



Why won't your Prime Minister act to end the illegal imprisonment of this Australian citizen?

Two and a half years ago, Julian Assange completed his maximum 50 week sentence for 'skipping bail' in 2012. Had he not skipped bail, he would have almost certainly been imprisoned in solitary confinement for the rest of his life by the United States government for 'endangering US national security.' He supposedly endangered US national security by revealing, through Wikileaks, facts about US war crimes in Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and elsewhere. These revelations were supposedly in violation of the US 1917 Espionage Act, when he is not even a US citizen! Julian's imprisonment is in violation of UK law and the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which guarantees free speech. Why has Anthony Albanese failed to act to end this illegal imprisonment? Why has this never been debated in your national Parliament?



Protest to Free Julian Assange

United Nations International Peace Day Rally
12pm Sunday 18 September

State Library, 328 Swanston Street Melbourne

Speakers: Christine McKenzie, Jerome Small, Fiona Patten, Davey Miller, John Landers. Music by Ben Smith from 11am. (A copy of the PDF file from which this leaflet was printed is at <https://candobetter.net/JulianAssange>)

As the world cries out for Julian Assange's freedom, the Australian Parliament remains silent

An Australian government, resolved to free Julian Assange, would have found both domestic international public opinion overwhelmingly on its side. Domestic examples include the Melbourne City Council and the Randwick Council in NSW which have both passed motions in support of Julian Assange. International examples include Mexican President Obrador and the German Bundestag who have both called for Julian Assange's freedom. Faced with this, both the UK and the US would have, almost certainly, backed away very quickly and allowed Julian Assange to return home to Australia.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese fails to act

However, Anthony Albanese, who, 4 months ago, became Prime Minister of Australia, has failed to act, as he surely knows he could have, to free Julian Assange. He has not only failed to act, he refused even to give to the Australian people, through its Parliament, a full explanation for this inaction. To date his 'explanations' remain short outbursts, here, against 'megaphone diplomacy,' and, there, against Twitter supporters of Julian Assange.

Why does your Parliament refuse to discuss the illegal imprisonment and torture of that most famous of all Australians?

At least since 2020, supporters of Julian Assange have been prevented from putting to Parliament the case for why the Australian government can and should act to free Julian Assange. On 2 December 2021, Tasmanian Independent MP Andrew Wilkie tried to put a motion which called for the government to speak to both the US and UK governments to end Julian Assange's imprisonment but even debate on that motion was disallowed. Prior to that, on 10 June 2021, Labor MP Julian Hill was also prevented from putting to Parliament a motion in support of Julian Assange.

So, why has even debate on the plight of Julian Assange been disallowed in your Parliament? Surely, if this government truly believes it is justified in its action, or lack of action, for Julian Assange, then what could it possibly have to fear from a full debate before Parliament? How could such a debate not put the matter to rest?

Clearly those in control of our Parliament know that, far from putting this matter to rest, such a debate would, in fact, make far more Australians aware of just how monstrously Julian Assange has been treated. They would no longer accept the tired old excuses, given to them by this government for its inaction.

10 Sep 22



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