary director in New Zealand

To journalists and staff at Radio New Zealand .
2nd of March 2024.

Kia ora.

Alan Preston here for New Zealanders for Julian Assange.

Recent : New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade fails to respond to [a request for Diplomatic Protest](#) to the governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom over the persecution of Julian Assange.

Current : Supporters of New Zealanders For Julian Assange are currently involved in assisting Films For Change (Australia) with securing and advertising screenings of their just-released crowd-funded documentary '[The Trust Fall](#)' about the plight of Julian Assange [in cinemas throughout New Zealand](#). The Trust Fall is currently being screened by the major cinema chains throughout Australia.

Next week: The creator/director of The Trust Fall , [Kym Staton](#) , who has recently been in the U.K. and is currently in Spain promoting the film will be in Auckland briefly for the [3p.m. screening at Academy Cinemas in Auckland on Sunday the 10th of March 2024](#)

If you would like to interview Kym, please contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242 to arrange a time/place/studio.

N.B.

We are still very concerned that editorial decisions on the reporting on the case of Julian Assange are subject to interference by external players.

We note that Radio New Zealand is running [stories](#) provided by Reuters about the death and [funeral of Alexei Navalny](#) and that those stories have been created to leave its audience with a positive impression of Mr Navalny and his work and a negative impression of the Russian State for having imprisoned this significant and effective dissident.

At the same time we note [again](#) the continued virtual absence of reporting on the plight of your [multi-journalism-award-winning](#) colleague , Julian Assange who has now been arbitrarily detained ([U.N. decision](#)) in contravention to the [2021 Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State to State Relations](#) , in solitary confinement in London's Belmarsh Prison in conditions described by the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture ([Dr Nils Melzer](#)) as being 'psychological torture' (contravening [Section 134 of UK Criminal Justice Act](#)) for the last 1786 days.

Radio New Zealand's most recent coverage , supplied by the ABC " leads with [People 'disappeared' after Julian Assange and Wikileaks blended hacking with journalism, court hears](#) " - a claim which the witness for the prosecution, a US counter-intelligence official who led the Pentagon's review into the fallout from the [WikiLeaks](#) disclosures of state

secrets , could provide no substantiation.

He told the Bradley Manning sentencing hearing that [no instances were ever found of any individual killed by enemy forces](#) as a result of having been named in the releases.

Radio New Zealand has NEVER made any mention of the 66,081 civilians who were killed by U.S. military during their ILLEGAL invasion and occupation of Iraq [ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN RECORDS](#) that Julian Assange published through Wikileaks.

None of these deaths have ever been investigated nor prosecutions brought by our (or any other - as far as we know) , media or judiciary.

An interesting comparative study of how media is presenting these narratives to their audiences - from Al Jazeera "[How Western media chooses who they champion and vilify | The Listening Post](#)"

See also : [Fact Checker For Journalists](#)

newzealandersforjulianassange@gmail.com

Website : www.newzealandersforjulianassange.org.nz

Facebook Group : [New Zealanders For Julian Assange](#)

Contact: Alan William Preston on 02102377242

P.S. the text of this e-mail (with links embedded)is available on our website [@](#)

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George Bignell

From: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 October 2022 9:08 am
To: News
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - Kiwi Inspires Global Free Assange Human Chain Events

From: NewzEngine.com <service@newzengine.com>
Sent: Monday, 3 October 2022 6:32 pm
To: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Kiwi Inspires Global Free Assange Human Chain Events



Kiwi Inspires Global Free Assange Human Chain Events

Source: Aotearoa 4 Assange

For Immediate Release: 3/10/22

-

Auckland activist Matt Ó Branáin has inspired a worldwide movement of Human Chains on October 8th to free jailed Australian journalist Julian Assange.

Ó Branáin proposed the idea of a Human Chain to [#HugBelmarsh prison](#), which gained international support, and was [retweeted by Julian's wife](#) Stella Assange. Due to some difficulties surrounding the prison, it has turned into a [#FreeAssangeHumanChain](#) of 5,000 [surrounding British Parliament](#).

Now [16 cities around the world](#) will hold Free Assange Human Chains, including Washington DC, Ottawa, Wellington and Paris all on October 8th.

Ó Branáin says 'I feel simultaneously humbled and in awe of what a difference any of us can make, when we inspire others to unite. There's nothing we can't do when we stand together.'

Julian Assange is currently in solitary confinement in a UK Supermax Prison, despite not serving a sentence. Top forensic psychologists, a UN expert, and [hundreds of doctors](#) say Julian Assange is being 'tortured' and is likely to die in the next few months if he is not freed.

'This is the most crucial Human Rights battle of this Century, because the Right to Know is the master key to protecting all our rights. [Every credible authority](#) from the UN to Amnesty International is saying Julian's imprisonment, and the US charges against him undermine Global Press Freedom. If it's a crime to tell the truth we can't solve anything.'

Ó Branáin has [launched a campaign](#) asking kiwis to help him go and represent Aotearoa at the Chain in London. He will write the names of all who support him on raranga flax ribbons he will take to the event.

'I know from talking to kiwis everywhere, nobody wants an Aussie journalist to die in prison for telling the truth. We gotta get him out. I'm asking kiwis to get behind me so I can represent them.'

Matt is a teacher, media-designer and musician, who became intensely engaged on the Assange case when he [read the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur](#) on Torture Nils Melzer. For two years Matt has devoted the majority of his time to campaigning on this. He formed [Aotearoa 4 Assange](#), and he recently committed to wearing what he calls 'Gitmo Chic' every day till Julian is free. An orange Guantanamo Bay style prisoner suit, and sign. 'It's been starting conversations everywhere I go. Kiwis are not at all happy when they hear an Aussie journalist is being tortured to death for telling the truth.'

'Our Government, and Jacinda Ardern, need to urgently engage in diplomatic representations with our allies the UK and US, to ensure Julian's release. All our rights are imperilled by his imprisonment, and by the US charges against him. There isn't a bigger threat to the Western Democratic system than this case.'

'Jacinda Ardern, has [criticised misinformation](#) at the UN, but where does she stand on truthful reporting?'

- **#FreeAssangeHumanChain around UK
Parliament, London, 1pm October 8th, 1pm**
- **#FreeAssangeHumanChain at the Beehive, Wellington, 12pm October 8th.**

Attached Files: [Matt-chain.jpg](#)

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/33TOSTEXzlc>

--

Contact Name: Matt Ó Branáin

Job Title: National Co-ordinator of Aotearoa 4 Assange

Email Address: matt.o.branain@a4a.nz

Phone Number: [64204382863](tel:64204382863)

Website URL: <https://www.a4a.nz/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/a4assange> | <https://www.instagram.com/aotearoa4assange/> | <https://twitter.com/A4Assange> | <https://www.instagram.com/matt.o.branain/> | <https://twitter.com/MattOBranain>

Links:

[1] Release url: <https://newzengine.com/2022/10/03/kiwi-inspires-global-free-assange-human-chain-events/>

[2] <https://newzengine.com>

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George Bignell

From: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 30 May 2022 12:45 pm
To: News
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - 'Kia kaha': PM Ardern Requested to Join PM Albanese in His Calls to Bring Julian Assange Home

From: NewzEngine.com <service@newzengine.com>
Sent: Monday, 30 May 2022 11:52 am
To: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - 'Kia kaha': PM Ardern Requested to Join PM Albanese in His Calls to Bring Julian Assange Home



'Kia kaha': PM Ardern Requested to Join PM Albanese in His Calls to Bring Julian Assange Home

Source: Aotearoa 4 Assange

A group of lawyers, politicians, journalists and activists known as [Aotearoa 4 Assange](#) have written to PM Jacinda Ardern asking her to 'stand strong' with new Aussie PM Anthony Albanese, to 'secure the freedom' of Australian journalist Julian Assange. According to the letter Assange's life is in peril and so are the 'foundations of global democracy'.

A4A spokesperson Matt Ó Branáin says 'the election of Albanese is a seismic shift' for the campaign to free Assange, who is currently imprisoned in the UK and fighting extradition to the US. Unlike his predecessor Scott Morrison, Albanese is a member of the [Bring Julian Assange Home Parliamentary Group](#) consisting of at least 30 MPs. Albanese has [reportedly said](#) 'enough is enough...I can't see what's served by keeping [Assange] incarcerated'.

Green MP and Human Rights lawyer Golriz Ghahraman [tweeted](#) 'the threat to Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's freedom is a threat to press freedom around the world.'

Assange has been detained in 'solitary confinement' for the last 3 years in the UK and a UN Special Rapporteur has said he is being '[psychologically tortured](#).' A letter from hundreds of doctors says he is [likely to die soon](#) if not freed.

The US charges 'criminalise publishing leaked evidence of US state crimes'. [International Human Rights groups](#), including Amnesty International and the [Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights](#) have said the case is a threat to global press freedom.

The letter argues that there is 'no chance of justice' if he is extradited to the US as Assange's 'legally privileged consultations with his lawyers were spied on' and the Espionage Act 'prohibits any public interest defence'.

Ó Branáin says 'no one can credibly say justice has been seen in the UK extradition trial'. Amnesty International said the UK extradition trial was a '[circus](#)'. IBAHRI [said](#) 'with this extradition trial, we are witnessing the serious undermining of due processes and the rule of law.' Applications to monitor the trial from [Amnesty International](#) and

[Reporters Without Borders](#) were declined. A4A's letter says 'this is a political case, and political intervention is required'.

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Nils Melzer says if Assange is extradited to the US he would be detained in 'conditions that amount to torture'. Ghahraman [states](#) that although the UK Magistrate Court has now ordered extradition to be signed 'the Home Sec must decline'. 'The UK has an obligation to avoid extradition to a place where he faces ill treatment and torture'. A4A called on Ardern to 'make representations' to Ms Patel not to sign the extradition order.

Rt. Hon [Helen Clark](#) said 'you do wonder when the hatchet can be buried with Assange, and not buried in his head by the way?. . . 'The real issue really is the activities they were exposing, not their actions of exposure.'

Ó Branáin says 'Australia and New Zealand should call on our allies the US and UK, to end this perilous persecution of a South Pacific journalist, and bring Julian home.'

Attached Files: [Matt-O-Branain-A4A.jpg](#)

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<https://www.instagram.com/aotearoa4assange/> |
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Lgvm4ob5_kUS6NIaEXwvg

Links:

[1] Release url: <https://newzengine.com/2022/05/30/kia-kaha-pm-ardern-requested-to-join-pm-albanese-in-his-calls-to-bring-julian-assange-home/>

[2] <https://newzengine.com>

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George Bignell

From: RNZ
Sent: Monday, 14 March 2022 5:19 pm
To: News
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] - Julian Assange Permitted to Marry in Belmarsh Prison

From: NewzEngine.com <service@newzengine.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2022 4:43 PM
To: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Julian Assange Permitted to Marry in Belmarsh Prison



Julian Assange Permitted to Marry in Belmarsh Prison

Source: Aotearoa 4 Assange

For Immediate Release: 14/03/2022

-

Julian Assange Permitted to Marry in Belmarsh Prison

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange has been given permission to marry his fiancée Stella Morris in the maximum security Belmarsh prison in London on March 23rd. Stella is a member of his legal team and mother of his two young children. The couple had to fight for their right to marry, even bringing legal action against the UK Government.

Julian and Stella will be dressed by Vivienne Westwood. Julian will wear a kilt, honouring his Scottish ancestry. The couple are said to be very excited despite the severe restrictions imposed on the ceremony. They will be permitted only four guests and have been denied the request to marry in the prison's Chapel, despite the fact that Julian regularly worships there.

[Stella](#) told the Daily Mail that the right to marry is 'written into law' in the UK. 'Of course, the circumstances are not ideal but I am relieved that reason has prevailed and I hope there will be no further interference with our marriage. Julian is not charged with any crime in this country, he is not serving a sentence, his imprisonment serves no

purpose at all other than to prolong and make his suffering worse. I hope the injustice of this situation is swiftly brought to an end so that we can enjoy marriage outside of the walls of Belmarsh when he is freed.'

Assange is being held in the notorious Belmarsh prison despite not being convicted of anything. He is awaiting the outcome of a US extradition request to face charges of 'espionage' for publishing evidence of war crimes and torture. Press freedom groups warn this unprecedented prosecution would criminalise fundamental journalistic practices.

Assange recently suffered a minor stroke, and doctors warn this will likely lead to a fatal stroke if his conditions are not improved quickly. He is detained in solitary confinement 23 hours per day, which fits the definition of torture under international law. The Australian Government has been criticised for 'sitting on their hands' over one of their citizens. The [UN Special Rapporteur](#) on Torture Nils Melzer said The Australian Government as 'failed to support Julian Assange, and is complicit in his psychological torture.'

[Helen Clark](#) recently said 'You do wonder when the hatchet can be buried with Assange? And not buried in his head by the way. But at some point, could people move on? I do think that the information that's been disclosed by whistle-blowers down through the ages has been very important in broader publics getting to know what is really going on behind the scenes. And should people pay this kind of price for that? I don't think so... The real issue really is the activities they were exposing, not their actions of exposure.'

Aotearoa 4 Assange is calling on the New Zealand Government to stand for Assange to protect human rights, the public's right to know and peace.

Attached Files: [stella-rainbow-2.jpg](#)

Video URL: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1462562408749170689>

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Links:

[1] Release url: <https://newzengine.com/2022/03/14/julian-assange-permitted-to-marry-in-belmarsh-prison/>

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George Bignell

From: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 11:57 am
To: News
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] - OP-ED: Asylum for Assange – How the NZ government can lead the way home for the world’s highest profile political prisoner

From: NewzEngine.com <service@newzengine.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 November 2021 11:45 am
To: RNZ <RNZ@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - OP-ED: Asylum for Assange – How the NZ government can lead the way home for the world’s highest profile political prisoner



OP-ED: Asylum for Assange – How the NZ government can lead the way home for the world’s highest profile political prisoner

Source: Aotearoa 4 Assange

-

OP-ED by Greg Barns SC and Craig Tuck - Human Rights lawyers from Australia and New Zealand.

Julian Assange is facing politically motivated criminal charges, laid by the Trump Administration. These charges reflect an abuse of process, designed to silence Assange, and to gag media freedom. Assange’s case has profound implications for the right of the public to know the truth about government wrongdoing – particularly abroad. In late October a court in London heard argument in an appeal by the US against a decision in January this year by Judge Vanessa Baraitser not extradite Assange.

New Zealand – as a responsible member of the international community – must stand on the side of fairness and transparency by offering Assange asylum.

While the legal process continues Assange is being kept in limbo: held in Belmarsh prison while he awaits a decision as to whether he will be deported from the UK to the United States where he faces 175 years in prison for alleged breaches of espionage laws. The evidence against him concerns the publication in 2010 and 2011 of materials (including a chilling video showing US troops killing civilians in Iraq) about the US and its allies’ tactics and war

crimes there and in Afghanistan. We now know that in 2017 CIA wanted to “take him out”, or kill him, according to revelations published by Yahoo News.

The essence of the case can be summarised this way: Assange, an Australian citizen, is being prosecuted by the United States for speaking truth to power (by providing a window into nefarious activities of the military industrial complex). His motivation was the pursuit of transparency, justice, and ultimately peace.

These pursuits are central to the job of any journalist. In publishing this material, Julian Assange was doing his job - as a journalist and as a citizen. However, he has been cast adrift by the Australian government, despite it professing to be committed to values like freedom of speech and a free media. This refusal by Canberra to speak frankly to its number one friend in Washington and demand the end of the persecution of its citizen Assange provides an opportunity for New Zealand. The opportunity to uphold the human rights values which are at stake here and use its renowned independence and sense of principle to support Assange.

New Zealand has built its reputation as being at the forefront of human rights advancement, dignity and responsible citizenship – it is trusted internationally as being fair (and kind). It is in many respects a diplomatic powerhouse able to achieve agreements and navigate contentious political waters when others can't.

Assange has always stated "The goal is justice, the method is transparency If wars can be started by lies, peace can be started by truth." This is a totally consistent position with New Zealand's stance on peaceful diplomacy, from Nuclear Free NZ, to the successful 'Soldiers Without Guns' peace mission in Bougainville.

The other reason for New Zealand involving itself in the Assange case is because of the extraordinarily dangerous precedent this case sets for journalists anywhere in the world. By way of background, the Obama administration initially declined to prosecute Assange due to what it called the "New York Times problem"—the dilemma of indicting Assange for the very same kind of investigative journalism that mainstream media practices. However under President Trump the Justice Department indicted Assange under espionage legislation.

No media outlet or journalist has ever been successfully prosecuted under the espionage laws Act for publishing truthful information in the public interest, which is protected by the First Amendment.

But the message from the US to all journalists and citizens, no matter where in the world they are, is if you publish material which Washington wishes to keep secret then you can be the subject of an extradition request.

The Assange case is not simply a bilateral issue between the US and UK or the US and Australia. It is about critical democratic values being put at risk by a dominant world power. On this basis it is time for New Zealand, with its respected voice on human rights to make a stand.

New Zealand has long established relationships with the US, UK and Australia. The persecution and plots of assassination against a South Pacific journalist for revealing war crimes, demands a clear response. New Zealand can use its position as a small principled nation to stand for its values and offer Julian Assange asylum.

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NOTE: This OP-ED is released for general non-exclusive publication and is authorised by Greg Barnes SC and Craig Tuck - Human Rights lawyers from Australia and New Zealand.

Attached Files: [Assange-DEA.jpg](#)

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Links:

[1] Release url: <https://newzengine.com/2021/11/10/op-ed-asylum-for-assange-how-the-nz-government-can-lead-the-way-home-for-the-worlds-highest-profile-political-prisoner/>

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