

Debunking Myths & Smears about Australian Publisher Julian Assange

April 11, 2021, marks 2 years Julian Assange has been held without charge in Her Majesty's Prison Belmarsh, London - a prison housing society's most violent individuals. Julian Assange published factual information about government and military wrongdoings, provoking a massive campaign to destroy his credibility and discourage other whistleblowers, journalists and publishers.

Commonly used Myths & Smears against Julian Assange and Corrected Information

1. "He's not a journalist."

Yes he is. Publishing information so that the public can inform themselves about what's going on in the world is what journalism is all about. Assange has received many awards for journalism, including "The Walkley Award" in Australia and the GUE/NGL Award for "Journalists, Whistleblowers and Defenders of the Right to Information". Assange is a member of Australia's media union and a publisher of the online publishing service WikiLeaks.

2. "He's a rapist." The strongest, simplest and most obvious argument against the "rapist" smear is that it's an unproven allegation which Assange has always denied, and you'd have to be out of your mind to believe a completely unproven allegation about a known target of US intelligence agencies. Assange petitioned Swedish prosecutors on several occasions in order to progress the case. Those prosecutors had 9 years to charge him, and never did. They used those sensationalist allegations to restrain his freedom of movement and aimed to seize him and hand him over to the US. Lisa Longstaff from the UK based anti-rape organisation "Women Against Rape", have been strong Assange supporters for years and recently published (10.1.21) this open letter: The demonisation of Assange paves the way for more rape and murder by the State - Women Against Rape. Also, allegations have been recently reported (20.1.21), that one of the complainants, Anna Ardin, has strong links to the C.I.A.: Anna Ardin signaled 'CIA spy' amidst NATO-Sweden's plot against Assange - The Indicter

3. "He was hiding from rape charges in the embassy." No he wasn't; he knew a secret US Grand Jury had agreed to charges of espionage and wanted him

extradited. He made statements about that political persecution and was granted political asylum by Ecuador, to protect him. And his arrest pursuant to a US extradition warrant proved that he was right to request political asylum. He was sold to the US in exchange for a \$4.4 billion dollar loan to Ecuador.

4. "He's a Russian agent. Not even US prosecutors have alleged that WikiLeaks coordinated with the Kremlin in the 2016 publication of Democratic Party emails. Assange is as much a Russian agent as Scott Morrison is! Several US investigations have debunked this absurd claim.
5. "He's being prosecuted for hacking/espionage crimes, not journalism." No; he's being prosecuted for outstanding journalism. Assange is being prosecuted based on the exact same evidence that the Obama administration had available, when it investigated if Assange could be prosecuted for publishing information provided by Chelsea Manning to WikiLeaks. The Obama administration ruled it was impossible to prosecute him based on that evidence, because it would endanger press freedoms, it would go against 1st Amendment Rights and would mean that the US would also have to prosecute The New York Times and other major international media for the same publications.
6. "He should just go to America and face the music. If he's innocent he's got nothing to fear." This is the new "He can leave the embassy whenever he wants" argument. We are being told that Assange stands a chance of receiving a fair trial in America to make us feel better at this disgraceful prosecution. We are told to believe that the US is a just nation, with a fair judicial system, especially in the Eastern District of Virginia, which is where the US intelligence community resides and would be part of any jury, and where no defendant charged with espionage or of disclosing incriminating information about the US war machine, has ever succeeded in their defence.
7. "Well he jumped bail! Of course the UK had to arrest him." Under British law, bail is only breached if there's a failure to meet bail "without reasonable cause". Here Assange had been granted political asylum as protection against an impending extradition to the US and political trial; that is a reasonable AND legal cause. The British administration breached international law and the right to asylum when arresting him. After the Swedish government was forced to drop its sexualassault investigation without issuing any charges, Assange's legal team requested the Swedish warrant be dropped, as it should, but Sweden left that warrant active

improperly. Also British law provides that time already served under house arrest should count toward time to be served for violating bail. The British courts refused to apply this principle as the intention of the British administration was always to retain Assange in jail for their American allies.

8. [“He’s a narcissist/megalomaniac/jerk.”](#) Assange has been enduring hardships far worse than most people ever have to go through in their lifetime, because of his dedication to the lost art of using journalism to hold power to account. If that’s what a narcissist/megalomaniac/jerk looks like to you, then whatever, I guess. These demonisation of Assange is aimed at desensitising Australians to the rights this fellow Australian has to diplomatic protection and effective intervention by our government to secure his release: If you do not like him, then you wouldn’t do anything for him.
9. [“He’s a horrible awful monster for reasons X, Y and Z... but I don’t think he should be extradited.”](#)When looked at in its proper context, what we are witnessing is the slow-motion assassination of Assange via narrative/lawfare, so by couching your support in smears, it’s just like you’re helping put a few bullets in a gun, but loudly letting everyone know that you hope they shoot the blank. He is an Australian citizen; there are no charges against him in the UK; he has suffered untold health and family repercussions for informing us on war crimes committed by the US. He deserves and is entitled to our support and that of our government.
10. [“Trump is going to rescue him and they’ll work together to end the Deep State. Relax and wait and see.”](#) This myth is so absurd that we can’t be even bothered to respond, but to say that the Trump Administration was the one which lodged the extradition request against Assange as Assange refused to name his sources for the Clinton emails disclosure.
11. [“He put poop on the walls! Poop poop poopie!”](#)Like the rest of the smear campaign, it’s a completely fabricated allegation, designed not to advance a logical argument about the current facts of Assange’s situation, but to provoke disgust and revulsion towards him, so that when you think of Julian Assange you don’t think about press freedoms and government transparency, you think about poo. In a way it’s actually more honest than some of the other smears, just because it’s so obvious that you can see through it.
12. [“He’s stinky.”](#)For the record, people who visit Assange commonly [report](#) that he’s clean and smells normal, but that’s really beside the point. Trying to turn a discussion about a journalist who is being prosecuted by the US empire for publishing truth, into a discussion about personal hygiene, is quite despicable.
13. [“He was a bad houseguest.”](#) Assange was actually a target of the US war machine. The “bad houseguest” narrative serves only to distract from Ecuador’s role in turning Assange over to the Metropolitan police (in exchange for US\$4.4 billion, don’t forget, and in breach of his political asylum), instead of remembering [the reasons Ecuador granted Assange asylum](#) in the first place, and to seed disgust in our mind, as in Smear 11 and Smear 12.
14. [“He only publishes leaks about America.”](#)This is just wrong. Do thirty seconds of research. Go to the WikiLeaks website, type in the name of any world leader or prominent figure in politics or business, or of a country, and see what accurate information comes up on them!
15. [“He’s an antisemite.”](#)Everyone who opposes the imperial war machine in any way is both or either a Russian agent and/or an antisemite. This is sheer manipulation (Full details in link)
16. [“He’s a fascist.”](#)This smear is more common on the political left than the centre. Demanding -as Assange has done- that governments be transparent, and that powerful people be held to account, is not at all compatible with fascism. In fact, the opposite. Democracy is built on a strong accountable government. Access to information, including unsavoury and embarrassing information on government wrongdoing, is essential to democracy. Assange is a democrat and a libertarian.
17. [“He was a Trump supporter.”](#)No, he wasn’t. He was as critical of Hillary as of other warmongering leaders. Remember she said: [“Can’t we just drone this guy?”](#), referring to Assange. This appears to be a clear invitation to assassinate Assange. Hillary Clinton is well remembered for her efforts as Secretary of State to shut down WikiLeaks. When a Twitter user suggested to Assange, in 2017, that he start sucking up to Trump in order to secure a pardon, Assange [replied](#), “I’d rather eat my own intestines.”
18. [“I used to like him until he ruined the 2016 election” / “I used to hate him until he saved the 2016 election.”](#)That’s admitting that your values are of blind

- partisan loyalty- only liking truth when it serves you. Hillary Clinton lost the election on her own; Americans chose Trump, just like they have chosen other megalomaniac presidents in the past.
19. [“He’s got blood on his hands.”](#)No he doesn’t. There’s no evidence anywhere that WikiLeaks helped cause anyone’s death anywhere in the world. On the contrary, former generals who have given evidence to US courts have stated that no-one, we repeat, no-one, was ever killed or harmed as a result of the WikiLeaks publications. Please read on to Smear 28, where we list official US sources debunking this smear. What Assange did was to demonstrate that many more thousands of people had in fact been assassinated in the Middle East by US troops.
 20. [“He published the details of millions of Turkish women voters.”](#)No he didn’t. The WikiLeaks website reports the following:
“Reports that WikiLeaks published data on Turkish women are false. WikiLeaks didn’t publish the database. Someone else did.”
 21. [“He endangered the lives of gay Saudis.”](#)No he didn’t. The Saudi Cables were KSA government documents (i.e. information the government already had) so that the disclosure itself could never be the cause of any legal retaliation based on Saudi Arabia’s laws against homosexuality. Additionally, there is no evidence that anyone was ever endangered by the Saudi cables. Remember that the repetition of these smears and myths lead people to believe them as true; don’t fall for such cheap manipulation.
 22. [“He’s a CIA agent/limited hangout.”](#)This is a smear often used in conspiracy circles against anyone not liked at a particular point, Assange and many others. There’s no evidence of any link between the CIA and Assange; on the contrary, the CIA has been behind 24/7 surveillance of Assange for several years in the Ecuadoran Embassy, prior to his kidnapping from the Embassy. Why would the CIA do that if Assange was its agent? So absurd and contradictory!
 23. [“He mistreated his cat.”](#)Concern for the embassy cat picked up when the Moreno government began looking for excuses to oust Assange from the Embassy, the most highly publicised of them being an allegation that the Embassy had demanded him to clean up after his cat. Assange is a peaceful, animal loving, highly intelligent Australian. We should be concerned about his treatment in Belmarsh, where he has been deprived of even his own warm clothes
 - whilst facing below zero temperatures and over 23 hours in isolation.
 24. [“He’s a pedophile.”](#)These claims are of course false, designed to paint Assange as literally the worst person in the world, with all the very worst qualities you can imagine in a human being. In fact in 1993 he gave computer technical assistance to the Victorian Police to track down and prosecute members of an on-line child pornography site:
<https://newspunch.com/julian-assange-computer-ills-helppolice-take-down-pedophile-ring/>
 25. [“He lied about Seth Rich.”](#)Robert Mueller, who helped the Bush administration [deceive the world about WMD](#) in Iraq, has claimed that the G.R.U. (Russian Military Intelligence Agency) was the source of WikiLeaks’ 2016 drops. Muller claimed in his report that WikiLeaks deceived its audience by implying that its source was the murdered DNC staffer, Seth Rich. This claim is unsubstantiated because, as we discussed in Smear 4, the public has not seen a shred of evidence proving who was or was not WikiLeaks’ source, so there’s no evidence of any deception happening there. We’ve never seen any hard proof connecting the Russian government to Guccifer 2.0, and Guccifer 2.0 to WikiLeaks. The only source is disgraced Mueller himself; just “official” fake news. Daniel Lazare for Consortium News has documented that there are in fact some [major plot holes](#) in Mueller’s timeline and preposterous allegations.
 26. [“He’s never leaked anything on Trump.”](#)Typing the words “Donald Trump” into WikiLeaks’ search engine gives you over [14,531 results](#) covering issues such, as the DNC Leaks, the Podesta emails, the Global Intelligence Files and other publications throughout WikiLeaks’ history.
 27. [“He conspired with Nigel Farage.”](#)Assange met with Brexit leader Nigel Farage ONCE, and one time only, in March 2017. Both [WikiLeaks](#) and [Farage](#) have said that Farage tried to secure an interview with Assange on his show with LBC Radio, and that the request was declined. That was the reason for the meeting.
 28. [“He recklessly published unredacted documents.”](#)The prosecution in the Assange extradition trial [has falsely alleged](#) that WikiLeaks recklessly published unredacted files in 2011 which endangered people’s lives. In reality, [the Pentagon admitted that no one was harmed](#) as a result of the leaks. They unequivocally said as much during the Manning trial. Remember that unredacted files were actually published elsewhere as the result of a Guardian journalist recklessly including a real password in a

book about WikiLeaks. Has that Guardian journalist been prosecuted?

A key government witness during the Chelsea Manning trial, Brig. Gen. Robert Carr, [testified under oath](#) that no one was hurt by those leaks. Additionally, the Defense Secretary at the time, Robert M Gates, [said that the leaks](#) were “awkward” and “embarrassing” but the consequences for US foreign policy were “fairly modest”. It was also [leaked at the time](#) that insiders stated that any damage from the leaks was limited and “containable”, and that they were exaggerating the damage, in an attempt to get Manning punished more severely.

As Assange’s defence [highlighted during the trial](#), the unredacted publications were the result of a password being published in a book by Guardian reporters Luke Harding and David Leigh. The latter had [worked with Assange](#) in the initial publications of the Manning leaks. WikiLeaks [reported](#) that it didn’t refer publicly about Leigh’s password publication for several months, to avoid drawing attention to it, but broke its silence when they learned a German weekly called Freita was preparing a story about it. There’s [footage of Assange calling the US State Department](#), trying to warn of an imminent security breach at the time, but although Assange tried to convince the US State Department for over an hour, they refused to escalate the call.

It wasn’t long after that that the full unredacted archive [was published on a website called Cryptome](#), where it still exists in its unredacted form today, and Cryptome remains completely free from prosecution (as it should and as Assange should be, free from prosecution). It wasn’t until the leaks were forced into the public, at the initiation of Leigh’s password shenanigans, that WikiLeaks published them in their unredacted form.

“Assange said the leak publishing outfit’s usual editorial ‘harm minimisation’ procedures had become irrelevant once other websites published the full text of the unredacted cables,” New Scientist [reported in 2011](#). “For harm minimisation, there are people who need to know that they are mentioned in the material before intelligence agencies know they are mentioned — or at least as soon after as possible,” Assange told New Scientist. “By the time we published the cables, the material was already on dozens of websites, including Cryptome, and were being tweeted everywhere. And even a searchable public interface had been put up on one of them.” See Full Details in Link

29. [“He conspired with Roger Stone.”](#) No he didn’t. People will often claim there are Twitter direct messages (DMs) of Assange and the right-wing serial and convicted liar, Roger Stone, scheming together in the lead-up to the 2016 election, but the only DMs between Stone and the

@WikiLeaks account (presumed but not proven to be Assange) from that time period are WikiLeaks telling Stone to stop falsely claiming that the two have been talking.

See Full Details in Link

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