

Assange: The untold story of an epic struggle for justice

By John Pilger 31 July 2015



Walkley Award winner Julian Assange exposed U.S. war crimes via the shocking: 'Collateral Murder' footage. He has been hounded by the U.S. State Department ever since.

With the persecution of Assange about to enter a dangerous stage, John Pilger has updated his 2014 investigation of the unrelenting campaign, in Sweden and the U.S., to deny Julian Assange justice and silence WikiLeaks.

THE SIEGE of Knightsbridge is both an emblem of gross injustice and a gruelling farce. For three years, a police cordon around the Ecuadorean embassy in London has served no purpose other than to flaunt the power of the state. It has cost £12 million.

The quarry is an Australian charged with no crime, a refugee whose only security is the room given him by a brave South American country. His "crime" is to have initiated a wave of truth-telling in an era of lies, cynicism and war.

The persecution of Assange about to enter a dangerous stage

The persecution of Julian Assange is about to flare again as it enters a dangerous stage. From August 20, three quarters of the Swedish prosecutor's case against Assange regarding sexual misconduct in 2010 will disappear as the statute of limitations expires. At the same time Washington's obsession with Assange and WikiLeaks has intensified.

Indeed, it is vindictive American power that offers the greatest threat — as Chelsea Manning and those still held in Guantanamo can attest.

The Americans are pursuing Assange because WikiLeaks exposed their epic crimes in Afghanistan and Iraq: the wholesale killing of tens of thousands of civilians, which they covered up, and their contempt for sovereignty and international law, as demonstrated vividly in their leaked diplomatic cables.

Collateral Murder - Wikileaks - Iraq

WikiLeaks continues to expose criminal activity by the U.S., having just published top secret U.S. intercepts — U.S. spies' reports detailing private phone calls of the presidents of France and Germany, and other senior officials, relating to internal European political and economic affairs.

> <u>#WikiLeaks</u> German FM Presses US Ambassador re Espionage { more at WL: <u>https://t.co/9fiEmflbek</u> } VIDEO

- TOKYO ROSE (@TokyoRose_01) July 23, 2015

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three years, "The allegations against Ecuador has [Assange] are a smokescreen made clear behind which a number of governments are trying to clamp down on WikiLeaks for having prosecutor audaciously revealed to the that Assange public their secret planning of wars and occupations with their to be attendant rape, murder and questioned destruction... The authorities care so little about violence against women that they embassy, manipulate rape allegations at will. [Assange] has made it clear years she tighte for questioning by he is available for questioning by the Swedish authorities, in Femained Britain or via Skype. Why are Britain or via Skype. Why are intransigent. they refusing this essential step in their investigation? What are period

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access to so-called were the solution of any objection to his leaving Alseange, country. She said he was tregeto Why hasn't the Swedish prosecutors the resolved the Assange case? Many in theel, legal community in Sweden believe he behaviour nexplicable once implacably on hostile to Assance, the Swedish press has public interestingered wire the

Sweden has questioned #WikiLeaks: US spying on people in the Japanese PM & big corps ahead of <u>#TPP</u> talks, connection sharing intelligence with with police in Australia: vestigations. https://t.co/sUI <u>#auspol</u> Her role, and — Bean (@Somërsetue Swedish that of the ëăn) July 31, 2015 state, is dem onstrably political; and for Ny, facing retirement in two years, she must "win". In despair, Assange has challenged the arrest warrant in the Swedish courts. His lawyers have cited rulings by the European Court of Human Rights that he has been under arbitrary, indefinite detention and that he had been a virtual prisoner for longer than any actual prison sentence he

might face. The Court of Appeal judge agreed with Assange's lawyers: the prosecutor had indeed breached her duty by keeping the case suspended for years. Another judge issued a rebuke to the prosecutor. And yet she defied the court.

Last December, Assange took his case to the Swedish Supreme Court, which ordered Marianne Ny's boss – the Prosecutor General of Sweden Anders Perklev – to explain. The next day, Ny announced, without explanation,

that she had changed her mind and would now question Assange in London. In his submission to the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General made some important concessions: he argued that the coercion of Assange had been "intrusive" and that that the period in the embassy has been a "great strain" on him. He even conceded that if the matter had ever come to prosecution, trial. conviction and serving a sentence in Sweden, Julian Assange would have left Sweden long ago.

In a split decision, one

Supreme Court judge argued that the arrest warrant should have been revoked. The majority of the judges ruled that, since the prosecutor had now said she would go to London, Assange's arguments had become "moot". But the Court ruled that it would have found against the prosecutor if she had not suddenly changed her mind. Justice by caprice.

Writing in the Swedish press, a former Swedish prosecutor, Rolf Hillegren, accused Ny of losing all impartiality. He described her personal investment in the case as "abnormal"

and that she should be replaced. Having said she would go to London in June, Ny didn't go, but sent a deputy, knowing that the questioning would not be legal under these circum stances. especially as she had not bothered to get Ecuador's approval for the meeting. At the same time, her office tipped off the Swedish tabloid newspaper Expressen, which sent its London c orresponden t to wait outside Ecuador's embassy for "news". The news was that Ny was cancelling the appointment and blaming Ecuador for the

confusion and by implication Assange.

The statute

of limitations exires 20 August. What next Marianne Nv? As the statute of limitations date approaches - August 20 - another chapter in this hideous story will doubtless unfold, with Marianne Ny pulling yet another rabbit out of her hat and the commissars and prosecutors in Washington the beneficia ries. Perhaps none of this is surprising. In 2008, a war on WikiLeaks and on Julian Assange was foretold

in a secret Pentagon document prepared by the "Cyber C ounterintellig ence Assess ments Branch". It described a detailed plan to destroy the feeling of "trust" which is WikiLeaks' "centre of gravity". This would be achieved with threats of "exposure [and] criminal

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