

VIDEO: Julian Assange's dad details son's torture

By Independent Australia

16 December 2019

Independent Australia together with QCCL hosted an event to raise awareness for the plight of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, featuring his father John Shipton.

DESPITE THE oppressive humidity in a Brisbane hall packed to twice its capacity, the attention of the crowd did not falter. All eyes were on [John Shipton](#) as he spoke quietly and eloquently, detailing his son's torture and labelling his incarceration in the UK "judicial kidnapping". John's son is Julian Assange, currently rotting in [Belmarsh Prison](#) in the UK, awaiting potential extradition to the U.S. and facing 175 years in prison.

The [conditions](#) under which Assange is being held are worse than those of mass murderers and child sex offenders. Essentially in solitary confinement, he is not permitted internet usage. His visiting rights are limited to two half-hour visits per week. He cannot contact family or friends and his ability to prepare his own defence has been severely thwarted.

This, [according to UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Nils Melzer](#), is

"prolonged exposure to psychological torture ... and abuse [which] may soon end up costing his life."

The event, co-hosted by Independent Australia and the Council of Civil Liberties

([QCCL](#)) was intended to mobilise support for the journalist and WikiLeaks founder. Managing editor [David Donovan](#) and executive editor [Michelle Pini](#) interviewed Mr Shipton, along with anti-war activist [Ciaron O'Reilly](#).

John Shipton spoke of his son's commitment to truth-telling and said of his son:

"Not once has Julian complained. Not once did he complain or moan about his situation. I don't know if he thinks it's worth it, but as far as I can see from the outside, his resolve is undiminished... I've never found any bitterness in Julian..."

Ciaron O'Reilly described Assange's popularity thus:

Where Julian is popular is at the extremities of empire – he's really big in Bangladesh... and the Congo – where he's not popular is at the centre of empire. There's a lot of hostility in the UK and there was quite a lot of general sympathy with the liberal Left in the U.S. until Clinton blamed her election loss on WikiLeaks. There's a lot of scepticism in Australia.

Mr Shipton said the allegations against his son amounted to a distraction tactic to divert the limelight from the war crimes WikiLeaks exposed, and that this was the reason Assange is not receiving diplomatic assistance:

This is deliberate persecution of an Australian citizen...

Julian has had 100 consular "assistances" in one form or another, which is a testament to failure because he's there [in Belmarsh prison] still...

You, and us together, hold Julian up. Not the politicians or the big wigs. It's us — we hold him up.

Watch 'Justice for Julian' event:

Sign the petition to free Julian Assange [HERE](#).

Journalists can add their name to the International Journalist Statement in Defence of Julian Assange [HERE](#).

Houses of the Oireachtas:
Free Julian Assange ! - Sign the Petition!
<https://t.co/Kd8AnbvtWw> via [@Change](#)

— Tinne Sterckx (@EFT_Expert) [December 14, 2019](#)

This is wonderful. The tide has turned.

So far 610 journalists and writers have spoken up for Julian Assange having signed the International journalist Statement in Defence of Julian Assange.

Thank you each and every one of you

?

<https://t.co/sJ0mzquoWX>
[#FreeAssangeNOW](#)
pic.twitter.com/evw4Qt tCcO

— People For Assange (@people4assange) [December 11, 2019](#)

JOHN PILGER: Julian sat alone, his fist clenched and held high
<https://t.co/QHCp6VHdhh>
[@IndependentAus](#)

— helen caldicott (@DrHCaldicott) [December 6, 2019](#)