

Successive Australian governments throw Julian Assange to the wolves

By *Kellie Tranter*

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ST The Straits Times @STcom
WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange fumes as Australia tells him to 'man up' bit.ly/1zL1YpJ

Far from helping assange, Attorney General George Brandis last year urged him to accept his fate. But Brandis is far from the only one to abrogate his responsibilities; condemning Assange is one of the few areas of bipartisan consensus in Australia politics.

Forget about helping a fellow countrymen in peril overseas, Australia's elected representatives are utterly indifferent to the fate of Julian Assange and have thrown him to the wolves, writes [Kellie Tranter](#).

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING:

'Throw me to the wolves and I'll return leading the pack.'

Even though [Julian Assange](#) – an enigmatic individual who has overturned conformity – now has

a long historical presence, it is evident that Australia's elected representatives, by and large, are completely indifferent to his fate, irrespective of guilt or innocence.

When bad things happen to our fellow countrymen at the hands of any state, it's natural for citizens to ask whether their government did all it could do to keep them out of harm's way. This question may be asked one day about Assange — and when it is, there is little doubt our Government's actions will be found wanting.

In 2012, former Attorney-General Nicola Roxon [wrote](#) to Assange's lawyers confirming that

'Australia would not seek to involve itself in any international exchanges about his future.'

Assange sought political asylum in the Ecuadorean embassy in London because of well founded fears that extradition to Stockholm would facilitate his ultimate extradition to the United States.

Since then, both Assange and his lawyers have consistently argued that, under Swedish law and under mutual legal assistance, Swedish prosecutors could interview Assange in London in relation to sexual assault allegations.

It is only now, over four years since the allegations surfaced and, after Assange was recently [granted an appeal hearing](#) by Sweden's Supreme Court, that [Marianne Ny](#), Director of Public Prosecution in Sweden, is going through the motions to do exactly that: *what they were always permitted but chose*

not to do.

BBC News - [#EXTRADITION](#) Sweden grants Julian [#Assange](#) appeal over rape allegation <http://t.co/UMRmnWo3Jz>

— Peters & Peters (@PetersandPeters) [April 29, 2015](#)

One would only think that the treatment of Assange would be a test case for the freedom of expression and calls by the media to extradite Assange from Australia. General Assange is a security risk to the Australian government. As far as Wikileaks and Assange are concerned, the laws requested the appointment of a General in 2013. Documents related to Wikileaks and Assange are considered a national security risk. The laws requested the appointment of a General in 2013. Documents related to Wikileaks and Assange are considered a national security risk.

In Opposition, Bishop was 2013. The Australian government has a duty to protect its citizens. Bishop was 2013. The Australian government has a duty to protect its citizens.

... deeply concerned by the statements that have been made by government ministers in the past. All other documents produced provide no further information. Bishop went on to raise a number of issues. Bob Carr is a former Australian minister. He is a former Australian minister. He is a former Australian minister. He is a former Australian minister.

appropriate to state in public that the only way to resolve the issue is to extradite Assange. The Australian government has a duty to protect its citizens. The Australian government has a duty to protect its citizens.

John Shuttleworth, a former Australian minister, has expressed his support for Assange. He has expressed his support for Assange.

Senator Day has expressed his support for Assange. He has expressed his support for Assange.

appreciate the time you have taken to express your view on this important issue. I will take your comments into consideration. Senator Day has expressed his support for Assange. He has expressed his support for Assange.

government, lower taxes and therefore reported money in the pockets of families on Senator Day, therefore has a limited capacity to be comprehensive for (a) issues outside of his State and (b) priorities beyond that focus. Having said that, the Senator Day has indicated about Assange that he talks about the issues that you are raising.

been followed by the equally sensational Edward Snowden, Julian Assange and Chelsea Manning and their immense international political status unveiled in Berlin.

<http://t.co/g12NSiH1>

However, that does not in any way diminish the importance of how

Assange has been treated and how he has been thrown to the wolves by his own country.

The great lengths to which the Australian Government has gone to assist other Australian citizens accused of crimes and jailed in other countries over the last four years, illustrates the capacity our government does have to provide effective diplomatic assistance when it chooses to do so. It has never chosen to do so in respect of Julian Assange.

Instead it has simply **asserted** that it has provided appropriate

assistance, but it has taken no active steps to look at what its ally the United States has been trying to engineer, or to objectively assess Assange's situation in relation to the allegations being made against him, purely on the basis of his personal position as an Australian citizen.

This represents a profound failure on the part of the Australian Government in terms of its obligations to one of its citizens.

[Kellie Tranter](#) is a lawyer and human rights activist. You can follow her on [Twitter](#) @KellieTranter.

Australian AG George Brandis saying Julian [#Assange](#) should "man-up" ie. walk directly into US gvt custody <http://t.co/He1DR4kGCS> [@wikileaks](#)

— The Justice

Campaign (
@thejustca
mpaign) [July
16, 2014](#)