

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 and 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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