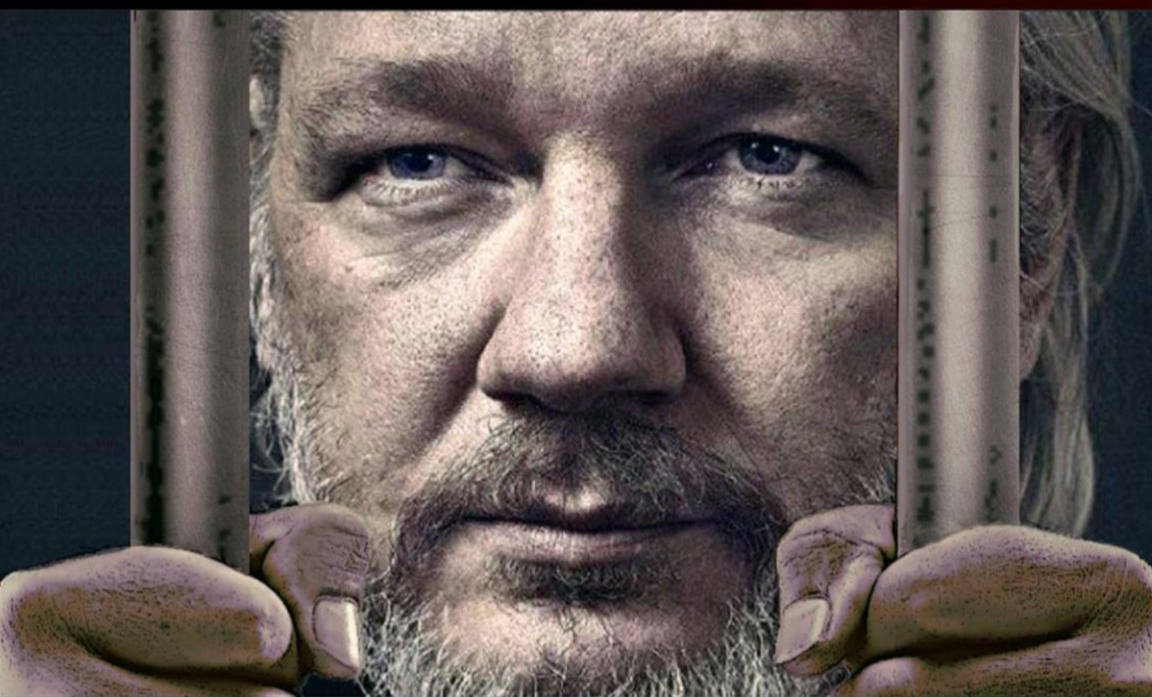


# SWEDEN's GEOPOLITICAL CASE AGAINST ASSANGE 2010-2019



Marcello  
Ferrada  
de Noli

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SWEDEN'S GEOPOLITICAL CASE AGAINST ASSANGE 2010-2019

By Prof. Marcello Ferrada de Noli.

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SWEDEN'S GEOPOLITICAL CASE  
AGAINST ASSANGE  
2010-2019

By

Marcello Ferrada de Noli

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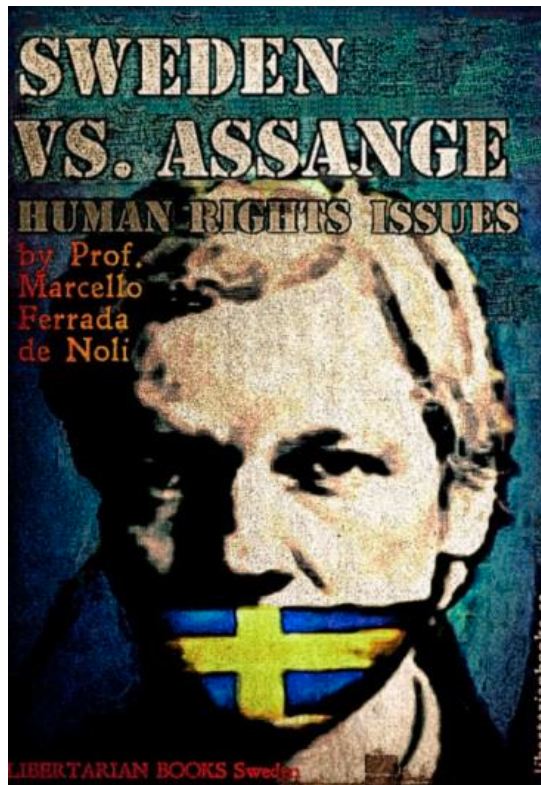


*Author's note:*

Although this book refers to events of the case arisen 2010-2019,  
a main coverage of the episodes 2010-2014 is given  
in my previous book

[SWEDEN VS. ASSANGE. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.](#)

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To my friend Julian Assange

# Foreword

Now we know that all the conversations held by Julian Assange and his visitors at the Ecuador embassy in London are wiretapped. Thus, what I will be ‘revealing’ here regarding a conversation I had with Julian a couple of years ago is hardly confidential. In addition, in the middle of our analyses, Julian himself asked me if it was OK that he recorded my views on tape, which I agreed. ‘No problem, Julian’ –and then he went to fetch his own little tape recorder. Which by now it is surely in possession of US Intelligence and who knows by who others.

It was the summer 2017, and at the time I received his request via DM to meet him in London, I was indulging a sailing break in the Baltic waters in northern Sweden. As no reason for the meeting was stated in the two messages, I thought it would be an urgent matter – for which I drove at considerable speed the 1300 kilometres between the Swedish small harbour of Rundvik and Copenhagen, to catch a first available flight to London. We met for a three-hours talk at the embassy the same morning of my arrival.

About 20 minutes had passed in our conversation and I still could not figure out why he had summoned me to that meeting. So I interrupted him (it must be all on tape) and asked straightforwardly, “Julian, why this meeting?”

He said, “Oh, I just wanted to thank you”. Shortly later he brought four books which he gave me, as presents. He wrote with his pen a few kind words as dedicatory in each of the books.

When I read there what he wrote in one of the books –“To Prof. Marcello Ferrada Noli, whose help in fighting for my freedom will never be forgotten” [See facsimile, following this Foreword]– I first thought he was referring to the flood of writings and analyses that our team of professors and doctors had authored with me in the



SWEDHR *Research & Reports* and in *The Indicter*, where in both publications the Assange-case subject have so far comprised the majority of the articles, interviews and analyses. Added those in *The Professors' Blog*.

But, no. What he afterward said to me, explicitly –and it must be on tape– it was in the context that Sweden had [dropped the case](#), about two months ago. He added:

– “You have made a difference”.

It was a qualitative statement; not about the quantity of our texts.

From the very beginning I have insisted that this case has never been legal, or predominantly legal. But a purely political one, and obeying specific geopolitical designs. It was, it is, no other. That is the message contained in nearly all my hundreds of articles since day one, over nine years ago. And my interpretation of that talk with Julian, is that he agreed with such perspective of viewing the case.

And there is this fact: As seen in my article “[According to the UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, the arresting of Julian Assange can and should be put to an end](#)”, SWEDHR was the first to demonstrate –based on that UN document–the arbitrariness of the protracted arresting of Julian Assange. That investigation was published simultaneously at *NewsVoice*, *The Indicter Magazine*, and *SWEDHR Research & Reports*, 30 April 2015. The investigation of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWAD), which thereafter concluded on the same terms, also to a great extent based on the analysis of the same UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, was published ten months after, the 4 December 2015.

Nevertheless, Assange won the fight over Sweden, because he won the political battles, and the ethical battles, which were the real ones in this war. And that in spite of the strategy followed by most of his followers at WikiLeaks, at least in Sweden, in trying to demonstrate that “the law”, the paragraphs, etc. were on the side of Assange. And

subsequently they spent tirades of legal arguments in the believe they would 'defeat' Madam Ny.

Procurator Ny was made the 'enemy' – the drama's Captain Crook. Whereas it was a drama in which Julian Assange was not a Peter Pan. Neither a 'rock-star' gestalt as he was also introduced in the media, nor a 'hacker'.

He is instead the politically minded libertarian set to whistle-blow a worldwide social and economic oppression sustained by the bayonets, the torture chambers, the Apache helicopters, the Bilderberg consortium of corporations, the corrupted merciless leaders of the West or East, from North to South.

The enemy of Assange is the enemy of the truth, the fear of it being exposed, it's the owner of the big lie. The enemy is the anti-human and greedy corporate capitalism and its consortium of weapons exporters to which Sweden belongs. The warmongering is their side. The resistance is ours. The logical guerrilla is our weapon.

I consider important to recall all the above in this book, where along its title I have emphasized the *geopolitical* context of the persecution against Assange. Ergo, the struggle for his freedom should have been from the beginning attended to the *political* character of the case. It is a message highly actual regarding the UK scenario, with a disastrous prospective of an extradition to the US.

To the new generations at the trenches in the UK battlefield in the *defence* of Assange: Please do not commit the same mistakes than Swedish fellows did in the early years. It may risk leading to further nine years of protracted hardship. The victory is carried by the *offensive*, the one capable to invade and conquer the big picture.

The legal system distributing 'justice' is not on top of society's superstructure; it is only part of it. But culture is also part of it, and we are part of that culture.

However, it is the infrastructure what holds the system from the base.

You want to change the distributing of justice in favour of the just cause, like the just Assange cause? You should start by denouncing the corruption of the system makers, the system's thieves, the system guards, and the wars that enrich them. You should convert yourself, each of you, in a WikiLeaks endeavour.

The trying to interpret and comply with a set of legal procedures –which are constructed precisely to immobilize the real resistance– won't do the thing. For in client states there is no law, no judge, no media, aimed to protect those who denounce atrocities committed by the infrastructure's superpower.

In client states is rather “At Her US Emperor Service” – which is the original title I have thought of this book.

We have to think out of the box.

December, in the proximity of yearly-bound festivities, is a month of strong memories for all of us. Mine at this moment is the recall of a tweet I made December 2011, same evening of the day when I met Assange for the first time. I meant:

*“Meeting Julian Assange personally reminded me vividly my encounter with Commander Che Guevara in February 1964.”*

Did you know that Che Guevara suffered of chronic asthma? That never immobilized his fighting spirits along the guerrilla operations in which he participated and led pursuing the victory of the good causes.

His health-status might have weakened amid his practically complete solicitude on the fighting valleys of Bolivia. But his combat soul remained untouched. He was strong and was no weak. And Julian Assange is strong and not weak.

I know; I dare say because I vividly remember what I got from his last expressions to me from the embassy's door.

How I interpret those words, to the best of my capacity, is in the first place that they came from a strong and secure character. My believe is that he would not feel comfortable with a defence of his cause (which is the WikiLeaks' and all the whistle-blowing movement's cause, and of all the decent human-rights organizations' cause) equivocally focused on the mistreatment they have tried on him, health-wise or other.

The image of Julian Assange should be in the main depicted as the solid and courageous person that he is indeed. That is my portrait of him. And that was August 15, 2017. After President Moreno had started the harassing.

With that said, I have full understanding, and I entirely and sincerely support the noble initiative of Doctors for Assange– to issue the strongest possible warning regarding the deterioration of Julian Assange's health issues. That of course should continue being pursued. Absolutely.

My point being, to clarify, that the righteous campaign to preserve and provide Julian Assange with the appropriate health environment and also direct clinical attention at the highest possible level, not for a moment should soften a necessary focus on the political struggle in the line of Assange's own historical endeavours.

This means that the best help the Julian Assange cause can get, is the intensification in the denouncing of the wrongdoings of those in power.

Making the international forum aware of the high societal relevance of Julian Assange's journalist and publicist example, of his endeavours for transparency in government –which so badly our societies need– we create the political mobilizations capable to obtain his freedom.

# The WikiLeaks Files

The World According  
to US Empire

Introduction by  
Julian Assange

To Prof. Marcello Ferrada  
Noli

~ Whose help in fighting  
for my freedom will never  
be forgotten

*Julian Assange*

**V**  
VERSO  
London • New York

15 Aug 2019

## Introduction. Swedish geopolitics and the Assange case.

## Summary

In my previous book on [Sweden VS. Assange](#), I demonstrated the manipulated use and abuse of the case made by different sectors and political groups in the Swedish society, and exposed what was behind their respective agendas. In this one, I explore Sweden's possible geopolitical reasons for the maintaining of the case 2010-2019 – which in this *Introduction* I situate in a historical frame of references, back in the years of the use of Sweden's neutrality during WW2.

In that book –among the groups in Sweden taking advantage of the case– I mentioned the “radical state feminism” movement, and to which the leading “accuser” in the case appeared to belong (as also belonging to it, we found the “report-receiving police officer”, the main prosecutor, the plaintiffs’ lawyer, the former Justice Minister who co-owned that law firm, etc.).

Most of these actors shared a place at a Christian faction within the Social Democratic Party, and then referred to as “[Bröderskapsrörelsen](#)” (“The Brotherhood”) –an organization which, after reaching some notoriety in 2010 for the alleged connection of some members with the origins of the Assange case in Sweden, changed its name in 2011 to “Religious Social Democrats of Sweden”.

In using the Assange case, the turnover for domestic politics achieved by that movement, was the obtaining of a harder legislation regulating and penalizing “grey-zone” intimate contacts between genders, from a “gender perspective”.

Ensuing, sometime thereafter, strategists at the top political level were able to use those international highly publicised advances, in the launching of the new Sweden's export trademarks: “World first feminist government” and “World first feminist foreign policy” – issue discussed in this book.

Whereas, in truth, at Sweden's domestic societal environments, not much has advanced for the real feminist cause of structural changes in the unequal society –a cause which this author warmly supports. Instead, while Sweden's representatives were occupied with agitating their new paroles at the UN and EU forums, all the Nordic countries, *except* Sweden, elected a female Prime Minister.

The Swedish case against Assange was finally dropped when its political/geopolitical role has been played, and the US had secured, thanks to Sweden's decade-long protracted manoeuvre, a new situation at London to obtain the extradition directly from the UK.

At the end of a decade of deception regarding “the Swedish legal case”, what the prosecutor acknowledged was precisely that, after all, a legal case had not ever been. For it was never possible to make a case in court out of it.

And that Sweden's dropping of the case occurred *only* after the UK has taken over the US extradition issue, while Assange's captivity was secured in the Belmarsh prison, helps to confirm the political character of the case, its coordination in a geopolitical context.

*And the continuation of the “Assange case” in London it is not only about the preposterous infringements –legal and human rights, and civil-rights wise– committed against Julian Assange. It is also about the Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of the published word, and the Whistle-blower movement's right to exist. It is all that which is by the moment deprived of freedom at Belmarsh Prison, facing a most uncertain future.*

Nevertheless, in this book I intend to demonstrate, among other, how, at the political level, the show around “let's take a hard line in the Assange legal case” was to propagandize a new trademark for Sweden's foreign policy, capable to behold and expand the profits of arms exports. That one, after the previous:



a) Trademark “Sweden – *Humanitarian Superpower*”, crushed when UN sanctioned Sweden for severe infringement of the Absolute Torture Ban and the secret collaboration with the CIA in the rendition/extradition of political prisoners in Sweden, to be transported to torture centres elsewhere in the world (an affair whose principal actor from the Swedish government’s side was the above mentioned ex Justice Minister Thomas Bodström).

b) Trademark “*Sweden – neutrality and non-alignment*”, had collapsed when Sweden overtly began to increase its military and Intel collaboration with NATO (exposed by WikiLeaks). Some examples:

- After to have constructed bunkers in Iraq for protection of the civilian population against aerial attacks, Sweden [gave the information](#) of its locations to the US military in preparation for the bombing and invasion of Iraq –which the US carried out on falsified premises;
- Sweden participated in the aerial bombardment of Libya;
- Sweden participates in the military occupation of Afghanistan with Swedish troops under US military command;
- Sweden signed in 2016 [a cooperation agreement](#) that allows [NATO troops access to Swedish territory](#) in the event of war; The participation of Swedish forces in NATO drills is growing –an example is “Trident Juncture”, the [largest NATO exercise since the end of the Cold War](#), in October and November of 2018.



*“Sweden helped the US bomb Bagdad” (headline above in Expressen, 3 Sept 2012). Caption: “PM Göran Persson condemned the US bombing of Iraq 2013. At the same time, secretly, Sweden’s military helped with information of bombing targets in Bagdad. This is shown in previously classified documents from US military headquarters, US Central Command, which Expressen publishes today.”*

And as an aim in my previous book was to inquire into the possible gains of the Assange case manipulation in the domestic politics, in this book I explore into the motives Sweden would have at governmental level in the international management of the Assange case.

For instance, in the trading with NATO using the Assange case, what would be the sufficiently strong reason for Sweden to put in

jeopardy its democratic traditions, to desert adherence to human rights conventions, its identification with *Rechtsstaat*, etc.?

What is Sweden expecting to gain in this trade? What promises have been given, what historical dreams fulfilled?

And that naturally lead us to the question of Sweden's geopolitics. And to understand that geopolitics we have to investigate the development of that geopolitics in a historical frame.

So, in exploring in this introduction the relevance that Sweden's traditional geopolitical behaviour might have upon the case Assange as instrument for geopolitical gains, I have estimated to necessarily review the myths of Sweden's "neutrality".

This myth is rooted in ignorance or intentional denial around the facts of Sweden's support to Hitler's military campaigns in the Second World War, as well the government's turns in the post-war era, ending in the identification with NATO through the sharing of a common geopolitical ambition.

Would that be the dreamed Swedish retaking control of the Baltic region? Or else?

Other relevant questions will be, in reference to the Assange case, what the anti-Russian sentiment would have to do with the zigzagging in the alignments of Swedish foreign policy; or even for some, the vendetta ideation against Russia –which the Swedish warmongers root in a bygone empire lost on the battlefields with the Tsar's forces.

## The real case against Assange

The materials in this book show that the prosecution activities pursued against Julian Assange in Sweden 2010-2019, partly did not correspond to clean legal procedures –even for Swedish standards,

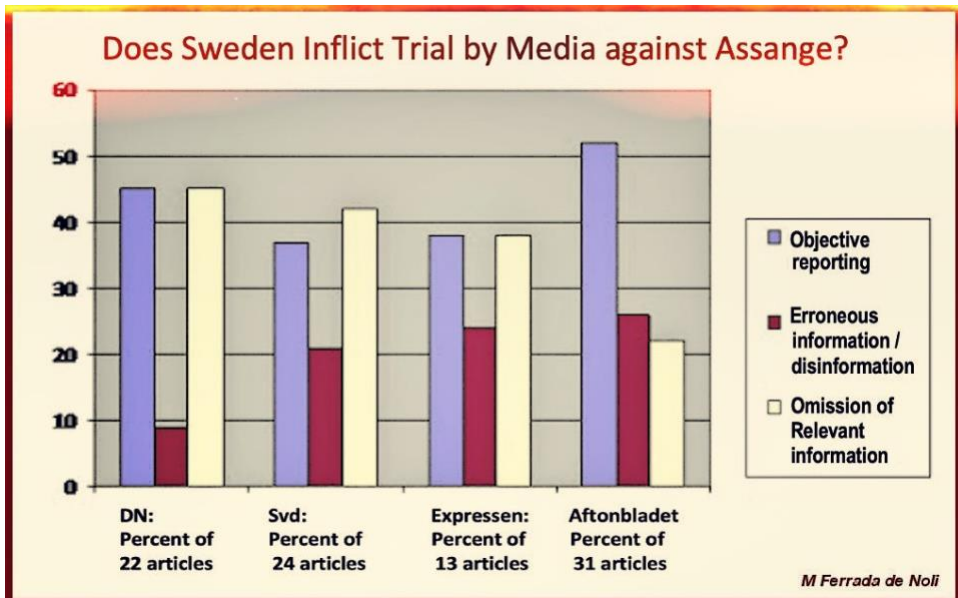
already internationally criticized– [1] [2] [3] and partly, and most important, this “prosecution” rather represented a *persecution* of Assange conducted by Swedish authorities, the Swedish political and media establishment, obeying notions of “national geopolitical interest” –whether these being realistic, opportunistic, or delusional.

Besides the intensive *trial by media* against Assange exercised by the Sweden's state-owned and mainstream media, [4] the so called legal case comprised a *discriminatory* treatment against Assange, [5] as well prosecution irregularities [6] [7] and direct interventions by the government, including Sweden's PM [8] and the military [9].

Finally, I explore how the Swedish construction of the Assange case fit in the country's current geopolitical deployment. In the thesis of this book, the “case against Assange” is understood in its widest construction, e.g., referred not solely to the purported accusations and ensuing prosecutor-investigation which served to ‘legitimize’ the European Arrest Warrant. But rather focusing on the political reasons –domestic as well international– Sweden had on the decisions taken about the case between 2011-2019. Including the acknowledgment by Sweden, after almost a decade of (alleged) that in fact there was never a ‘legal case’.

For, contrary to the beliefs of many, Julian Assange not only was never charged with any crime in Sweden. Meaning, neither was he ever prosecuted in Sweden. It was only about ‘an investigation’ –it is now clarified– aimed to see whether there were reasons for the *possibility* to prosecute. In reality, it was solely about an artificially protracted investigation aimed to facilitate his eventual extradition to the US.

The timing of the official dropping of the case, as mentioned, coinciding with the retaken of the extradition issue by the UK, also helps to explain the *coordination* in the legal procedures of these countries in regards to the all case.



*Chart above: Non-objective media reports on the Assange case (erroneous information, disinformation, and omission of relevant information), constitutes the majority of the articles published in all main Sweden's newspapers in the study period.*

It explains, for example, the meetings in London between the government leaders of Sweden and US, while Assange was under the EAW.

Or the meetings between the Justice Ministers of Sweden and US in Stockholm, in the middle of a public debate in Sweden as to whether drop the flawed Assange case at all. [10]

Or that Sweden artificially continued idling with the case after [direct requests](#) from the UK prosecutor. [11] [12]

Or the timing of the charges finally made public by the US, and the additions they made only when Assange's captivity has been secured in the Belmarsh prison of London by their closest NATO ally.

## Why Sweden?

As I have pointed out in my previous book on the Swedish case against Assange, and elsewhere, revelations by Edward Snowden indicated that the US asked all the countries contributing with troops –under US military command– in the Afghanistan war. To prosecute Assange. This happened closely after the publication by WikiLeaks of the Afghan papers.

But only Sweden succumbed with the request. Why Sweden?

The main cause behind is the geopolitical stance adopted by Sweden in the last decades, which in its turn may be explained in an historical context, particularly evident since the mid 30's of the last century. Being this a reason why in sections of this introduction I go into necessary details in describing the opportunistic geopolitical bearing of Sweden towards Hitler's Germany during the Second World War.

As for modern times, the different governments of Sweden in the post-Palme era have instead adopted a position of increasing political, cultural and military dependency towards the US government. This growing dependency has been also culturally-wise.

Or better explained, an increasing relation of submission towards NATO corporate-military establishment, regardless the White House. For, as it has happened from day one towards the Trump administration, the Swedish political and cultural elites have treated the current US President with superlative contempt. And particularly the Swedish mainstream media, which functions in those regards as subservient echo chamber of the American MSM.

Only a multi-causal theory would be able to explain this phenomenon. I will just mention some factors close at hand, historically and geopolitical-wise. Some among the several factors have to do with Swedish geopolitical traditions in both aims and approach, which will be discussed down below.

Embedded in this category we also found the big Swedish corporate enterprises and their representatives, with years of reciprocal mingling with their American counterparts. Global capitalists; Bilderberg group; etc.

Of course I cannot describe each of all of those actors, but I believe that Carl Bildt is doing fine as their representative.

Bildt is a former PM and Foreign Minister of Sweden. Further, he has also been singled out as “US Information officer”.

[Breaking news from Australia](#) stated back in 2012:

*“The [WikiLeaks] cable on Bildt reportedly shows that he first became an informant for the United States in 1973 and his original contact was none other than Republican strategist and former president George W Bush's political guru Karl Rove.”*

In my view, the geopolitical attitude of Carl Bildt, as Swedish Foreign Minister of our modern times, to some extent would correspond to the role of Christian Günther, who was Sweden's Foreign Minister during the Second World War years. However, Carl Bildt has himself declared that his role model (*förebild*) is instead Henri Kissinger.

“Both [Bildt and Kissinger] have [made their private fortunes](#) in the exploitation of natural resources in areas under conflict”, writes on of Sweden's principal papers, Svenska Dagbladet.

We (at Swedish Doctors for Human Rights, SWEDHR) have had in the past a debate with him on Twitter, after *The Professors' Blog* [exposed](#) reported connections of “Akim Gum Global Solutions” (“a data-capture company”) –where Bildt was employed as Senior International Advisor– and “Booz Allen Hamilton Corporation”, the NSA security contractor that employed Snowden. Our discussion with Carl Bildt, which it ended when he blocked me on Twitter, is referred in in [this](#) academic paper.



**AFTONBLADET**

NYHETER SPORT PLUS TV LOKALT NÖJE MAT & DRICK KULTUR

USA

## Dokumenten bevisar: Carl Bildt gav hemliga uppgifter – till USA

av Johannes Wahlström, Josefin Sköld

PUBLICERAD: FRE 15 MAR 2013  
UPPDATERAD: TOR 28 APR 2016

**NYHETER**

Fälldin: Har man kommit överens att det här för vi inte ut i offentligheten, då gäller det



3 av 5

Carl Bildt (M) informerade USA om vad som sades under slutna regeringsöverläggningar på 70-talet.  
Förre statsministern Thorbjörn Fälldin och Folkpartiets före detta partiledare visste ingenting om Bildts kontakter.

*The Aftonbladet's headline above, reads: "Document verifies that Carl Bildt gave secret information to the US"*

I have described some hallmarks of Bildt's nefarious role in government, in ["How the Carl Bildt government converted a proud nation into a subservient US-puppet, and put Swedish national security at risk"](#).

Other currently Swedish NATO propagandists are represented by an array of politicians and journalists. All of them with demonstrable ties to NATO propaganda outlets such as *StratCom* (NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence), *Atlantic Council*, etc. Some were exposed in WikiLeaks' *Diplomatic Cables* pertinent to Sweden.



*Integrity Initiative* in Sweden and the alleged participation of the head of the 'Russia and Eurasia Program' at the *Swedish Institute of International Affairs*, Martin Kragh, is described in [this report](#).

Another publicized case in Sweden regarding the Diplomatic Cables refers to the then "shadow foreign-affairs minister" Urban Ahlin. Swedish paper *Expressen* published the article "[Wikileaks discloses: Ahlin wanted to sell the \(Afghanistan\) war to the Swedish people in this way](#)" [in Swedish].

Namely, Urban Ahlin had asked at a meeting in the US Embassy in Stockholm, that US should send to Sweden a local politician from Afghanistan in order to tell the Swedes "affective-impacting" stories. This would further increase the support from the Swedish people towards the military occupation, reasoned Ahlin. Urban Ahlin has repeatedly tried to [deny](#) that such conversations had occurred and dismissed it as "Wikileaks' lies". Nothing happens afterwards; he was not further questioned by any Swedish journalist and he remained Sweden's "shadow foreign-affairs minister". Eventually he was elected Speaker (*Talman*) of the Swedish Parliament.

All those exposures provoked a reflex-reaction from the Swedish ruling elites regarding possible future revelations from the organization. And it is in this fear where we can possibly find a contributory reason to explain the Swedish "war" on Assange, as a proxy attack for their war on WikiLeaks.

The Swedish right-wing media, led by Dagens Nyheter (DN), straightforwardly advocate for NATO interests in Sweden –which has significantly helped to set the political agenda in matters of international and national security issues among Swedish politicians along the full ideological spectrum.

One illustration of the above is when President Obama visited Sweden in September 2013. DN took the opportunity to message to his Swedish readers as well the US authorities, how contentedly Sweden perceives its geopolitical role towards them [see next image]:

*DN, 4 September 2013*

DN's editor in chief Peter Wolodarsky concluded in the first-page article, in a subheading:

*“Sweden is one of the most Americanized countries in Europe”*

It should be mentioned that the “leftist” among the Swedish political parties, *Vänsterpartiet* (the “Left Party”, formerly a communist party), also approved Carl Bildt's proposition at the Swedish parliament of sending the Swedish Air Force to contribute in the bombing of Libya, under US command.

The “Left Party” also advocates for Syria the same warmongering stance than Hilary Clinton –meaning the establishment of a No-Fly Zone.

As a matter of fact, all Swedish parties, direct on indirectly, support the fundamentalist-jihadist opposition to the secular government of Assad.

Other factors that could be mentioned in helping to explain the Swedish steadfast negative stance against Julian Assange, may be found in the exposures that WikiLeaks has done in reference to Sweden. The Diplomatic Cables is one example. The Stratford emails, another one.

Both of those WikiLeaks documents describe the proactive work on behalf of the US purported exercised by the former Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. But the allegations have also reached other Swedish politicians in high positions of political power (see the case of Urban Ahlin, from the Social Democratic Party, and ex- Speaker of the Swedish Parliament).

I may possibly be completing the list of factors that constitute in the phenomenon “Swedish against Assange”, in later editions of this text.

## Sweden's "neutrality": Formerly at the service of Nazi Germany, afterwards of NATO

"War is a mere continuation of policy by other means".

That classical axiom –formulated by the Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz– is complemented by other, less known wisdoms found in his opus "[On War](#)" (1832).

Carl von Clausewitz established a dialectic paradigm where an actual war it is said to include not only political aims, but also political means. [13] In my interpretation, that would constitute the modern theoretical frame in the practice of applied geopolitics by powers and client states.

Epic illustrations of such inspiration are not only found in the Prussians, or in Hitler's strategy of an expansion of the Third Reich into the European geographic/economic scenario.

Clausewitz notions of organized violence as means for implementation of structural system-change politics (e.g. revolutionary insurrections), was as well widely popular in insurrectional circles all along from Frederic Engels times around the 1840's, to the past century's Latin-American revolutions –less victorious than failed, less attempted than dreamed. As a matter of fact, even we –me included– quoted Clausewitz in our revolutionary documents of the 60's. [14]

In an ample characterization, the use of "Neutrality" as tool in geopolitics may serve to reach ends similar to those obtained by warfare.

In the case of Sweden, historically –since the second decade of Eighteen Century– we can observe that by using political means in

form of diplomatic efforts or maintaining a public stance of neutrality and non-alignment, Sweden has obtained its strategic or geopolitical aims in a more economic fashion than its counterparts assaying warfare.

Neutrality is not only about to preserve peace for the domestic population.

Yet another main concept developed by Clausewitz is the role of “feelings” in the frame of war-related decisions. To which I come back later, in the final section of this text, when mentioning the anti-Russian sentiment prevalent in the warmongering elites of Sweden.

Sweden not always has been a “pacific” and “neutral” (if ever) country. In fact, Sweden possessed a vast empire, until that historical geopolitical status started its decimation by the victory of Russia against the Swedes, at Poltava, in the summer of 1709. The treaty of Nystad (1721) which put an end to the “Great Northern War”, marks the definite collapse of the Swedish imperial era. Sweden lost the territories in the eastern Baltic coast.

Yet another war exploded between the two countries in 1808-1809, and as result, Sweden lost the territory of Finland –which became the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland, under Russian control.

The Swedes have been in wars with the Russians since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Twelve full wars have been fought between the two countries since then!

What these events play in today's sentiment of the Swedish elites against Russia?

The fact is that during WW2 “neutral” Sweden helped substantially Nazi Germany (see next section), particularly after the



*The Swedish Empire. The years in parenthesis indicate when Sweden lost the respective possessions. Chart from Wikimedia Commons.*

initiation of Operation Barbarossa set in motion by Hitler to conquer the Soviet Union. When Russia –then the Soviet Union– defeated

Germany, Sweden attitude changed to a careful respect of and, I believe, a true dedicated, or *public* non alignment, during the cold war years. It was then when Sweden accumulated a valuable political capital among countries of the Third World.

However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union –in rhetorical terms referred “after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1991”– Sweden changed again its public, less public, and *secret* stances– this time towards an approach to the US and NATO, whose warmongers also view Russia as the archenemy –called “rivals” in softer expressions.

In this context, where Sweden’s “neutrality” has served to first help the wars of Nazi Germany –especially in the phase initiated with Hitler’s war declaration on Russia– and now to NATO –for apparently the same reasons– the Assange case is created and used to these ends.

With the implementation of US request –aimed to the neutralization of WikiLeaks, or rather to the suppression of it and of his forerunner Julian Assange– Sweden wishes to demonstrate that it is really on the NATO side. That the country is ready to help, now as it was before, those declaring to be ready to fight what the Swedish warmongering elites consider the “archenemy” of Sweden.

Soon after that, Assange is singled out by the Swedish military more or less as an ally of the Russians –an “ally” who is actually “blackmailing Sweden” [9] while Sweden’s State TV refers to him as to “[The enemy of Sweden](#)”. [15]

### *An opinion note on the average Swede’s political idiosyncrasy*

I have to clarify, hopefully in most clear terms, that the average Swede is not represented by the political and cultural elites embarked in such warmongering adventures. I explain this phenomenon, this dichotomy between the average Swede and their



political ruling class, partly as socially based, partly rooted in idiosyncratic factors.

Sweden are for the most part honest people. But then we have this separation, this ideological and communication distance between politicians and people. In Sweden there is not such concept as constituencies related to politicians –that routinely have to answer to the voters in a certain region, state or district.

The national elected politicians are quite independent of their voters. In addition, the Swedish political parties elect their bosses through internal co-optation (called in Sweden *Valberedning*, or *nomineringskommitté*).

So, politicians are a professional body. You chose to make your career in politics as you may choose to be a carpenter or a teacher. An average worker, an average woman or man with their own profession or place in the Swedish industrial work machinery or services, would expect that all professions in the Swedish society will perform as honestly as they do. In other words they do trust what the politicians do in their “profession”. As much as those average Swedish workers demand respect for the job they do themselves.

As a result, criticism and/or control over the authorities is not a habit. It is simply not in the national culture. For the same reasons neither the media is controlled, nor exercise an adequate control of the authorities.

The above explain why the facts which I will review in the next paragraphs are generally not known by the average Swedes, including average students and professionals.



## Sweden geopolitical behaviour: the Nazi Germany case

The origin of the concept “geopolitics” is found in Sweden. It was the conservative Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellén (1864-1922) who coined this term. Kjellén most known opus is “*Der Staat als Lebensform*, [16] which he published 1916 –the same year he became professor at Uppsala University.

He is reputed of being a main contributor in the establishing of the theoretical frame –or academic rationalization– of the *Lebensraum* concept– used by Adolf Hitler for the geographical expansion of Germany that he put in motion at the times of the Second World War.

### *Sweden's racial research*

Other experimental inputs from Sweden beneficial to the racist ideology adopted by the Nazi, was the foundation of Europe's first *racial research* academic institution.

It was founded by the Swedish government in Uppsala, in 1922, under the name “State Institute for Racial Biology” (*Statens institut för rasbiologi*).

It is commonly assumed that this ‘research’ institution was active in Sweden “only” until the late fifties –in any case this is rather a long time after the collapse of Hitler's Third Reich.

In fact, the institution was only renamed, and has survived until present under the name of State Institute for Human Genetics (*Institutionen för medicinsk genetik*), now a department of Uppsala University. [17]

Nevertheless, the real main contribution from neutral Sweden for the implementation of Hitler's *Lebensraum* in Europe, it came directly from the Swedish government and the industrial oligarchs profiting of the exports of weapon-related materials.

### *Swedish transporting of Nazi troops*

The government of Sweden, comprised by a coalition of all political parties—with the exclusion of the communists—led by the Social Democrat Per Albin Hansson, permitted the transit through Sweden of over two million German troops during WW2.

The exact figure given by author María-Pía Boëthius is 2.140.000 troops. [18] The author has also demonstrated that it was not a transport of unarmed soldiers on leave back and forward from the frontlines to home in Germany. As, for instance, the weaponry was transported in separate wagons of the same trains.



*Nazi train carrying artillery. At Storlien Station, Sweden.*

Hitler's troops were sent partly to occupied Norway, and partly to Finland during Operation Barbarossa –intended to the invasion of Russia (then Soviet Union).

Also weapons and artillery, tanks, etc. used the railways facilities provided by Sweden.

Sweden received payment by Germany for these services. In northern Sweden was established a warehouse system to allocate food and supplies for the German combating troops, and which were transported to the front by Swedish trucks operated by Swedish drivers. [18]

Sweden infringed international law when allowed Nazi Germany to use Swedish territory, the Swedish railways system and communications infrastructure for the transport of troops, ammunitions and supplies. [18]

The Hague Convention, §5 Art. 2 specifically prohibits that army personnel and material be transported across the territory of neutral countries.

Nazi Germany also obtained from neutral Sweden the right to use telecommunication system along the country, as well as the use of airports for the stopover of aircraft said to transport post to the front. [18]

One of these airports was *Bromma*, in Stockholm: the same airport used by the CIA when neutral Sweden authorized the secret renditions of political refugees living in Sweden, to be transported by CIA planes to torture centres elsewhere [issue treated in a separate section below].

### *German 163rd Infantry Division (Division Engelbrecht)*

Eventually, a full division of 14.712 soldiers –the 163rd Infantry Division, or Division Engelbrecht– was transported by the Swedes

from the Norway border to Finland in 106 trains [19] between 25 June and 12 July 1941. [20]

That makes around a 1,300 kilometres travelling, for which stopovers were arranged at several towns on the way where the soldiers would eat. [21] Swedish books, media and Internet sources report that the transport rout was between Charlottenberg (about 100 kilometres from Oslo) to Torneå (Tornio, in Finland). [22]

But in my review of sites which reproduce documents of the epoch, I could observe that the actual point of departure was instead Magnor, which is in Norway [See in next page a chart I worked out using a Google-map of the area].

The “Anteckningar” (protocols) of the agreement, reads:

*“The gathering of the train-wagons and cargo loading takes place in Norway’s territory and the trains arriving from Magnor to Charlottenberg...”* [23]

This finding would indicate that Sweden, in accepting the plan of the Germans, went all the way to Nazi-occupied Norway to fetch the German troops. This happened regularly on daily basis, with 6-8 trains per day, during the all transport period of the Engelbrecht Division to Finland.

Besides, the protocol-document I refer [23] mentions as signatories in the executive phase of the transport agreements, officers of both the German and the Swedish armies. A Swedish officer was on board of each of the trains transporting the troops.

*“Attending from the part of Sweden’s Train System: Director, Major Wrede. From Germany: Major Stelzer and Captains Sasse and Neuman.”*



Also, several sources state that during the transport of the Engelbrecht Division troops, they were “escorted” [24] (or protected?) by 15.000 Swedish troops.

The 163rd Infantry Division Engelbrecht was fully equipped with weaponry, tanks, horses, etc.

And the reason why I give full details [25] [26] of the composition, armaments, combat gear, the regiments that formed part of the Engelbrecht Division, etc. [See *Notes & References*, down below] is because the enormity of the belligerent material, number of troops, etc. passing Sweden's territory it makes

impossible a Swedish excuse, or a plausible juridical or ethics explanation regarding the severe infringements of international law as defined by the Haag Conventions.

This in turn invites to an explanation as to why Sweden was risking so much in doing what they did, in terms of the Swedish help to Hitler. A help that –as explicitly warned to Sweden by the allied forces –referring for example to Sweden's supplies of iron and bearings to the German military industry–was determinant for Hitler to be able the continuation of the war operations.

Or why would Sweden indulge in such serious infringement of the neutrality status by transporting in its territory a full Infantry division, fully equipped, of nearly 15,000 troops?

My answer is that it has primarily to do with the decision of Finland to joint Hitler's military forces in the attack to the Soviet Union:

The Swedish government's authorization to Hitler to let his troops passing over Sweden, and *helping* those troops passing over Sweden, it took place nearly immediately after that Finland joined Germany forces for the attack to Russia.

It was the Swedish way of also participating in Operation Barbarossa against Russia. It was *not* because of an invasion threat from Hitler, which never existed. [27] [See further below *Ideological or geopolitical motivations*].

## *SS Totenkopf*

The reader must have heard of the SS *Totenkopf* troops, the Nazi military elite forces used as guards in the concentration camps. Even ignored over years by the public –because the government of Sweden had kept it in secret for decades– is that on 4 October 1940, over thousand troops of the SS-division *Totenkopf* disembarked with

Swedish authorization in the northern port of Luleå in order to continue by train to Narvik, to assist the Nazi occupation of Norway. The SS troops, consisting of a battalion of the regiment (*Totenkopfstandarte*) *Kirkenes*, had arrived to Luleå in the German ship [29]

## *Trade*

It should be noted that over 90 percent of the Swedish trade during the first years of the Second World War –when Hitler war machine was strongest– was done with Germany. [28]

Neutral Sweden also provided Hitler with iron ore to be used in the fabrication of tanks, weapons, etc. The provision of Swedish iron ore, was *vital* for the German military industry.

Germany received from Sweden 10.6 millions ton of iron ore per year. In 1941, were daily transported from Sweden to Germany 145.000 tons of iron ore. [30]

The Wallenberg's factories manufacturing bearings supplied those vital components for German tanks and aeroplanes.

The allies forces, particularly England issued protests on the volume of that trade. Eventually , as María-Pía Boëthius exposed in her book "*Heder och Sambete*", a variety of products, or certain quantities of the export items, were smuggled from Sweden to Germany. [31]

Swedish banks, particularly Wallenberg's *Stockholm Enkilda Banken* contributed in placing assets that have been plundered by the Nazis in the occupied territories of Europe or from the Jews. [32]



## Sweden on Russia – Ideological or geopolitical motivations

I will here address three issues, not necessarily in this order: a) The anti-Russian sentiment prevalent in the Swedish elites; b) Carl Bildt's vision that "Sweden should be a superpower" – Is the Baltic Region a target for Sweden geopolitical desires? c) Why the Assange case was needed in this geopolitical context.

The government of Per Albin Hansson, his Social Democratic Party and the parties that composed the national coalition, were no ideologically Nazi, in spite that the German Nazi project had widespread sympathies in Sweden. But it was not *that* ideological factor the reason why they helped Hitler.

So, what was the real reason for the Swedes helping Hitler's Germany in the way and volume they did –in spite of proclaiming to be a neutral country?

The government of Stefan Löfven, his Social Democratic Party and all the parties that compose the current government coalition, are no supporters of US President Trump, and they often utter derogatory expressions on him. In fact, Sweden is in the top of the list of European countries that disapprove Trump. Yet, Sweden has been increasingly helping NATO in the post-cold-war era –in spite of proclaiming to be a neutral country...

Would the then, and the current (and the future) governments of Sweden have a main common *geopolitical reason* that explains a similar *geopolitical behaviour*? Or is it else?

An explanation at hand would be "to help the enemy of my enemy". And this would require at least one of these three premises:

a) that Sweden would be objectively in potential geopolitical conflict with Russia, and thus preparing to be ready for a new one.



- b) that Swedes would subjectively consider Russia as an “enemy”,
- c) that “enemy” or “not-enemy”, Swedes have a “bad feeling” on Russians due to idiosyncratic, historical, or simply primitive prejudice or ignorance (which often goes together).

### *Premise a*

Sweden has a quite long history of wars with Russia already since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Yet, a relevant background information should not consist only of the prolific number of recurrent wars that Sweden and Russia have fought. It should also be attended to the *cause* of the wars, and their results in terms of the *geopolitical consequences* of each of them –which in its turn gave origin to yet repeated confrontations.

The last four wars resulted in Sweden's defeats, and ultimately the destruction of the Swedish empire: [33]

Swedish–

Novgorodian Wars      “A series of conflicts between the 12th and 14th centuries.”

Russo-Swedish War (1495–97)      “The war yielded no tangible results to any of the belligerents”

Russo-Swedish War (1554–57)      “During the summer of 1556, Swedish attempts to achieve peace with Russia were made. Peace negotiations were scheduled to begin later the same year, and in March 1557, a peace treaty was signed. The treaty preserved the status quo and accorded free passage across the border to merchants of both countries”

Livonian War (1558–82)      “In the Truce of Plussa with Sweden 10 August 1583 Russia relinquished most of Ingria, leaving Narva and Ivangorod as well under Swedish control. Originally scheduled to last

three years, the Russo-Swedish truce was later extended until 1590. During the negotiations, Sweden made vast demands for Russian territory, including Novgorod. Whilst these conditions were probably only for the purposes of negotiation, they may have reflected Swedish aspirations of territory in the region. The situation remained unchanged until 1710 when Estonia and Livonia capitulated to Russia during the Great Northern War, an action formalized in the Treaty of Nystad (1721)."

Russo-Swedish War (1590–95) "It restored to Russia all territory ceded in the Truce of Plussa of 1583 to Sweden except for Narva. Russia had to renounce all claims on Estonia, including Narva, and Sweden's sovereignty over Estonia from 1561 was confirmed."

De la Gardie Campaign (1609-1610) "A Russo-Swedish army broke the rebel siege of Moscow and conquered the city."

Ingrian War (1610-17) "The Treaty of Stolbovo stripped Russia of its access to the Baltic Sea and awarded to Sweden the province of Ingria with the townships of Ivangorod, Jama, Koporye and Noteborg. Novgorod and Gdov were to be restituted to Russia."

Russo-Swedish War (1656–58) "The Treaty of Kardis (Kärde), which obliged Russia to yield its Livonian and Ingrian conquests to Sweden, confirming the provisions of the Treaty of Stolbovo."

Great Northern War (1700–21) "The war ended with the defeat of Sweden, leaving Russia as the new dominant power in the Baltic region and as a new major force in European politics. Sweden lost almost all of its "overseas" holdings gained in the 17th century and ceased to be a major power"

Russo-Swedish War (1741–43) "The Treaty of Åbo marked the further decline of Sweden as a great power in Northern Europe. The territory ceded to

Russia was added to the Russian gains in the Treaty of Nystad in 1721, under the Governorate of Vyborg. This was later incorporated into the Russian Grand Duchy of Finland in 1812.”

Russo-Swedish War (1788–90) “The Treaty of Wereloe signed in Värälä, Finland, on 14 August 1790, confirmed the status prevalent before the war.”

Finnish War (1808–1809) “As a result of the war, the eastern third of Sweden was established as the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland within the Russian Empire. The Treaty of Fredrikshamn ceded the whole of Finland and all of its domains east of the Torne River to Russia.”

It should be reminded that in Sweden, at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs –organization financed by the Foreign Ministry of Sweden and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) – Russia is reported of also been *founded by Swedes*. This is what the site informs about Russia’s origins as a state:

“The first state formation in what later became Russian territory occurred in the 11th century BC in Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Black Sea. In the 850s AD, the eastern Slavic state of Kiev was founded, and in Novgorod (Holmgård), Swedish Vikings under Rurik formed another centre of power (Gårdarike). Since Kiev also ended up under the [rule of] the Ruriks, the kingdom grew, and in the late 900s it was Christianized by missionaries from Byzantium (Östrom). However, it was weakened and divided as a result of power struggles, and invaded by Mongols in the middle of the 13th century, which turned the Russian princes into vassals under the khans of the Golden Horde.” [32]

This information is also linked in the [official site of the Government of Sweden / Foreign Ministry](#) with information on Russia.

Classically viewed, geopolitics has to do with geographic issues pertinent to the interests of each country. It appears evident from the history of the Sweden-Russian wars, that the geopolitical interest of Sweden on the Baltic region has been clearly a chronic *casus belli*.

And historically viewed, the big picture that emerges is that Sweden's role in those wars has not consisted in a solely defensive endeavour against a "Russian aggression". On the contrary, we see that Sweden has at times also initiated them.

So, the question is whether there is more than nostalgia, when demonstrators around Karl XII statue gather yearly, every end of November, at *Kunstregården* in central Stockholm. One main feature in the statue, is that his left hand points in the direction of Russia, while he grips his sword with the other hand.



Most interesting, the Swedish mainstream media have revealed that then Foreign Minister Carl Bildt – according to the *Stratfor emails exposures* done by WikiLeaks – would be pursuing for Sweden the status of a new superpower. A member of the European Parliament who is reported being “very close to Carl Bildt”, emerges as the source of the information contained in the email correspondence. [34]

Bildt's denials aside, the issue might deserve some interest, attending to the political situation now developing in Sweden –where

the national-conservative Sweden Democrats are emerging as the party with largest popular support among Swedes.

The Sweden Democrats Party (SD) has been categorized on the right of the traditional right-wing Moderates, and quite often in the Swedish media –whose editorial teams are dominated by right-wing liberals– the Swedish remind the public of SD's the Nazi roots. Others, including PM Löfven, describe SD as a “neo-fascist” [*nyfascist*] political party [35] [36].

The Sweden Democrats are in December 2019 ranked the largest political party in popular support. The (formerly centre-left) Social Democratic Party is now relegated to the second place in the polls. The difference in the results between the two parties, as [shown](#) in the last poll of 7 December 2019, is of only one percent.

Against the backdrop of Sweden's Baltic history discussed above, the point being here that SD strongly advocates for the preservation and revival of historical and cultural heritages of Sweden.

Being the most outspoken nationalist party of Sweden, they intend to increase the military budget up to 2,5 percent of the BNP within the next years. They declare that partnership with NATO increase cooperation for international interventions (“*insatser*”). SD oppose the EU armed forces project “because it would create a parallel capacity to NATO” – as it stands in a SD statement on [defence policy](#).

Whether Sweden would like or need to adventure armed confrontation to regain control of some sectors of the Baltic area in its vicinity remains largely far-fetched, or at the very least questionable. Sweden is already deeply engaged in investments, finance, etc., in Baltic countries.

Sweden also has been a main promoter of diplomatic initiatives aimed to bring Baltic countries in a common international front. These initiatives also comprise Ukraine, even before the putsch that Sweden helped to sponsor in that country, together with the US.



On Georgia, Bildt's [interferences](#) included threaten Russia's decision to recognize South Osettia as "clear and conscious crime against international law and will have long-term consequences."

As the EU would perceive Sweden's pan-Baltic manoeuvres as splitting, or divisive, some elites are considering further consolidating of those ties with Sweden via NATO –which entails enrolment to the Atlantic organization.

### *Premise b*

This premise –that Swedes would subjectively consider Russia as an "enemy"– is in the actual case an understatement.

In fact, the Swedish defence minister Peter Hultqvist, or the Chief commander of the Sweden's Armed forces Micael Bydén, show no

restrain in publicly repeating over and over again, with exact terms, all along recent years the mantra meaning that Russia is the *only* identified thinkable aggressor in the Baltic scenario, relevant for Sweden's national security.

*“What the deterioration of the [Sweden's] national security is about, it is about the Russian behaviour, an illegal annexation of Crimea, East Ukraine operations” [37]*

Preposterously, not a mention is made by Bildt/Hultqvist/Bydén –and not a single comment in the Swedish media– that both the retaking of Crimea as well the rebellion in East Ukraine (initiated by Ukrainian ethnic-Russians), followed the Ukrainian putsch actively sponsored by Sweden and the US.

Not a word that an immediate consequence of the new anti-Russian junta in Ukraine –substantially helped diplomatic and economically by Sweden– was the increasing presence of US forces in Ukraine territory, and therefore NATO's ring around Russia tightened closer.

The hypothesis of a “thinkable scenario” in which would be instead NATO the power having plans to use the territory of neutral Sweden, airfields, etc., to facilitate an attack to Russia is not discussed at all *in Sweden* –although it has been discussed in the US.

### *Premise c*

Premise c is about “feelings”. But, would it be possible that nowadays, entering the second decade of this century, “feelings” may determine which country to dislike –or even hate to the level of wishing to go to war against?

The military genius Carl Von Clausewitz, as I announced at the beginning of this introduction, after studying wars and armed

conflicts past and contemporary of his epoch, concluded that yes, feelings may play a determinant role.

Particularly if the feeling agent is poorly equipped with reason, culture and knowledge.

Racism is a feeling, a culturally develop feeling. And in those same terms, other phobias, being those ethnic-based, or social based, or aesthetics based, share the same psychological mechanism of insufficiency than racism.

In this discourse, I should add that the problem may become endemic when persons in position of power (those who have access to communication with the masses via the state or corporate media) utter their phobic “feelings” publicly, and these attitudes might be taken as a model-to-follow.

When the phobia becomes a mode, everybody wish to have it.

Some examples of the above:

Ulf Adelsohn –an ex Communications Minister and then Carl Bildt’s boss at the right-wing party “The Moderates”– opposed the international boycott against the South African apartheid regime. He stated that such boycott from the part of the Swedes would cause the “*poor niggers* be left without work” [“*de stackars negrerna annars skulle stå utan jobb*”]. [38]

When Adelsohn was later asked by the TT News agency, whether he regretted to have used such deleterious terms, Adelsohn replied:

*Why, “a nigger is a nigger and a Swede is a Swede”* [38] [39]

Ensuing, TT News agency asked Carl Bildt for a comment on the above declarations of Adehlson, to which Bildt replied:

*“It is absolutely correct what Adelsohn said, one can certainly also say that a Swede is a Swede and a Jude is a Jude”* [40]

Nevertheless, this remarkable debate followed on Twitter:




**WikiLeaks**   
@wikileaks


Following

“A nigger is a nigger and a Swede is a Swede” - #Swedish Foreign Minister @CarlBildt position on #Mandela [professorsblogg.com/2013/12/08/a\\_n...](http://professorsblogg.com/2013/12/08/a_n...) #svpol

 Reply
  Retweet
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  More

253  
RETWEETS

77  
FAVORITES



6:20 PM - 8 Dec 13

Reply to @wikileaks @carlbildt


**viktoriana** @komiska 8 Dec  
@wikileaks @carlbildt well that wasn't only racist but also a racist lie : [mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSL1...](http://mobile.reuters.com/article/idUSL1...)

Details
  Reply
  Retweet
  Favorite
  More


**MarcelloFerrada-Noli** @ProfessorsBlogg 23h  
@wikileaks In Sweden, use of both "nigger" and "neger" are considered patronizing and offensive. See Wikipedia ref in [professorsblogg.com/2013/12/08/a\\_n...](http://professorsblogg.com/2013/12/08/a_n...)

Details
  Reply
  Delete
  Favorite
  More


**Dr Johan Franzén** @Dr\_JohanFranzen 13h  
@wikileaks @PhilGreaves01 @carlbildt Actually, it would translate as "A negro is a negro..." - not that it alters the other facts of course.

Details
  Reply
  Retweet
  Favorite
  More


**Carl Bildt** @carlbildt 10h  
@Dr\_JohanFranzen @wikileaks @PhilGreaves01 And I did not say that either. Just for the record.

Details
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**WikiLeaks** @wikileaks 6h  
@carlbildt @Dr\_JohanFranzen @PhilGreaves01 We said it was your position; you stated it was your position; both quotes in the citation.

Details
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**Dr Johan Franzén** @Dr\_JohanFranzen 6h  
@carlbildt @wikileaks @PhilGreaves01 The issue is not the quote. The issue is the Moderates' policy of not opposing apartheid.

Details
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**Dr Johan Franzén** @Dr\_JohanFranzen 6h  
@carlbildt @wikileaks @PhilGreaves01 As you know, Carina Hägg and others have criticised (M) for not issuing apology [goo.gl/2xhIXN](http://goo.gl/2xhIXN)

Details
  Reply
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  More


**Carl Bildt** @CBildt 5h  
@Dr\_JohanFranzen @PhilGreaves01 Vi tog kraftfullt avstånd från apartheid i alla dessa former. Men var skeptiska till icke-FN sanktioner.

Details
  Reply
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  Favorite
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**Dr Johan Franzén** @Dr\_JohanFranzen 4h  
@CBildt @PhilGreaves01 At the end of the day, though, by opposing sanctions you were clearly on the wrong side of history.

Details
  Reply
  Retweet
  Favorite
  More

Secondly, independently of subjective appraisals about how “enemy” would Sweden consider Russia?

A qualified answer can only refer to the Swedish elites of the post Olof Palme era. Not to the Swedish people at large [see the next section]. And in the elites are included government, politicians, the military establishment and mainstream media.

And my answer is:

A number of voices among so called influencing Swedish elites, predominantly among MSM journalists and politicians with clear NATO sympathies have demonstrated aversion against Russia in their statements and commentary. And even if in a read between the lines, or of expressions, one can sometimes perceive a certain envy about Russia, or resent about the fact that Russia has recovered its superpower status, those elites would not recognize that publicly.

To the above has to be added the systematic disinformation in Sweden by agents either directly employed by NATO or at NATO-associated agencies e.g. Atlantic Council, etc. (or at UK and US directly sponsored ones, such as “Integrity Initiative”), or as journalist or academics at Swedish media or/and academic or research institutions disguising such ties. Some of these organizations receive public funds.

Not to mention the Swedish section of Amnesty International and other NGO's financed by the government.

*In contrast, SWEDHR is totally independent and receives neither financing aid nor sponsoring or directives from nowhere.*

The activities above discussed are regarded as politically correct in Sweden, since even governmental agencies happily participate in the numerous “contra-propaganda (“Russian”) initiatives that have inundated Europe in recent years –specifically in the EU after the allegations of “Russian intervention” in the US and EU elections.

One should keep in mind that Sweden is the one leading country in the EU trying to keep, or make harder, the economic sanctions against Russia.

And that is Sweden, as mentioned, the country that have taken the initiative of organizing the Baltic countries, Poland, Ukraine, in a political front opposing Russia's interests.

Sweden, Carl Bildt in particular, was a pivotal actor in the Ukrainian putsch that instituted a Junta, then including fascist members –all of them identified by a strong anti-Russian sentiment.

In a speech delivered at students in Ukraine, Carl Bildt, ex PM and long-time Foreign Minister of Sweden, declared outspokenly his anti, hyper negative feelings on Russia. Swedish newspaper DN did catch his expressions in this headline:

*"I have always been proud about of being anti-Soviet" [41]*

10  
ONSDAG 16 APRIL 2014 • 88 ÖRS SVETTER

Nyheter  
Krisen i Ukraina.



Här anländer utrikesministern till ett regnigt och blåstigt Odessa.

**Bildt: "I have always been proud of being anti-Soviet"** **"Anti-Russian", in the context**  
(Professorsblogg's Note)

Carl Bildt är fördragad i ett samtal med Ukrainas utrikesminister Andrej Desjitzhuk.

Bildt håller sin möjlighet mötespunkt med den ukrainske diron.

**Bildt: Jag har alltid varit stolt över att vara antisovjetisk**

~Jag har ett starkt rykte av att vara anti-sovjetisk. Jag har alltid varit stolt över det, säger Sveriges utrikesminister Carl Bildt till studenter i Kiev.  
Han är lika mycket aktivist som utrikesminister när DN följt honom i Ukraina.

9 När Bildt i fredags blev upp i ta-  
larstolen i en aula på Sverigesko-  
nuniversitetet i Kiev presenterades

in i EU och i Nato på 90-talet har  
det varit en så stark egen agenda i  
norsk säkerhetspolitik.



DN i Ukraina  
Ewa Stenberg, (v),  
Anders Hansson, (r)

tern tycker mycket om karriär. Han  
vek ut den i solen och börjar peka  
ut orden som håller på att intas  
av dem han inserde ibland kallade  
"gröna män som växer upp ur jor-  
den" och ibland "Rysland, Ridda  
Barnen, vilka de nu är".  
Utrikesministern ville inte säga  
rätt ut att han tror att det är Ryss-  
land som försöker ta kontroll över  
ett band av städer i östra Ukraina.  
Han väntar sig att de kommande  
kladda gröna mönstrarna kommer att

Belinda, så regler jag från att vi hade  
våldigt bestående lägenheter och ka-  
tat ut dem med förtärra före.  
Hans rycka kollega Sergei Lavrov  
varnade i måndags att de länder  
som uppmärksamer Ukraina till våldsan-  
vändning också kommer att hållas  
ansvariga.  
Carl Bildt vill inte på något sätt  
kritisera den ryska regeringen i Kiev.  
Han har inte tytt något utspöring  
negativt om att den valt att inkludera  
brevboda i ministerkavaleri: ett litet

Furthermore, the Swedish state Tv and mainstream media refer to the government of Russia, and occasionally to the Russian people and their habits and traditions, in derogatory terms, or aggressive terms, and offensive terms.

The Swedish defence minister Hulqvist, as well as superior ranks in the military, do not miss an occasion to utter provocative statements about Russia, and specifically the direct blaming on Russia, to whom Sweden presents to the public as *the* cause in the security deterioration of the Baltic region.

Nowadays it is not any longer a Carl Bild's monopoly.

For instance, in December 2013 [it was known](#) that the FRA –the Swedish version of the NSA (in fact, working for the NSA)– has been a conspicuously an active part of *Quantum*, and [hacked](#) on Quatum's behalf. [42]

Prof. Wilhelm Agrell, a Swedish Conflict-science scholar, issued then this warning in an interview:

*Quantum is “an American system for data penetration which is very much advanced. If used offensive against another country, it can be considered as an act of war by the country-target”.* [43]  
[44]

## The Assange case as instrument in the NATO deal

Considering the geopolitical issues discussed above, at this point we can preliminary identify the following:

1. Either the geopolitics of Sweden aim to a purely defensive strategy, as it has officially been indicated.

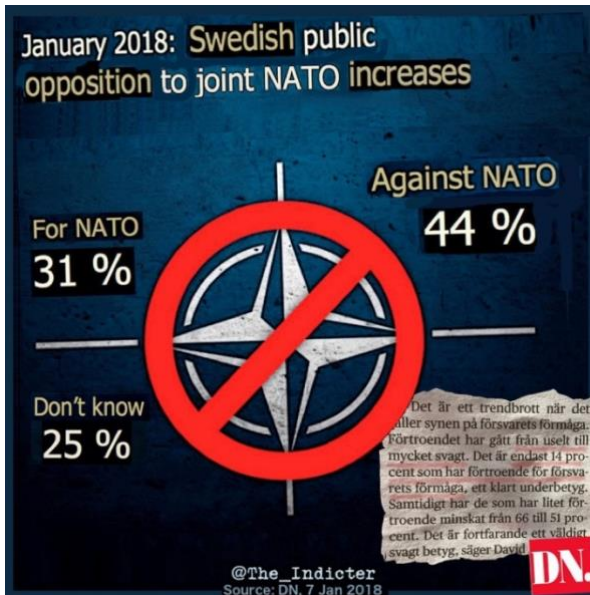
2. Or it primarily wishes to serve an aspiration of greater influence in the Baltic region.
3. Or it is a combination of all the above.
4. Or the geopolitics of Sweden is just a piece in a macro geopolitical design, and whose objectives are not decided by Sweden. (About this alternative, an example of it would be the participation of Swedish forces *under US military command* in Afghanistan, in which, at the most, Sweden may have decisions on the amount and quality of the contribution they are able to provide –but not on the strategic geopolitical decisions of the US, where own specific economic interests are comprised in the geopolitical appraisal).

In the first cases (1, 2, and 3), Sweden would have historically identified Russia as the archenemy.

That's the problem. For the strategic comparisons, including military capability, between Russia and Sweden during the centuries that allocated the twelve Sweden-Russo wars. cannot possibly be applied today.

Added to the fact that during the cold war, when the Soviet Union was –for the period– qualitatively more powerful than today's Russia, Sweden was never threatened, leave alone attacked.

The miscalculation of the Swedish elites in considering abandoning the stance of non-alignment, and deserting the vestiges of formal neutrality that were left from the Erlander/Palme era, is so absolute. And being so against the interest of the Swedish people, the survival of the Swedish people, that it invites to the conclusion that is the case of alternative 4, as above: just a piece in a macro geopolitical design which is not Sweden's, neither in the interest of Sweden.



Because for structural reasons of military-power deficits, added historical experiences in geopolitical issues –but also because the majority of the Swedish people would not likely to approve it ([say the polls](#))– Swedish elites cannot afford to confront public opinion and manoeuvre more open towards NATO

membership.

This naturally conveys that the NATO cannot fully guarantee, beyond *political* promises and expressions of sympathy, a full military support to Sweden.

That obliges Sweden to demonstrate allegiance to NATO by other means. Which has resulted in a Swedish support of the US and UK politically, diplomatically, and in Intel issues –including Intel operations deemed highly provocative (*casus belli* episodes) and/or illegal.

In addition, a central problematic issue in Sweden is that it has not today in its unattached relationship with NATO, as it had not during its informal relationship with Nazi Germany, enough military might as to be able to claim correspondence and reciprocity.

I refer to that kind of reciprocity that, at least on paper, it is stipulated in NATO article 5 (collective defence) on the benefit of its regular members. [45] Which, by the way, it is uncertain that it could be always implemented. Like it was demonstrated in the case of

Turkey, during the crisis with Russia after Turkey downed a Russian fighter in the skies of Syria, allegedly at the Syrian border.

Nevertheless, Sweden needs help for implementing its dream geopolitics. And to retain the expectation that the US will really come to help “when the day comes”, Sweden is forced to give something.

And what a country like Sweden can principally offer to US and NATO, are for the most only expressions of good will, cooperation, diplomatic backup, docility.

For this accommodation Sweden has demonstrated to do in the geopolitical arena what it takes. A clear illustration is when Sweden decided to withdraw as signatory of the anti-nuclear weapons treaty (which themselves had contributed to get into life), after the US Defence Secretary Jimmy Mattis issues [a warning](#) to Sweden on the issue. [46]

So, when the US government asks countries participating under US military command to prosecute Assange and Wikileaks, Sweden is the only that complies. As it did when the CIA requested Sweden to increase cooperation. Or when out of 10 cases on request-extraditions by the US, Sweden gave all them away, those who still were in Swedish territory and could be apprehended by the Swedish police. The same police which with the full knowledge of Sweden Justice Minister, gave away to the CIA operatives the political refugees that Sweden had promised to the international organs to protect.

The Assange case was used by Sweden as an instrument to consolidate positions in the trade with NATO. It was a part of the price to pay for the requested protection. At least so the Swedish authorities seemingly believe, and act.

Providing a little battalion in Afghanistan to be commanded by the US, or in Iraq, or some aircraft bombers in Libya, or building some weapons factory in US ally Saudi Arabia, or ‘lending’ a little package



of Intelligence information about all Swedes, selling a prisoner here, a whistle-blower there, etc.

At her US Emperor service, instead of providing Julian Assange political asylum, Sweden trade him away.



The heading in the image above, portraying the then (right-wing) Swedish Minister of Justice Beatrice Ask, reads in English: [47]

*“Sweden cooperated in secret with US”*

The report is from 5 December 2010, after the US had requested an action on Assange in August that year. The setup of the Assange case in Sweden took place nearly over, the same month.

(Expressen is a right-wing newspaper that has also campaigned against Assange).



## The Assange case as conscientization tool in geopolitical propaganda

In this final text I am not referring –as in the previous section– about the using of the Assange case to further improve relationships in the striving for military trade, protection or other.

Here I describe the using of the Assange case aimed to foster alienation in the Swedish public, via NATO campaigners and other chauvinists that depict Russia as the threatening enemy Sweden. It aims, simply stated, to help making people Russophobe.

The strategy-design goes via these sequential steps:

1. Insight on the flawed Rusophobe campaign
2. Deformation and/or falsification of Assange's character; and demonization of Assange as "enemy of Sweden";
3. Promoting an association with Russia of the obtained demonised gestalt of Assange. He and WikiLeaks presented as "Russian assets";
4. By further association, the Swedish organizations or individuals supporting the campaign for the Freedom of Assange are, ergo, maliciously labelled as also acting against the interest of Sweden.

### *1. Background. Failing to promote Russophobia based on alleged "constant Russian aggression in the Baltic"*

In a society whose media communications are controlled by the state, or by a quasi-monopoly of corporations, or both –which is the case of Sweden– a "natural" correlation is expected to be established

between variations in the public opinion and variations in the content of the medial message coordinated by publishing consensus.

The more space and frequency is given in the media for the agitation of the mantra “increasing dangerous situation in the Baltic occasioned by Russia”, the higher results in the polls about self-appraisals of “being worried about” are expected among the public.

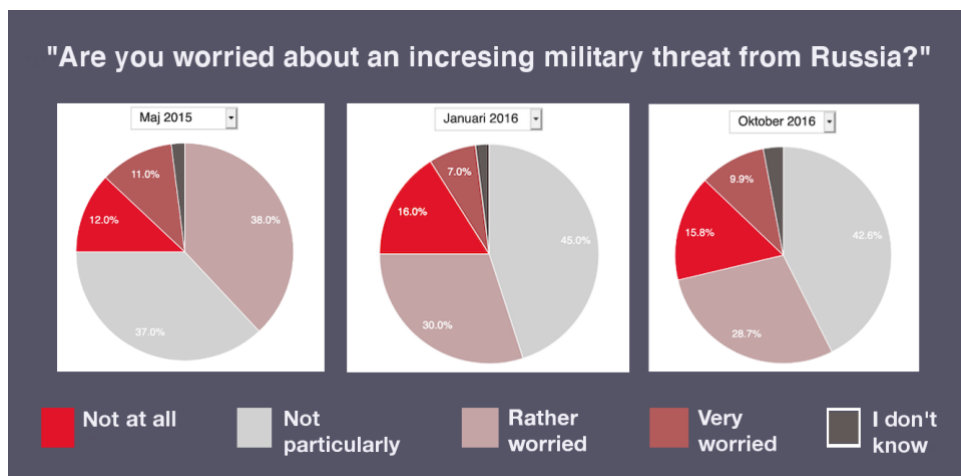
However, the results I put together in the sequence below –a same poll done in 3 different occasions in a period of 17 months– show that the Swedish people has not become “more worry”, despite the alarmistic presentation of news on “Russians in the Baltic” during the period. The polls were ordered by *Aftonbladet*.

A poll expert commenting these results in *Aftonbladet*, [concludes](#):

“The *being-worried* has not increased; it has decreased some, and remains stable” [48]

(The ‘being-worried’ in the survey refers to the statement ‘increasing military threat from Russia’, as suggested to the public by the media).

Meaning, worrisome headlines depicting over and over the so called Russian threat does not represent the people’s appraisal.



Failing to promote Russophobia among ordinary people via alarmist reports, false materials, news with omitted data, reports with deformed information, etc., the warmongering phalange resort to the use of symbolic icons –positive or negative– to attempt inducing conscientization by association.

Once they would have obtained the antipathy against Assange through lies about him and the ‘legal case’, they have intended to recycle the result of that libel, presenting Assange as a “Russian tool”.

In my book *“Teoría y Método de la Concientización”* [49] I describe a resource used in pictorial art to call the attention of viewers, and which in its simplest form consist in alter dramatically the rhythm of the situation observed .



Like when a sailor has a placid sleep at night while the engines of the boat are running their monotone sound –but then the engines suddenly stop for some reason, and the sailor wakes up.

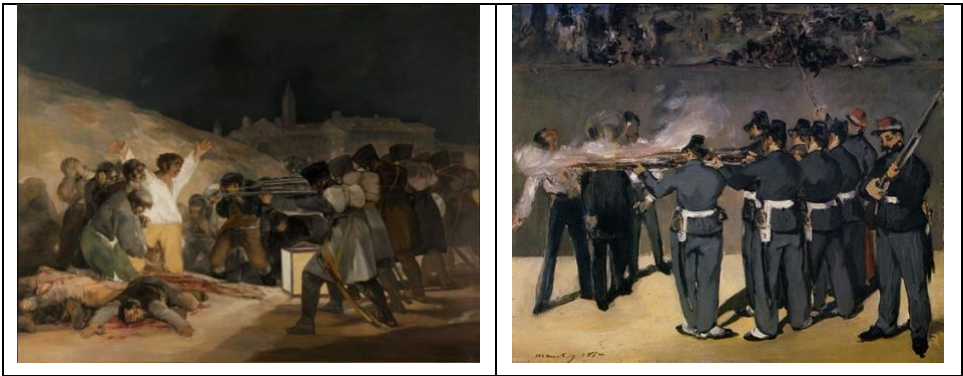
Or like when the same sailor is back on shore, and sleeping in house located in a quiet suburb. No noise disturbs his dreams –until a high speed motorcycle roar its passing by the street outside. Then he suddenly wakes up.

What makes us awake is not the noise, or the absence of it, but the sudden change in the environment we visit for a while, and get used to it.

People read and see so often in the news, reports about war atrocities, e.g. executions, that at the end it becomes ‘monotonous’ and may induce indifference.

That is why Goya and Manet, in their paintings *“Fusilamientos del Tres de Mayo”* (1814), respectively *“L’Exécution de Maximilien”*

(1867), they severely *transform* elements of reality in order to ‘dramatically’ change that monotonous perception-rhythm in the viewers. These are then “woken up” and the intentional *distortion* makes them, subconsciously, focus on the message *the artist* has decided. Ergo, the public gets conscientized via a false presentation of reality –and grow insight (in that case, ethically justifiable) on the horrors of occupations wars. [Click on the images to enlarge].



In my opinion, that is exactly the propaganda resource which the pro-NATO media in Sweden –although with unethical aims– has indulged when they deformed, and continue to deform, the personality image of Julian Assange.

## *2. Deformation of the Assange gestalt. “Assange, enemy of Sweden”*

I give here only one example of the many existing in the records of the Swedish ad-hominem deformation of Julian Assange’s character. And I have chosen this illustration because it refers to the media-ethical behaviour of the very Swedish state-owned TV (SvT).

"[Agenda](#)" is the most important Sunday news-program at the Swedish television.

These were the opening lines of the anchor, Sunday 23 October, :

*“Welcome to ‘Agenda’. . .Gadhafi humiliated and killed. Does it matter how a dictator is ousted? Is Wikileaks already history?. Reportage about Julian Assange in the eve of the decision of his extradition to Sweden”*

Ensuing, the public is warned about a dreadful footage that it will take place during the program. The finishing of the Nicolae Ceaușescu dictatorship in Romania –and his bloody execution– is shown in pictures.

Secondly, an *abandoned* Colonel Gadhafi's and his horrible assassination is shown in the video-footage, while a voice comments his dictatorial rule and personality.

Next, it is shown the Dictator Saddam's dead by hanging, and also the “*hideout*” where he was found, is shown.

Thereafter is “dictator” Julian Assange's turn. “*Agenda*” [what a name for a Swedish news program] reported about Assange in this fashion:

- a) partly as also “abandoned” by his friends,
- c) partly as a “fugitive” (a film sequence named “Here Assange hides himself” it is shown. In truth, the site shown is Hellingham Hall, where Assange was then under house arrest)
- d) Julian Assange is described in the program as a megalomaniac and paranoid with dictatorial rule over a “finishing” Wikileaks.

A series of individuals are interviewed in the program. All of them had hostile, even defamatory terms, in reference to Julian Assange.

In this picture of the screen, taken while the program was running, the Swedish caption reads:

*“Daniel Domscheit-Berg-B means that Assange has got “storhetsvansinne”.*

For the Swedish average public, “*Storhetsvansinne*” is a psychopathological status, which figures in the diagnosis of Schizophrenia (Swedish, [schizofreni](#)).



Previously that year (13 Feb 2011), a columnist of the newspaper *Aftonbladet* referred to Julian Assange as “[a paranoid idiot who refuses to come to Sweden to confront trial](#)”.

Of course, not a positive comment about the actual role of Assange and WikiLeaks in the denouncing of war crimes, and in the WikiLeaks campaign for transparency in government that –at that particular time– was a popular issue-

In December 2019, approaching the new decade, the newspaper Dagens Nyheter (DN) made a synopsis with the most important events of the decade that is gone. DN mentioned the whistle-blowing movement, they mentioned Snowden, they mentioned Manning, but they omitted completely the name of Julian Assange –who has earned countless awards for his contribution to the whistle-blowing movement and the free journalism.

More details on the above and other episodes in the smearing of Assange by Swedish TV are found in the chapter of my previous book, “Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television – 1. The Political Agenda”

Further derogatory expressions of the Swedish PM and ministers of the Swedish government against the *person* Assange, added those from MSM journalists, are listed in sections of this book. For example, “*Human rights of Julian Assange continuously infringed by Swedish institutions and media*”.

Regarding the libellous expressions by self-appointed representatives of a political heterogenous radical feminist front (for which Assange served as a scapegoat on their pursuing for harder legislations), see my previous book and [articles](#) of the epoch.

### *3. The transfer: “Enemy Assange’s association with Russia –Who is then, blackmailing Sweden?”*

As the negative treatment in the Swedish media against Assange has been so compact and persistent (even UK Judge Riddle mentioned this issue in his verdict on 11 February 2011), and in the assumption that the Assange gestalt was placed at the bottom level in the sympathies of the Swedish public, the pro-NATO warmongering phalange moved forward:

They started to publicly formulate allegations, totally without evidence, on alleged associations between the WikiLeaks project with Russia.

A most clear illustration is given by the appearances in the Swedish TV by Mikael Winnerstig, a high ranked and officially representative of the Swedish military establishment. Further details in image in next page, a screenshot from my article in The Professor's Blog [51].

His statements in the Swedish TV were immediately connected to the exposures which WikiLeaks had done regarding the weapons factory that Sweden's military (FOA) was embarked to *secretly* construct in Saudi Arabia.

Winnerstig's statements were clearly messaging to the public that WikiLeaks Assange would be a Russian asset:

The WikiLeaks agenda, said Winnerstig, has been from the beginning to only criticize NATO countries. No Russia, no China, he meant.

I have translated what [he expressly said](#) in the Swedish TV:

"What one sees, I believe, it is a pattern - which in fact has been there from the beginning - namely, the organization (WikiLeaks) had an agenda. It was never the case of a general site, open for all "whistleblowings" [sic], as they say, a system for enabling other actors to publish secrets in the Internet."

"Instead, (WikiLeaks) had an agenda, which became clearer and clearer with the disclosures on Iraq: WikiLeaks wanted to nail principally U.S and U.S. allies, in a variety of scenarios".

"What is problematic with this agenda, also something which Assange himself has threatened with, it is that he will use the material he has on Sweden, and especially on Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, to the extent that if he will be extradited to Sweden and then taken here to trial; and perhaps, as he believed, then (which



I do not) be extradited to the U.S. And this means he devotes himself to extortion, pure and simple.”



Mike Winnerstig [above], is a high-ranked official (Deputy Director of Research) at the Swedish Defence Research Agency – institution under the Swedish Ministry of Defence. He also holds a PhD in Political Sciences and he is member of the [Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences](#). He has been Research Fellow in the International Security Program at Harvard University ([Belfer Center, J Kennedy School of Government](#)), Boston - USA. Winnerstig's formulations on WikiLeaks in the SvT main program *Aktuellt* are to be considered as highly interpreting the Swedish political/military establishment; For instance, he recently (8 February 2012) addressed the seminar on US/Europe military partnership [organized by Society and Defence "in collaboration with the US Embassy in Stockholm"](#).

Mike Winnerstig declared that "WikiLeaks had from the beginning an agenda to nail principally the U.S. and its allies in different scenarios", implying also that according to such agenda WL's neglected "for instance Russia". Winnerstig questioned as to whether WikiLeaks is an independent organization, and that it would explain why "we have not been seeing disclosures of Russian or Chinese archives".

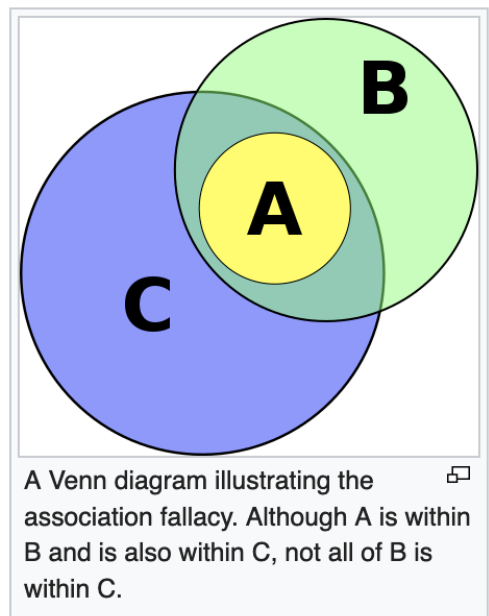
It cannot be by accident that at the same time the main Swedish newspapers - in occasion of the elections in Russia - have dedicated tremendous space to remind us of "the horrors of Russia / Soviet Union". **In these regards, the Swedish anti-WikiLeaks/Assange campaign stands as purely chauvinistic, old fashioned Macarthysm.**

So, when the Swedish public hears from their respected, official military authorities, that Julian Assange “devotes himself to extortion, pure and simple” –that he is *blackmailing* Sweden– and implying that his agenda is to be silent about Russia, and only attacks Sweden and the countries Sweden is cooperating with, then...

- a) Then, who would have sent Assange to blackmailing Sweden, if not “Russia”?
- b) Then, if Russia is using individuals as Assange (whose human “characteristics” have been “explained” to the Swedish people), what about the characteristics associated with Assange of the Russians themselves?

#### *4. Guilt by association fallacy: Individuals and organizations supporting the campaign for the Freedom of Assange are maliciously labelled as acting against national security interests*

The logical fallacy of guilt by association, also known as association fallacy, is employed to query or suspect, and eventually delegitimize, the action of a person or group, based on the notion that the person or group they appear associated with is ascribed an unfavourable reputation by the fallacy holder.



One most simple illustration of this fallacy, as I used in my in Logic Science courses, is "McCarthyism":

- A– Black Panthers support civil rights
- B – John F. Kennedy supports civil rights
- C – Ergo, John F. Kennedy is a Black Panthers

(It can also be explained with the above Venn diagram) [52]

The American philosopher Abraham Edel (1908–2007) wrote:

*“Instead of the logic of inquire, we have argument by suspicion and character assassination, the McCarthy nightmare logic of guilt by association. The extreme was reached in the McCarran Act under which the slightest expressed criticism of the official thesis can be interpreted as aiding substantially in establishing a totalitarian dictatorship (...) Subversion of intellectual freedom is part of the road down which we may readily coast toward World War III.”* [53]

As the first step of the media strategy was to demonise Assange, when that design merges with the “structural” media strategy devised to alienate the people’s consciousness against “the Russians”, the resulting synthesis will be this new tactical resource:

The media will intent to demonise all activities, or persons, or human rights organizations, that are campaigning for the freedom of Assange.

The mainstream media strategy in those regards is the following:

To attack ad hominem; meaning not referring at all to the content of the exposures done by these organizations or individuals, but

rather trying to find, or *create*, negative features in those organizations or individuals.

To use any means aimed to *associate*, even far-fetched wise, these organizations or individuals with the powers they have in its turn – unfoundedly– ascribed as Assange's patrons –meaning “the Russians”.

In conclusion, those manipulative efforts of the media, specifically using journalists or academics specialized in the distortion and/or suppression of facts referred to “national security”, defence issues, issues on Russia, NATO, etc. In other words, media influencers at the service of Western foreign powers. Being a demonstrative characteristic in their reports, that they are deprived of discussion of facts, verifiable statistics, etc.

Probe of this can be found in analyses published in [The Indicter Magazine](#).

In fact, Swedish journalism touching upon issues of national security issues, have been converted in the last decade in opinion journalism, and where little difference can be observed with editorial pieces.

So-called academic papers referred to the “ongoing Russian aggression” have no scientific weight and are not publishable in international journals which are independent from government's and associated institutions.

Yet they are unquestioned used and distributed in Sweden.

The implementation of these kind of disinformation ops – like the one falsely ascribing to WikiLeaks an association with Russia, is greatly feasible in Sweden –greater than in any other Western country– among other for these two reasons:

1. *The Swedish language*. While Swedish people have in generally good proficiency of the English language, the world around has

unfortunately a proficiency in the Swedish language ranging from minimum to zero.

This signifies that the level of knowledge and ‘control’ that the outer international forum is able to exercise into the political situation in Sweden, the dynamics of its institutions, the quality of the legal system, the real scope of the societal problems, etc., is very limited.

The result being that Swedish official channels, media and corporations can “sell” an image of Sweden more or less unquestioned.

This problematic was recently evident through two high publicised events outside Sweden; one was the trial in Stockholm of Asap Rocky (the musician) in August 2019. And before that, Trump’s speech mentioning the rising criminality in Sweden (“You know what happened yesterday in Sweden?”) [54]

About the Rocky case I comment in this book on how the declaration from the Swedish part, government and prosecutors, so easily deceived the international choir of journalist and political commentators. I refer to that episode in a section of this book making a comparison with the treatment that the Assange case had in Sweden.

About the debate ensuing Trump’s comments on the rise of criminality in Sweden: Two Swedish oppositional politicians – Sweden Democrats MPs– wrote an opinion article in the New York Times on their interpretation of the development of criminal statistics in Sweden and what they think the causes might be (according to some, gang-criminality in Sweden has associations with increasing immigration and problematic integration issues). The MPs interpretation did not fit with the picture given in the government’s reply to Trump.

The reaction of the Swedish government was to criticize the two MPs, and one minister at the government, Ms Magdalena Andersson,

Finance Minister, disapproved the initiative of the New York Times opinion article because that sort of thing would discourage possible investors towards Sweden.

So, one should not say this or that because is not good for Sweden's business!

2. *The phenomenon of “consensus”* in the Swedish media, which I comment in the above mentioned investigation on the [Trial by Media against Assange](#) in Sweden.

## Epilogue:

Despite years of efforts, Sweden failed in delivering Julian Assange to the US.

Sweden was not even able to formally prosecute him, charge him and take him to court.

Sweden did a “good job” for the US anyway, by keeping Assange locked so many years with the use of the EAW.

We don't know the terms between Sweden and the US in the trade of Assange. We in fact know more about the transaction between the US and Ecuador, and the payoff Ecuador received, among others, in terms of the FMI package.

What exactly Sweden would have gotten, I can only guess within the frame of the hypotheses stated in this book. Perhaps it was enough with the staunch demonstration of subservience. Maybe they got after all, even if not a documented guarantee, some promise of future military protection.

The fact is that on the 19 May 2017, US Defence Secretary James Mattis declared that “USA *would* stand with Sweden if there was an attack.” [55] He said that on occasion of a visit to Washington by Swedish Defence Minister Hultqvist.

But perhaps when James Mattis talked to the Swedes about the US *would* come to help Sweden “if it was attacked”, the Americans were just putting an extra incentive to Sweden to get the Assange-case job done.

At that time, the possibility of extraditing Assange from Sweden was an option momentarily put on hold –when the case was (temporary) dropped on the 17 of May that year, amidst immense pressure from the judiciary and the public debate. It is quite likely that the visit of Defence Minister Hultqvist to Jimmy Mattis in Washington was aimed, among others, to examine that issue too.

Nonetheless, Mattis words were rapidly converted by the Swedish elites in a propaganda coup –deprived of the “would”. And in those terms the message was sent immediately to the public.

*Expressen* said (19 May 2017):

*“US Defence Secretary James Mattis promise Sweden military help in case of a Russian attack” [56]*

But no mention that Mattis’ message was formulated in conditional form –as he said, “the US *would* do it”. And they would do it” if”.

The information was [spread](#) by state-owned Swedish Radio, which solely did embed a broadcasted interview the views of “Anna Wieslander, of the Atlantic Committee” –the words with she was introduced in the initial presentation, together with characterizing it as solely being “an organization that wants to strength the Atlantic ties”.

However, behind that innocuous introduction there exist the fact –concealed to the Swedish public by the Swedish Radio– that Wieslander is actually “Director for Northern Europe at the Atlantic Council and Secretary General of the Swedish Defence Association”, and that “Atlantic Committee” is in fact *The Swedish Atlantic Council*, which [is a member](#) of NATO, based in Brussels.

Moreover, the [Board of Directors](#) of Swedish Atlantic Committee is composed to the half of Swedish Ambassadors and directors employed at Swedish Armed Forces related institutions. [56]

## Notes and References

[1] I refer to markedly differences between the Swedish legal system and those of other Western democracies, and the widespread international criticism the Sweden's legal system has received regardless the Assange case. See for instance in this search list several publications in reference to [European Commission criticism on Sweden's pretrial detention](#).

[2] "European Committee on Torture criticises Sweden" [[In Swedish](#)]

[3] The report by U.S.NEWS, "[A Swedish Trial as Spectacle](#)" (1 August 2019) stated:

"Instead, the most vocal supporter of the Swedish justice system has been former Prime Minister and former opposition leader Carl Bildt." [See Carl Bildt's piece in Washington Post].

[4] M Ferrada de Noli, "Does Sweden Inflict Trial by Media against Assange?" The Professors' Blog, 20 February 2011.

[5] Anne Ramberg, chair of Swedish Bar Association, "[Assange – en bisarr historia – som kräver svenskt agerande](#)", 14 April 2019. English text in *The Indicter*, "[Head of Swedish Bar Association condemns the handling of the Assange case in UK and Sweden as 'deplorable'](#)"

[6] Celia Farber, "[New Analysis of Swedish Police Report Confirms Julian Assange's Version in Sweden's case](#)". *The Indicter Magazine*, January 2017 issue.



[7] Lynn Prentice, “[Prosecutor Marianne Ny is just embarrassing the Swedish legal system](#)”. The Indicter Magazine, December 2015 issue.

[8] See Australian Senator Scott Ludman “Letter to the Hon Bob Carr Minister for Foreign Affairs”, 14 January 2013, containing details of Swedish minister interventions in the Assange case. [The interventions are transcribed in the section of this book “As former Swedish PM (and FM) Carl Bildt was publicly singled out by WikiLeaks of being US secret information-officer, Sweden’s hit-job on Assange hardened further.”]

[9] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden’s Research Defence Agency \(FOI\) publicly slandering Assange & WikiLeaks while in secret help building missile factory for Saudi Arabia dictatorship](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 6 March 2012.

[10] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Amidst discussion in Sweden on dropping the “case” VS. Assange, US Justice Minister Eric Holder arriving to meet Swedish counterpart & lecture in Parliament](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 11 February 2014.

[11] The Guardian, “[UK prosecutors admit destroying key emails in Julian Assange case](#)”, 10 November 2017.

[12] The Guardian, “[Sweden tried to drop Assange extradition in 2013, CPS emails show](#)”, 11 February 2018.

[13] Carl von Clausewitz, “On War”. Berlin: Dümmlers Verlag, 1832. English translation:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1946/1946-h/1946-h.htm#chap01>. See Chapter I, Section 24.

[14] For example, I was quoting General Clausewitz back in 1965, in a work co-authored together with Miguel Enríquez and his brother Marco Antonio: “Tesis Político-Militar” –also known as “La Tesis Insurreccional”– approved in the Foundation Congress of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR. Eventually, MIR was defeated a decade later by the Pinochet

military forces. Miguel died in combat. See a) Jose L. Calderon Lopez. "[La política del Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria \(MIR\) durante los dos primeros años de la Dictadura Militar](#)". Universidad de Santiago, Chile, Departamento de Historia. b) Pedro A. Valdés Navarro, "[Elementos teóricos en la formación y desarrollo del MIR durante el período 1965-1970](#)". University of Valparaíso.

[15] M Ferrada de Noli. "[Assange and WikiLeaks have NOT caused the deterioration of Sweden's international prestige. This is done by Swedes themselves](#)". The Professors' Blog, 15 June 2012.

[16] Kjellén, Rudolf. [1916] 1917. *Der Staat als Lebensform*. Leipzig: S. Hirzel.

[17] [The archives of the State Institute for Racial Biology](#). (Retrieved 15 December 2019).

[18] Maria Pia Boëthius, "Heder och Sambete. Sverige och andra världskriget". Ordfront Förlag, 1999. page 54.

[19] SVT, "[70 år sedan tysktågen rullade genom Sverige](#)", 11 July 2011.

[20] Blenda W. Thor, "[Engelbrechtsdivisionen](#)". Blog.

[21] These posts were Kil, Laxå, Krylbo, Bollnäs, Ånge, Helgum, Vännäs, Jörn och Boden södra, according to information attributed to former officer and investigator Erik Carlsson. In: "Division Engelbrechts väg enligt källa",

[Järnvägshistoriskt forum](#), 22 January 2013. (Retrieved 15 December 2019).

[22] In: "Division Engelbrechts väg Del 1", [Järnvägshistoriskt forum](#), 22 January 2013. (Retrieved 15 December 2019).

[23] In: "Division Engelbrechts väg Del 1", [Järnvägshistoriskt forum](#), 22 January 2013. (Retrieved 15 December 2019).

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### Division Engelbrechts väg Del 1

av **BD** @ 🗨️, *tisdag, januari 22, 2013, 21:32 (2534 dagar sedan)* @ Rasmus Axelsson

**Anteckningar**  
Rörande de överenskommelser som träffats vid sammanträde den 23 och 25 juni angående transitering av tysk trupp genom Sverige, varom svenska regeringen i note till Envoye' n dr Karl Schnurre lämnat närmare medgivande den 25 juni 1941.

1.  
Närvarande från svenska järnvägsstyrelsen: Byråchefen, Major Wrede  
från Tyskland: Majorerna Steltzer och Erfurt samt kaptenerna Sasse och Neuman.
2.  
Transporterna utföras från Charlottenberg till Haparanda Å– Torneå med högst 8 tåg per dygn. Tågsättens sammansättning och lastning sker på norsk område och tågen ankomma från Magnor till Charlottenberg å följande tider: 2.00, 4.30, 7.30, 10.55, 13.15, 16.20, 20.00 samt 23.55 (tiderna avse norsk sommartid). Från Charlottenberg vidareföras tågen i till en början 4 tåg kl 5.01, 10.45, 18.10 och 23.33 (svensk tid). Vid övergången till ångdrift uppdelas tågen i åtta tåg, vilka ankomma Haparanda kl 3.39, 8.45, 12.47, 14.52, 16.41, 21.00 och 23.33 (svensk tid). Transporterna beräknas omfatta inalles omkring 100 ångtåg och beräknas slutförda under loppet av 12 Å 13 dagar.
3.  
Tågsätten givas sådan sammansättning att vagnvikten på ånglinjerna i intet fall överstiger 400 ton och på elektriska linjer, där två tågsätt framföras i gemensamt tåg, den totala vagnvikten icke överstiger 800 ton.
- 4.

*“The gathering of the train-wagons and cargo loading takes place in Norway’s territory and the trains arriving from Magnor to Charlottenberg...”*

*“Attending from the part of Sweden’s Train System: Director, Major Wrede.*

*From Germany: Major Stelzer and Captains Sasse and Neuman.”*

[24] Christian Leitz, “Nazi Germany and Neutral Europe during the Second World War”. Manchester University Press, 2011. Page 56.

[25] According to [Axis History](#) (retrieved 15 December 2019): the 163<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division comprised:

Reichswehr Rifle Regiment 59  
Reichswehr Rifle Regiment 60  
Reichswehr Hunter Btl. 30  
Reichswehr Cavalry Regiment 30  
Reichswehr Cavalry Regiment 130  
Light Reichswehr artillery regiment 3

[26] According to [Wikipedia](#) (retrieved 19 December 2019): the 163<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division comprised:

Headquarters

307th Infantry Regiment  
310th Infantry Regiment  
324th Infantry Regiment  
234th Artillery Regiment  
234th Reconnaissance Battalion  
234th Tank Destroyer Battalion  
234th Engineer Battalion  
234th Signal Battalion  
234th Field Replacement Battalion  
234th Divisional Supply Group

[27] "[Hitler hotade inte att ockupera Sverige](#)". Aftonbladet, 25 June 2016.

[28] Maria Pia Boëthius, op.cit. Page 15.

[29] Maria Pia Boëthius, op.cit. page 128.

[30] Maria Pia Boëthius, op.cit.

[31] Gerard Aalders & Wiebes Cees, "The art of cloaking ownership: the secret collaboration and protection of the German war industry by the neutrals: the case of Sweden". Amsterdam University Press, 1996.

[32] Swedish Institute for International Affairs. "[Ryssland](#)" [In Swedish]. Retrieved 16 December 2019.

Original text [Swedish]:

"Äldre historia –De första statsbildningarna på det som senare blev ryskt territorium uppstod på 1000-talet f Kr i Centralasien, i Kaukasien och vid Svarta havet. På 850-talet e Kr grundades den östslaviska Kievstaten, och i Novgorod (Holmgård) bildade svenska vikingar under Rurik ett annat maktcentrum (Gårdarrike). Sedan även Kiev hamnat under Rurikätten växte riket, och i slutet av 900-talet kristnades det av missionärer från Bysans (Östrom). Det försvagades och splittrades dock till följd av maktkamper och invaderades vid 1200-talets mitt av mongoler, som gjorde de ryska furstarna till vasaller under Gyllene hordens khaner."

[33] Comments corresponding to each war are excerpts from [Wikipedia](#).

[34] Svt nyheter, “[Wikileaks: Bildt anser Sverige borde bli stormakt](#)”, 27 February 2012.

[35] “[Löfven: ‘SD är ett nyfascistiskt parti’](#)”, updated 22 August 2016.

[36] Expressen,

“[Löfven står fast: SD nyfascistiskt](#)“, 10 April 2015.

[37] “Man måste gå tillbaka till vad det försämrade säkerhetsläget handlar om. Det är det ryska agerandet, en illegal annektering av Krim, operationer i östra Ukraina.”

In: Newsner, “New survey shows 7 out of 10 Swedes feel worry about Russia” (“[Ny undersökning visar – 7 av 10 svenskar känner oro för Ryssland](#)”), 18 January 2017.

[38] The exact formulation “*de stackars negrerna annars skulle stå utan jobb*” is found in the *Aftonbladet* article by Åsa Linderborg, “No moderates at Mandela’s funeral. This is why Bildt and Reinfeldt staying at home” [[“Inga moderater på Mandelas begravning – Därför ska Bildt & Reinfeldt stanna hemma”](#)]. *Aftonbladet*, 6 Dec 2013.

[39] M Ferrada de Noli, “[‘A nigger is a nigger and a Swede is a Swede’. Top leaders of Sweden’s second largest party stating position on Mandela’s struggle against apartheid](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 8 December 2013.

[40] M Ferrada de Noli, “[‘A Swede is a Swede and a Jew is a Jew’, says Carl Bildt](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 10 December 2013.

[41] DN, “[Jag har alltid varit stolt över ryktet att vara antisovjetisk](#)”, 16 April 2014. The exact formulation of Bildt was: “I have a strong reputation of being anti-Soviet. I have always been proud about it”.

[42] Dagens PS, “[SVT: Svenska FRA hackar datorer åt USA](#)”, 11 December 2013.

[43] Svt Nyheter, “[FRA:s USA-samarbete oroar konfliktforskaren Agrell](#)”, 11 December 2011.

[44] Aftonbladet, “[’Det tyder på fartblindhet’](#)”, 11 December 2011.

[45] NATO, “[Collective defence - Article 5](#)”, updated 25 November 2019.

[46] The Local (Sweden), “[US Defence Secretary Mattis warned Sweden not to sign anti-nuclear weapons treaty: report](#)”, 30 August 2017.

[47] Expressen, “[Sverige samarbetade med USA i hemlighet](#)”, 5 December 2010.

[48] Aftonbladet, “[Så räda är svenkarna för ryssen](#)”, 30 October 2016.

[49] M Ferrada de Noli, “Teoría y Método de la Concientización”. Edit. Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, México. Segunda ed., 1972.

[51] M Ferrada de Noli “[Plan Z: the latest anti-WikiLeaks national campaign in the Swedish media](#)”, 2 March 2012.

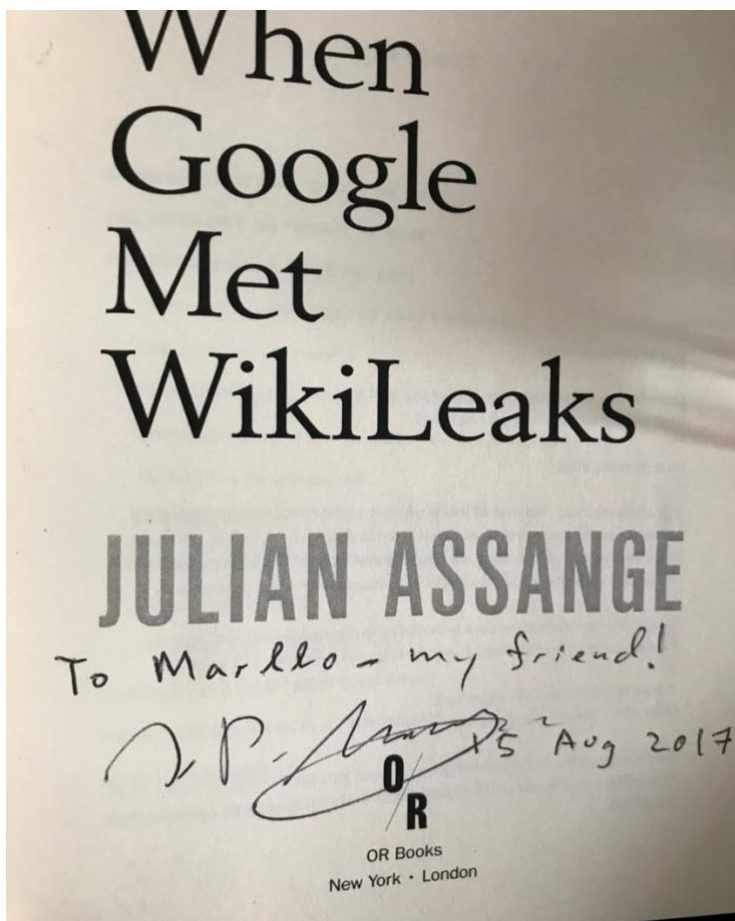
[52] Venn diagram from Wikimedia Commons (Public Domain), created by Hydrargyrum, 2009.

[53] Ethics, Science, and Democracy: Ethics, Science, and Democracy. The Philosophy of Abraham Edel, I. Horowitz & H.S. Thayer, eds. Transaction books, New Brunswick and Oxford, 1987. Page 159.

[54] New York Times, [“Last Night in Sweden’? Trump’s Remark Baffles a Nation”](#). 19 February 2017.

[55] Radio Sweden [State-owned]. [“Why America wants to be allies with Sweden”](#), 17 May 2017.

[56] [“USA:s försvarsminister James Mattis lovar Sverige militär hjälp i händelse av ett ryskt angrepp.”](#) In Expressen, 19 May 2017.





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Finally, I would like to thank [@WikiLeaks](#) for the numerous retweets they have done in the past, between 2011 and 2018, of my articles published in the Professors' Blog [@professorsblogg](#), the Indicter Magazine [@The\\_Indicter](#), and Swedish Doctors for Human Rights [@SWEDHR](#).

And to all readers of Libertarian Books.

Since English is not my mother tongue, I would like to apologise for some syntax and grammatical errors in the above Introduction.

Nevertheless, some of the other chapters in this book have been proofread. For this effort I would like to thank warmly [@greekemmy](#) for her invaluable help, done on a volunteer basis and in addition to the immense amount of work she has dedicated to the noble cause of Freedom for Julian Assange. As well, I would like to thank Bella Magnani, for important comments on some of the issues.

## The new geopolitics of Sweden: Feminism, arms exports to dictatorships, & NATO. Impact in the Assange case

## US requested Sweden to prosecute Assange

In August 2010, Sweden ordered the detention of the WikiLeaks editor Julian Assange. According to the Snowden documents, the US government had asked the countries participating in the occupation of Afghanistan under US-military command, to initiate prosecution of Assange. [1] Only Sweden complied. In previous analysis published in *The Indicter* I concluded that Sweden most likely would persist in neither undertaking nor recognizing the international criticism for its rejection of the UN conclusion regarding the arbitrary detention of Mr Julian Assange. That is to say, it will not do so at least in the nearest future.

Further, I have hypothesized that –in the eventuality of a positive intervention by the Trump administration regarding the case Assange – from the Swedish side the case would be likely used as a tool in a bargain including issues of economic interest, support by the US towards Swedish stances in the Security Council (as publicly anticipated by foreign minister Margot Wallström) [2] and other items already put forward by the letter of PM Stefan Löfven to President-elect Donald Trump. [3]

Meanwhile, as per the beginning of 2107 the Trump's team has not yet given a *clear* indication regarding a possible intervention in the case, –in either direction– the prospect of an indictment and consequently the risk of extradition of Julian Assange to the US remains incumbent. [3]

Ecuador's prosecutor, Galo Chiriboga, said recently that the future of the case Assange is now only attributable to Swedish prosecutors. "I do not think there is a quick way out," he added. [4]



In this chapter I analyse the Assange case in these contexts:

- i) The case in the context of Sweden's foreign policy and international trade;*
- ii) The case in the context of Sweden's national security.*

One main thesis I have put forward is that the “legal” aspects of the case have been from the beginning, six years ago, a simple make-believe; a baroque superstructure of nonsense in which the real political case has been encrusted. Unfortunately, a fixation on that artificial aspect of the case has driven attention away from the essential elements in the case, namely the political node; this might have resulted in the postponing of a political action in favour of a juridical or legal priority which in concrete has not given Julian Assange the freedom which –arbitrarily– Sweden has taken away from him.

This distinction is of vital importance when considering a possible solution for the case's stalemate, and obtaining Julian Assange's freedom (beginning with the recognition by Sweden and the UK of the UNWGAD ruling). [5] Additionally, one conclusion of this review is that a comprehensive solution leading to the freedom of Assange has to tackle with the UK requests and the US situation regarding the announced investigations against WikiLeaks (and Assange). [6] In other words, only a political solution seems viable as effective and realistic.

I argue the above, also based on an old Roman juridical principle, freely translated as, "A knot is unknotted in the same fashion it was knotted". As the case was politically elaborated, it has to be politically dismissed. Others might argue with help of Alexander of Macedonia, for whom –according to the traditions around the Delphi Oracle–a most effective way of untying a knot is parting it with a falling sword. He did that eventually, the story goes. But he was already in political charge of a vast imperium. Politicians in charge obviously are entitled to do that...

## The Assange case in the context of Sweden's feminist foreign policy for international trade gains.

It is necessary to first refer briefly to the history of Sweden's 'soft' trademark designs aimed to access international market for its exports. Historically considered, these trademarks have served also as a presentation of Sweden's cultural sustainability, a country 'guided by principles', and hence a suitable country to do business with. After all, "soft" trademarks are per definition incontrovertible, and devised for all to be in agreement with.

These are emblematic, non-controvertible mantras, aimed to easily find consensus or international sympathy. In reality, nevertheless, they are deprived of a consequent geopolitical behaviour. In modern times, the Swedish trademarks launched by the authorities abroad were, first the "neutrality" vow of the 60's – 80's, which was maintained until the Berlin Wall fall. [7]

Then it was followed by the "human rights" pretence of the 90's, which ended with the catastrophe vote against Sweden in the UN in 2014, after irrecoverable prestige loses caused by the secret collaboration of the Swedish government with the CIA. [8]

Ultimately, the Swedish international mantra directed to the international market has been replaced with the 'feminist' characterization announced by the authorities. This aimed to be applied in all Swedish official activities and stances, particularly in foreign policy. We could hardly ignore this fact since is the Swedish government itself which have declared this fundamental aim in the leading statement "[The feminist foreign policy of the government of Sweden](#)" found in the government's official web site:

*”Jämställdhet mellan kvinnor och män utgör en grundläggande målsättning för svensk utrikespolitik. Uppfyllandet av kvinnors och flickors grundläggande mänskliga rättigheter utgör såväl en skyldighet inom ramen för internationella åtaganden som en förutsättning för att nå Sveriges bredare utrikespolitiska mål om fred, säkerhet och hållbar utveckling.” [9]*

Any governmental initiative advocating societal changes in favour of gender equality and advancing women rights in all countries in the world is of course laudable.

However, ethical problems may arise:

- a) when the message is proven to lack consistency against the backdrop of the actual government's behaviour (see below on current relationships between Sweden and Saudi Arabia); or
- b) when with the *end* of making such human-rights message louder in the international community, the government resort to anti human-rights *means*. As seen further below, this is what is happening with the further misusing of the arbitrarily-detention case of Mr Assange by the part of Sweden; a case that first had to be created, and then make it last for six years. Machiavelli would have been proud.

In a closer examination, the international use by the Swedish government of the feminist parlance shows having a target beyond the declared ideological concerns.

It rather intends– through gaining support amid the legitimate and growing feminist movement of a number of developing countries – to influence the decision making in those countries towards the purchasing of Swedish industrial goods and services, and above all, adopting a stance to favour Swedish arms export.

As the feminist movement in those countries, and I say, fortunately, has been able to permeate across diverse sectors in society, this also

includes members of the ruling elites intervening in the import decision-making.

In the same fashion of the role played by the old Swedish “non alignment” and “neutrality” pseudo-doctrines amidst the constellation of “Third world countries” during the cold war (which, besides of benefiting the arms export industry signified huge contracts for Swedish companies), the new official “feminist” foreign policy serves a similar economic and commercial strategy.

Also, in the same way that the “principled stances” of “neutrality” and “non-alignment” proved in reality to be a deceptive geopolitical manoeuvre of the Swedish government to cover – as revealed by WikiLeaks – [10] a secret and growing collaboration with NATO, the new official “feminist” stance has rapidly demonstrated its lack of consequence.

A concrete proof of the above is given by the multiple business initiatives –mainly weapons export– *currently initiated* by the Swedish government for instance with Saudi Arabia [11] and other countries [12] noteworthy for their anti-feminist and gender-discriminating policies.

(Besides the fact that some of those Arab tyrannies are known for an extreme unequal gender panorama, they are also countries actively participating in wars. Nevertheless the outcome is that such weapon exports are illegal, according to Swedish law.

Furthermore, as this war activities mean the aerial bombing of populations, such as in Yemen, in which a third of the targets in the raids result being civilian ones, [13] Sweden's weapon exports are more than unethical; such behaviour should be ascribed as war-crimes collaboration.)



## Impact in the Assange case

Although the 'Assange case' has been used from the beginning as symbol of a 'feminist' stance in Sweden, mainly by right-wing sections of the movement, [14] not all active or prominent figures of the Swedish feminism movement have endorsed this campaign. There are notable examples, both internationally and in Sweden, of distinguished feminists that have instead supported the struggle of justice for Julian Assange. [15] [16] In this "anti-Assange" campaign, there is a consistent tendency, principally in the state-owned [17] and mainstream media, [18] [19] to associate the case Assange with the feminist political struggle involved in the campaign to radicalize Swedish law criminalizing acts as offences, exactly of the kind that the Swedish police said (we make the distinction that it was the police and not the complainant) Julian Assange was suspected of having committed. [20]

It is worth mentioning in this background that the case, which originally has been closed by Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné, [20] was reopened thanks to actions deployed by a constellation of prominent and less-prominent members of the political movement working to broaden the definition of sexual offences, including the former Gender Ombudsman Claes Bodström. [21]

The radical legislation of sexual offences in Sweden is in its turn the only emblematic item that Swedish feminism can present in the international arena as a benchmark of Sweden's development in this front. Other classical issues, such as equal pay or absolute gender-indiscriminate environments have unfortunately not been achieved in Sweden. In other words, the exporting endeavour of Sweden in this area is more a matter of principles and rhetoric, rather than corresponding to a standard achieved by other countries, for instance Norway.

*The implication of the above in future developments in the Assange case is packaged in a paradox. On the one hand, the 'hard line' demonstrating against Assange is a unique opportunity to show abroad the radical legislation established in Sweden, meaning, to show what the government ponders as the cornerstone of Sweden's feminism. On the other hand, it is the celebrity of Assange and WikiLeaks that provide the Foreign Ministry of Sweden with a free ride for their boosting. As long as the Swedish government will be able to profit from this 'arrangement' – no matter the injustice and the breaches to Assange human rights – they will use it.*

At the same time, facts show that a primary interest of the Swedish government is the promotion of exports 'made in Sweden', mainly related to the arms industry. The emblematic "neutrality" mantra is now obsolete and absolutely deprived of credibility, on the cause of Sweden's now open hostility against Russia and its progressive alignment with NATO [see Part II, below]. The replacement of "neutrality" and "non-alignment" by "feminist" represents however a serious shift in Sweden, beyond the rhetoric.

## The Assange case in the context of Sweden's military strategy

Coinciding with the transient decline of Russia after the Soviet Union downfall, Sweden started to shift from a self-defence system characterizing non-aligned countries during the cold war, towards a belligerent strategic against Russia. This, with the understanding that Sweden would count with NATO support, and speculating that Russia would not recover its military might.

In yet another miscalculation, the Swedish elites embraced the warmongering doctrine of Hillary Clinton and supported her presidential campaign politically and monetarily –via public funds donated to the Clinton Foundation. [23] Now, after the election of Donald Trump, the Swedish 'national security' establishment is in a state of disarray. The Assange card, an Ace prisoner in the Swedish geopolitical gambling since exactly six years ago, once again, will be played in the bargaining game.

This section essays a rationale in regards to this shift in Sweden's military doctrine, and its relationship with the Assange case, as maintained by the Swedish government. While the case is presented by Sweden abroad solely as "a prosecutor's matter" and exempted from governmental interference, facts reveal the opposite: The maintenance of the case corresponds to an official political decision of the Swedish government. Additionally, government executives, such as the PM himself [24] or other members in the cabinet [25] have made comments in the press – inclusive ad hominem against Mr Julian Assange– in the context of the ongoing 'prosecutor's investigation' (PM Reinfeldt publicly declared in London, "Assange has been damaging Sweden"). [24] The role of the government is also

substantiated by the fact that there are constant communications by the state to the public on the matter, with updates of the status of the case appearing at the websites of the Swedish Foreign Ministry as well as the Ministry of Justice.

Furthermore, representatives of the Swedish military utter openly poisonous judgments on Assange and WikiLeaks on Swedish TV. Assange and WikiLeaks are demonized as enemies of Sweden and the representative of the Armed Forces presented the thesis - with no evidence whatsoever- that WikiLeaks would have a pro-Russia agenda. As the military establishment views Russia as Sweden's archenemy, ergo, following their equivocal assumption about the true nature of WikiLeaks, they consider its founder and publisher Julian Assange an ally of their 'enemy', an enemy by association. Why not 'a war-prisoner' in the imagined epic conflict the Swedish military wage vs. Russia. That would fit perfectly with the arbitrary decision of Julian Assange's arrest.

From the government of Carl Bildt in 1991 and onwards, we saw the participation of Swedish air force under US-lead in the bombing of Qaddafi's Libya; likewise the Swedish troops in the US occupation of Afghanistan; the active participation of the [Sweden's military assisting in the US drone targeting](#); [26] Swedish military forces in Iraq, under the US command, in the US military base at Taji (Swedish troops tripled the number of German troops there); Sweden's leading role in establishing EU sanctions vs. Russia, and the participation of the Swedish government in the fuelling and consolidation of the Ukraine putsch. Further, in June 2016, while the Swedish elites were convinced of Hillary Clinton's victory in the US election, we saw the NATO/Sweden agreements [27] that would give NATO forces the operational usufruct (the right to enjoy the use and advantages of another's property short of the destruction or waste of its substance) of Swedish territory, outlining a subservience that seriously compromised the national security of Sweden.

Finally, in these days, the Swedish Armed Forces have published a report [see down below] affirming in a straightforward way –for the first time– that Sweden will be involved in a likely military conflict in the Northern Baltic area to be initiated by Russia –according to the “impression” the Swedish Arms Forces said to have gathered (read, Intel) about Russia’s will of “altering the current security order in the region.” [28]

## How it could happen?

Swedish folks have been living in peace and safe from the threat of war for decades and decades, thanks mainly to the balanced policies of the old social democratic governments, best illustrated by the late Olof Palme. But the fall of the Berlin Wall coincided with the immediate entrance of Carl Bildt in the Swedish government. Bildt became Sweden’s PM in 1991 and again member of the government as FM in the Reinfeldt administrations 2006-2014.

The quasi decimation of the Swedish Armed Forces began, first in 2009 with the cessation of the national conscription system, and subsequently with the re-organisation of the Swedish army converting it in battalions for “missions abroad” –which *de facto* resulted with troops being under US-military command in occupation wars, most notably in Afghanistan.

In the context of this vassal stance, Sweden was the only complying country among those asked by the US in August 2010 to initiate prosecution of the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. [29]

Furthermore, during the times of ‘the Bildt-administration of Sweden’, WikiLeaks had revealed and denounced the secret collaboration between US Intel services and the Swedish government. [30] The Swedish press did not protest. Likewise it was the behaviour of the Swedish media and the political establishment in general, after investigating journalists exposed the secret



*Swedish troops under US military command in Afghanistan. In the image receiving NATO medals.*

*Swedish troops under US command, receiving NATO medals for their participation in the occupation war in Afghanistan*

collaboration of the Swedish government with the CIA in regarding the rendition of refugees that have been granted asylum in Sweden to end being transported by the CIA to torture centres elsewhere. This bizarre phenomenon deservedly attracted the attention of the international media, which commented accordingly. The Washington Post wrote: [30]

*“Although the parliamentary investigator concluded that the Swedish security police deserved ‘extremely grave criticism’ for losing control of the operation and for being ‘remarkably submissive to the American officials,’ no Swedish officials have been charged or disciplined.”*

Likewise, no main political or media actor in Sweden reacted scrutinizing the real scope of the Bildt military doctrine, which he masterminded in combination with the shift in Sweden's foreign policy. No journalist inquired into the strategic implications that a shrinking of the armed forces would signify and not only in terms of diminishing Sweden's defence capability.

The most important effect of Bildt's design was that it placed Sweden at a seriously vulnerable position in terms of national security. The then military chief of the Swedish Armed Forces, General Sverker Göranson, declared the following about the combat readiness of the armed forces:

*“Sweden would be able to last one week.”*

To this ‘problem’, created by the adjustment of the armed forces to Bildt's new foreign-policy doctrine, Bildt had already a ‘solution’: an increased collaboration with NATO.



*Carl Bildt greeting a Swedish military at the Mazar-e Sharif base in Afghanistan. Swedish troops are placed under US military command. Photo source [here](#).*

An increasing collaboration with NATO, ‘and why not a full NATO-membership’, would fill the gap in the military capability-deficit. And this was, and still is, not a minor deficiency in military capability.

The military and, in most part, the Swedish politicians, that had earlier fallen in Bildt’s trap, also fell for the solution he proposed, despite the fact that the WikiLeaks publications also indicated that Carl Bildt allegedly was an American agent (a “US information agent”). [31] The Swedish public, as always, was kept outside this debate. No referendum was ever conducted to approve the drastic changes in the new military doctrine – which was disguised as ‘a new foreign policy for Sweden’ -presented by Bildt in Parliament.

With active or tacit approval, the Swedes complied with this new situation which meant the ending of the ‘neutrality’, ‘non-alignment’ and ‘human Rights’ pretences.

The period also coincided with the initiation of the *psy op front* of a fabricated and anti-Russian phobia agitated by the State-owned TV and Radio, followed by the mainstream media. At that time, the author revealed the activities in the Swedish media by journalists trained by the Swedish military intelligence services. WikiLeaks had also revealed in the “Diplomatic Cables” series the secret contacts at the US embassy in Stockholm with other prominent Swedish politicians, e.g. the current social democrat party-member and speaker of the Parliament Urban Ahlin.

Lastly, one necessary clarification: With ‘shift in Sweden’s national security stance’ I refer here primarily to the *openness* in which the NATO allegiance is now proclaimed and defended by the Swedish military (the call is for “increased collaboration with NATO”), supported by the Swedish government, in particular by the minister of Defence. After a prolonged semi-cover collaboration with NATO, Sweden decided to go forward openly with the defence agreement (‘declaration of intent’) with NATO of June 2016.



## WikiLeaks denounced Sweden's secret plans of the military

When WikiLeaks denounced Sweden's plans – under secret agreement with Saudi– for the construction of a weapons factory in Saudi Arabia, a top representative of the Swedish military went to State TV to accuse Julian Assange of 'blackmailing Sweden'.

The Swedish TV –in a wide-announced documentary– put forward the thesis that Julian Assange is the one to blame for “getting the world to question Sweden's credibility” [32]. This goes well beyond pseudo-accusations of ambiguous formulated ‘suspicions’ (note: not charges. Julian Assange has never been charged with any crime in Sweden). It has to do with the publishing endeavour of Julian Assange. What, instead, Assange represented, for the ruling politico-military elites of Sweden, is a threat in his role as the WikiLeaks publisher. In reality, every revelation by WikiLeaks on Sweden demonstrates the inane and highly risky military doctrine, formulated by Bildt, that can lead to Sweden's destruction.

On 2 December 2016, the Swedish Armed Forces released a report where they affirm, “Sweden will be inevitably affected upon *if* an armed conflict arise in the Baltic area” (author's cursive). [33] But elsewhere the report states, “Russia gives the impression of wanting to change the current security order in the region. This refers to both globally *and to the North-Baltic region*” (author's cursive). [28] Taken both statements together, what the Swedish Armed Forces are saying is that: “As our military Intel analysis indicates, Russia's intention of changing the current security order in the *North-Baltic region*, Sweden will be inevitably affected upon” (author's interpretation). In other words, all indicate that Sweden is preparing for war with Russia.

Sweden's defence minister Peter Hultqvist commented that he agrees with most of the Armed Forces report. [34]

Now, the political authorities of Sweden have found themselves “painted themselves into a corner”. In accordance with the shift in the new military doctrine, they naturally opted for supporting Hillary Clinton. This was not only illustrated by making public declarations, but also Swedish governmental institutions were (and are) donors to the Clinton Foundation.

However, the miscalculation of Sweden's elites was multiple. Despite the enormous support that Swedish authorities, all political parties of the establishment (including the former euro communists, *Vänster partiet*), and the state-owned and stream media gave to the candidacy of Hillary Clinton and the warmongering doctrine she represented, the US elections produced Donald Trump as the President Elect. A candidate despised by the actors mentioned above.

The same above-mentioned recent report of the Swedish Armed Forces, recognizes that there is yet no clarity on Trump's stance regarding NATO. It is not clear whether Ukraine, Sweden's ultimate protégé, will be a main issue for Trump's strategy in Europe. It is more likely that he will consider Crimea a Russian territory, and with it, weakening on this basis the EU sanctions against Russia that Sweden led vigorously. The Swedish military, and the minister of defence, are unsure even on whether Trump will honour the agreements of June 2016 between Sweden and NATO.

In this context, the only thing clear and on the record, in video format, is the declarations of Donald Trump concerning WikiLeaks. In it he declares: “I love WikiLeaks”. Click on the image below for the video:

Unfortunately, the impact in the Assange case will be that he will continue being a prisoner in the geopolitical bargaining of Sweden.

We, at Swedish Professors and Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR), demand instead that Sweden respect the human rights of Julian Assange, and that the Swedish authorities immediately abide with the UNWGAD decision on his arbitrary detention.

SWEDHR also wishes that Sweden would return being a sovereign country, politically, militarily, and thus geopolitically non-aligned.

For several years I have supported the reinstalling of national conscription, and opposed Bildt's decimation of Sweden's own military capability, and self-respect. Sweden is capable of having a strong defence of its own, by its own. For instance, already in 2008 the author put forward that in Sweden, conscription combined with instruction for guerrilla-warfare resistance should be one of the primary options. It is highly effective also because it is self-reliable.

On the other hand, what Sweden definitely does not need is to participate at "cannon-fodder" level in an offensive strategy dictated by geopolitical interests alien to the survival of Sweden. And in this period, an appropriate defence strategy should start by stopping the provocation-spiral initiated by Bildt. With or without NATO, a war in the current technological era would bring about a massive retaliation whose lethal effects are still unpredictable. A retaliation that nevertheless, for sure, would adversely affect –beyond the few warmongers authoring or serving foreign-power interests in political and media circles– nearly ten millions peace-loving people of Sweden.

## Notes and References

[1] M Ferrada de Noli, [Political facts behind the Swedish case VS. Assange](#). The Indicter magazine, 15 December 2015.

[2] Hanna Jakobson, [Wallströms oro för Trumps kvinnoönsyn](#). Expressen, 10 November 2016.

[3] PM Stefan Löfven's letter to Donald Trump was censored by the government. However, the newspaper [Expressen obtained](#) this copy:

[4] M Ferrada de Noli, [Analysis: Trump, WikiLeaks, Assange and Sweden](#). The Indicter magazine, 21 November 2016.

[5] Andrew Blake, [U.N. panel upholds decision on Julian Assange's arbitrary detainment](#). The Washington Times, 30 November 2016.

[6] M Ferrada de Noli, [Mainstream media in US and Sweden admit now Assange risks to be extradited to the US by the Swedish government](#). The Indicter magazine, 11 August 2016.

[7] The neutrality slogan has been found in clear contradiction by the covert behaviour of Swedish authorities partly in domestic matters, but above all in concrete activities pertaining national security. For instance, it has been revealed that Sweden, historically, was never “neutral” –not regarding Nazi Germany, nor afterwards regarding NATO– or referring to any geopolitical interest opposed to Russia.

[8] The Swedish security police was eventually acting under CIA command in Swedish territory, during the extraordinary renditions that transported political refugees in Sweden from Stockholm airports to torture centres elsewhere. For these deeds, Sweden was sanctioned by the United Nations for serious violations on the Absolute Ban on Torture – See: Human Rights Watch, “[Sweden Violated Torture Ban in CIA Rendition](#)“. 10 November 2006.

[9] The government of Sweden, statements, The feminist foreign policy of the government of Sweden [Swedish] “[En feministisk utrikespolitik](#)”. Regeringskansliet, retrieved 4 December 2016.

[10] From The Daily Telegraph, 15 Dec 2010:

Wed 15 December 2010, The Daily Telegraph

## WikiLeaks: Swedish government 'hid' anti-terror operations with America from Parliament

By **Andrew Hough**

The Swedish government asked American officials to keep intelligence-gathering “informal” to help avoid Parliamentary scrutiny, American diplomatic cables released by Wikileaks show.

[11] M Ferrada de Noli, [Sweden's unethical – and unlawful – arms deals with ISIS-backing Saudis](#). The Indicter magazine, 22 October 2016.

[12] M Ferrada de Noli, [How Sweden will help bombing Yemen exporting weapons to UAE](#). The Indicter magazine, 1 November 2016.

[13] Ewen MacAskill & Paul Torpey, “[One in three Saudi air raids on Yemen hit civilian sites, data shows](#)”. The Guardian, 16 September 2016.

[14] M. Ferrada de Noli, [Assange case, a symbol for Swedish right-wing “radical-feminism”](#). The Professors’ Blog, 30 September 2011.

[15] Naomi Wolf, “[Sweden’s Serial Negligence in Prosecuting Rape Further Highlights the Politics Behind Julian](#)”, 15 April 2011.

[16] Helene Bergman, [A Swedish Feminist’s Perspective On Swedish State “Feminism”](#). The Professors’ Blog, 14 June 2014.

[17] Particularly programs aired by the Swedish Radio.

[18] M. Ferrada de Noli, “The Trial by The Media“. In: “[Sweden vs. Assange. Human Rights Issues & Political Background](#)”. Libertarian Books, 2nd ed., 2016. Pags. 110 – 165.

[19] Also published in the Professors’ Blog:

M. Ferrada de Noli, a) [“Swedish government using media to interfere in the legal process against Julian Assange”](#). The Professors' Blog, 27 January 2012; b) [Does Sweden Inflict Trial by Media against Assange?](#) The Professors' Blog, 20 February 2011; c) [Trial by Media fortsätter](#). The Professors' Blog, 4 February 2013; [Journalister till tjänst i krigföringen mot Assange, och mot hederlig journalistik](#); d) The Professors' Blog, 17 February 2012; [“Om de upprepade anklagelserna mot Assange av svenska journalister”](#). The Professors' Blog, 17 February 2012; e) [“The ‘Duck Pond’ Theses. Explaining Swedish journalism and the anti-Assange smear campaign”](#). The Professors' Blog, 1 December 2011; f) [“Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. PART 1: The Political Agenda”](#). The Professors' Blog, 15 April 2011; g) [Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. Contents & Links to Parts I – V](#). The Professors' Blog, 14 April 2011.

[20] M. Ferrada de Noli, [Mr. Julian Assange has never been charged of any crime. The powers behind the hunt of WikiLeaks](#). The Indicter, 17 September 2016. Excerpt:

“It has been reported that the the characterization on “rape” – as was presented in the arresting warrant against Julian Assange– was not made by the women but instead it was a creation from the part of the police. Now, according the transcription of the press conference of prosecutor Marianne Ny, she herself confirmed that so was the case, meaning: it is the Swedish state which is after to prosecute Julian Assange, regardless that ‘women complainants’ had never reported to have experienced the perpetration of a crime in those terms as it comes from purely from the prosecutor’s will. This is the transcription in regards to that item:

“Question: Who actually has made this accusation? Because the alleged victim said the police had railroaded her, didn’t sign the police statement and in fact the first prosecutor on the case

dropped it saying that no crime had been committed? That was the prosecutor of Stockholm, and then you took it up again.

*Marianne Ny:* But I am her superior, in fact, I am the Senior Prosecutor. I can in fact reverse the decision of one of my subordinates. I came to the conclusion that her decision in fact was erroneous.

When it comes to the question of who made the accusation, I have already said this, rape is subject to obligatory prosecution in Sweden. You don't need a complainant to sign a complaint or make a charge. If rape comes to the knowledge of the police authorities in Sweden, they are obliged to prosecute, that means they are obliged to refer the case to a prosecutor, a prosecutor has to look into it, and then it follows the normal course of law."

[21] Dick Sundevall, [Assange has already been interrogated](#). SWEDHR Research & Reports. Vol 2., N° 49, 17 August 2016.

[22] M Ferrada de Noli, [UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights says that the arresting of Mr Julian Assange can & should be put to an end](#). The Indicter magazine, 15 December 2015.

[23] M Ferrada de Noli, [Sweden's business with Clinton Foundation in a geopolitical context](#), The Indicter magazine, 3 November 2016.

[24] "[Julian Assange made 'public enemy number one' by Swedish PM, court told as mother demands help from Australian ministers](#)". Daily Mail, 11 February 2011.

In M Ferrada de Noli, "*Open Letter To The Prosecutor-General Of Sweden*" of 4 February 2014. Published in [Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues](#). Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014. Pages 106-108. Excerpts:

"On 11 February 2011, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt stated in the DN and *Aftonbladet* newspapers, that Julian Assange had

been indicted. He then went on to take a position that was biased in favour of the complainants in the case.

Not only was this political interference in an ongoing case, but also it was based on untruths; Julian Assange has not been charged. The statement by the Prime Minister was:

*“We have an independent judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian Assange on allegations of rape”. And, “I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward.”*

[25] On 15 August 2012, Göran Haglund, Swedish Minister of Social Affairs, told the *Expressen* newspaper: “Assange is a very coward person that does not dare to confront the charges against him”. And he added, “If he did the things he is accused of, I think one can call him a lowlife. He seems to be a miserable wretch.”

(Source, “[Häglund om asyl för Assange: “Fegis“](#). *Expressen*, 15 August 2012.)

[26] M Ferrada de Noli, SWEDHR, “[How involved is Sweden in helping U.S. military drone-killings?](#)”, SWEDHR Research & Reports. Vol 2., N° 38, 28 November 2015. Originally published in NewsVoice, 24 November 2015.

[27] “The deal includes joint exercises and adaptation of technologies and practices to a joint NATO-standard”, reported Reuters: “[Sweden seek assurances from Trump regarding defense agreement](#)”. Reuters, 11 November 2016.

[28] In Jonas Gummesson: “[Krävs mer pen gar för att inte tappa mot rysk militär](#)” . SvD, 2 December 2016. Excerpt: “Ryssland ger, enligt studien, intryck av att vilja förändra ”rådande säkerhetspolitisk ordning”. Det gäller både globalt och regionalt i det nordisk-baltiska området.”



[29] M ferrada de Noli, [Who are behind the “Swedish prosecution” of Assange, and Why?](#) The Professors’ Blog, 5 November 2014.

[30] Craig Whitlock, “*New Swedish Documents Illuminate CIA Action*“, The Washington Post, 21 May 2005.

[31] M ferrada de Noli, [Carl Bildt, US secret information-officer, according to document released by WikiLeaks.](#) The Professors’ Blog, 15 June 2014.

[32] ““How could the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange get the world to question Sweden’s credibility”? Leading line in a program announce by State-owned TV. See: M Ferrada de Noli, [Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. PART 1: The Political Agenda.](#) The Professors’ Blog, 15 April 2011.

[33] [Framtidens utmaningar kräver ökad försvarsförmåga.](#) Swedish Armed Forces, 2 December 2016.

[34] [Försvaret varnar för ryskt agerande.](#) TT News Agency, 2 December 2016.

## As former Swedish PM (and FM) Carl Bildt was publicly singled out by WikiLeaks of being US secret information-officer, Sweden's hit-job on Assange hardened further.

Right-wing politician Carl Bildt was Sweden's Foreign Minister 2005 – 2014, meaning in the period in which the Swedish Prosecution authority initiated the persecution of Assange. As I have reported in my previous book on Sweden and Assange, this “prosecution” was asked by the US to the countries participating in the occupation of Afghanistan under US command. [1] The only country complying was Sweden.

What others reasons would have compel the Swedish authorities to so bitterly implement the persecution of Assange, and to the point of openly committing infringements to the traditional “Rechtsstaat” practices?

What would explain that the Swedish PM went that far as to personally interfere in the supposedly independent investigation of supposedly independent prosecutors of the Assange case?

A post here below a list of these interferences by Sweden's executive power in the then ongoing “legal” Assange case – in which PM Reinfeldt himself, but also –and prominently– appears Carl Bildt. The list is contained in a letter sent by Australian Senator Scott Ludlam to then Foreign Minister Bob Carr. [2] As I reported in “[Trial by media continues](#)”, the list partly comprises previous reports in my investigation on [Swedish trial by media against Assange](#), and attacks against him by Swedish authorities.

I met Scott Ludlam in London in December 2011. We were introduced by Human Rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson –whom I have met through Julian Assange. Ludlam had some plans to travel to Sweden and asked me on my opinion about the prospective of meeting Foreign Minister Carl Bildt.

I spontaneously encouraged him about asking for that meeting. I argued that –in spite of differences– Carl Bildt was bound to most certain reply gentlemanly to such a meeting request.

I was utterly wrong. Bildt bluntly ignored Senator Ludlam's request for an encounter, while he was in Stockholm.

Here below Senator Ludlam's list:

“11 February 2011 - The Swedish Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt mistakenly stated that Assange had been charged. The statement was never officially retracted.  
<https://ccwlja.wordpress.com/2011/05/16/reinfeldts-statement-published-r...>

25 January 2012 - Swedish Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt, criticised Assange on Swedish national radio one week before Assange's Supreme Court case was heard in the UK. Reinfeldt stated that Julian Assange's criticisms of abuses by the Swedish system in his case were not legitimate and were a strategy to avoid extradition. The full interview is available at this link:

<https://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=1637&artikel=4928323>

February 2012 - Foreign Minister Carl Bildt makes statements on Assange via Twitter

<https://twitter.com/#!/carlbildt/statuses/172214367121707008>  
<https://twitter.com/carlbildt/status/173160965926428673>

8 February 2012 - In a parliamentary address the Prime Minister Reinfeldt said that "we do not accept sexual abuse or

rape" and said that Assange and his lawyers had little regard for women's rights. Mr Assange's barrister, Geoffrey Robertson QC, said Mr Reinfeldt had also "accused Mr Assange of claiming women's rights are worthless".

15 August 2012 - Swedish Minister of Social Affairs Göran Haggglund issued a series of tweets: "Sick. A coward who does not dare to have his case tried by the court. If the accusations against him are true, he is a lowlife." None of these statements have been retracted.

<https://twitter.com/goranhagglund/status/235462124435025921> For a longer version of the entire Twitter conversation: <http://rixstep.com/1/1/20120815,00.shtml>

In a statement given to *Expressen* later that week, The Minister called Assange a "coward" and a "pitiful wretch" for taking refuge at the Ecuadorian Embassy. "Assange is a very cowardly person who does not dare confront the charges against him." <http://www.expressen.se/nyheter/hagglund-om-asyl-for-assange-fegis/>

18 August 2012 - the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a tweet, presumably arguing why Assange cannot be questioned in London: "You do not dictate the terms if you are a suspect. Get it?"

<https://twitter.com/Utrikesdep/status/236792222937399296>

While the comments of journalists, particularly those writing for Dagens Nyheter, Svenska Dagbladet, *Expressen* and *Aftonbladet* are beyond the control of the government, statements made by senior officials have contributed to providing a permissive environment for blatantly offensive aggression towards Assange in the Swedish press, a few examples of which are also provided below.

22 February 2012 - *Expressen* publishes a story - entirely false as it turns out - that Wikileaks threatens to publish an internal memo that will reveal Carl Bildt as an informant for the US. This causes Bildt to make hostile public statements on his blog. Wikileaks spokesperson Kristinn Hrafnsson puts the matter to rest but not before a great deal of destructive and malicious commentary is made in the Swedish press.  
<http://www.expressen.se/tv/nyheter/inrikes/bildt-svarar-expressen-om-wik...>

<http://www.expressen.se/nyheter/wikileaks-carl-bildt-ar-usa-informator/>  
<https://carlbildt.wordpress.com/2012/02/22/smutskastning-skampanj/>  
<http://wikileaks.org/Kristinn-Hrafnsson-The-Great.html>

29 February 2012 - Sweden's largest daily, Dagens Nyheter, called Assange "paranoid", and a "querulant".  
<http://www.dn.se/ledare/huvudledare/riddare-i-solkad-rustning-1>

14 March 2012 - *Aftonbladet*'s prominent journalist Martin Aagård called Assange an "Australian pig". "There are many good reasons to criticize Assange. One of them is that he's a repugnant swine."  
<http://www.aftonbladet.se/kultur/article14519491.ab>

24 April 2011 - Jan Guillou stated in *Aftonbladet* that regardless of "whether Assange is guilty or not - he's still an unprincipled disgusting little creep", adding "and now I'm holding back".  
<http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/kolumnister/janguillou/article12926443.ab>

16 August 2012 - *Aftonbladet* columnist Oisín Cantwell characterised Assange as a "coward", a "creep", a "white-haired crackpot" and an "asshole" because he would rather

request asylum from Ecuador than face extradition to Sweden.

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/kolumnister/oisincantwell/article15270...>

18 August 2012 - TV journalist Jenny Strömstedt stated in *Expressen* that Assange should be put on display in a glass cage at Ecuador's London embassy for the next fifteen years "so that anyone willing to pay entrance can watch his aging struggles".

<http://www.expressen.se/kronikor/jenny-stromstedt/mindre-snack-och-mer...> “ [2]



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Photo: Christian Eagle Mountain

## Bildt singled out as information officer for United States

A year ago, Newsday revealed that Wikileaks has diplomatic reports that allegedly show that foreign minister Carl Bildt is communications officer for the United States.

Now release the Wikileaks documents.

Through its Swedish representative John Wahlstrom will publish documents in Aftonbladet today.

"Right normal diplomatic reporting. Right banal information. And nothing that talks about things that can become "secret", writes Carl Bildt on his blog.

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Around February 2012 it was publicly exposed that WikiLeaks had materials identifying Carl Bildt as “secret informant” of the US government.

Most important newspapers among Swedish mainstream media echoed that exposure on which Bildt is singled out, textually, as a “US secret information officer”.

For instance, the headline in the conservative newspaper Svenska Dagbladet (22/2 2012) read, “[Wikileaks: Foreign Minister Carl Bildt is US informant](#)”.

Newspaper *Aftonbladet*'s headline at the time also reported (22/2 2012) that, according to WikiLeaks, Bildt was “communications officer for the US”.

Predictably, Bildt retaliated by calling the exposures a “smear campaign *against Sweden*”. He actually published a threatening tweet –which, by the fact that Assange was “hostage” of the Swedish legal system, it also could have interpreted as blackmail. Bildt wrote 24/2 2012 (my cursives):

“Anyone seen if Wikileaks has *dared* to release the documents alleged part of their “smear campaign” against Sweden?”

A year later, *Aftonbladet* reported about the documents' existence. And in a headline of its 15/3 2013 issue reads:

“[Document proves that Carl Bildt gave secret information to the US](#)”. [4]

By all means, Carl Bildt do not represent the opinion of the Swedish people at large. But what about the Swedish ruling elites? Remarkably, none among the Swedish political parties has ever seriously questioned him, let alone asked for his dismissal as foreign minister, or even initiated a constitutional investigation –or at least criticizing the pro-fascist ad filo-racist stances he disseminates around the world. See for instance my

article “[‘A Swede is a Swede and a jew is a jew’, says Carl Bildt](#)”  
(second part of “[A Swede is a Swede and a nigger is a nigger](#)”).

## References

- [1] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden Vs. Assange. Human Rights Issues](#)“. Libertarian Books – Sweden, 2014. Page 36.
- [2] Scott Ludlam. [Letter to Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs](#). 14 January 2012.
- [3] “[Dokumenten bevisar: Carl Bildt gav hemliga uppgifter – till USA](#)” (My cursives).



# The anti-Assange stance of the Swedish version of Amnesty International

## Former paid agent of Swedish Security Police dictated Amnesty Sweden's stance against Assange

In December 2010 a close [collaboration between Sweden and the CIA and FBI](#) was exposed in the international media: an intelligence collaboration between Sweden and US agencies that was kept secret from the Swedish public, and even from the Swedish Parliament. [1] The Telegraph credited WikiLeaks for exposing the deal. [2] The revelations caused far more commotion internationally than in Sweden and, in any event, no government officials were ever held accountable for it. The Washington Post reported, quoting a Swedish Parliamentary investigation: “Although the Parliamentary investigator concluded that the Swedish security police deserved ‘extremely grave criticism’ for losing control of the operation and for being ‘remarkably submissive to the American officials,’ no Swedish officials have been charged or disciplined.” [3]

This article explores to what extent intelligence collaboration between Swedish and US security agencies might have relevance to, or [direct intervention](#) in, [the political case of Sweden vs Assange](#). [4]

Svenska Dagbladet (Svd), one of Sweden's leading newspapers, has now revealed that a well-known journalist and ‘left activist’ was [a paid agent of Sweden's Security Police](#) (SÄPO). [5] As it is shown here below, the journalist may have exerted considerable influence with Amnesty International Sweden.

The government security agent, Martin Fredriksson, was mainly active during the years that former Foreign Minister Carl Bildt was dictating Sweden's foreign policy, when the “Assange Affair” was widely publicized on the home page of Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to statements Fredriksson [posted on Twitter](#), his

“work” at SÄPO covered different periods between 2004 and 2010, the year Sweden opened its ‘investigation’ against the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

The Swedish media establishment [awarded this SÄPO secret agent its highest investigative journalism prize, ‘Guldspaden’](#) (Golden Spade), in 2014. The rationale on which the award was given to Fredriksson referred precisely to the work he had implemented as a paid agent of Sweden’s Secret Police. [6] In the photo below, at the centre of the group, the ex-Security Police agent Martin Fredriksson.

The former SÄPO agent was significantly involved in the government’s efforts to ensure that the Swedish section of Amnesty International (for brevity, hereafter called Amnesty Sweden) would not advocate for the Swedish government to issue guarantees against the onward extradition of Julian Assange to the US, as [called for by Amnesty International](#), Amnesty Sweden’s parent organization headquartered in London. [7]

In an email sent to Amnesty Sweden on 27 September 2012, Fredriksson asked a representative of Amnesty Sweden, Bobby Vellucci:

“Would Amnesty Sweden endorse the statement of Amnesty International on Assange? Meaning, that Sweden should issue guarantees that he shall not be extradited to the US? Should you not contact your mother organization (AI) and inform them that the Swedish legal system does not issue any promises or guarantees in advance, that the judiciary is independent of political decisions and that, practically, there are no legal possibilities to give Mr Assange any kind of amnesty towards the United States? ...In my view, Assange first shall be handled for the crimes he is suspected of in Sweden, and according to the existing law.” [8]

The content, even the phrasing, of Fredriksson’s message to Amnesty Sweden is nearly identical to remarks made in an interview

just weeks before by the Swedish Foreign Minister at the time, Carl Bildt. [9]

Amnesty Sweden complied immediately, and fully, with Fredriksson's request. The following day (28 September) Bobby Vellucci [declared in The Local](#):

"We do not consider it to be appropriate or possible to ask the Swedish government to give guarantees ensuring Assange is not extradited to the US." And he added, "Amnesty's primary focus is the Swedish preliminary investigation and that Julian Assange's presence in Sweden would of course assist in the further investigation of the charges against him." [10]

By using the word "charges" instead of "accusations", Amnesty Sweden was further misleading the international public on the actual legal status of the Swedish case against Assange. [4]

It is important to clarify that the above statements by ex-SÄPO agent Fredriksson and Carl Bildt referring to the impossibility of issuing extradition guarantees are complete falsehoods.

This was made clear in the filing submitted by Sweden's Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev to the Supreme Court in March 2015. With regard to the actual facts on the prospective extradition of Assange to the US, see the evidence I recently posted in "[Sweden's argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the US](#)". [11]

Four years later, Amnesty Sweden's stance on Julian Assange appears to be still under the influence of the Swedish government. In a recent statement to the Swedish news agency TT, the representative of Amnesty Sweden, Madelaine Seidlitz – commenting on the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's ruling that he is arbitrarily detained – insisted on reaffirming the Swedish government's narrative:

"...We also say that it is extremely important that the investigation has to be completed." [12]

In fact, lawyer Madelaine Seidlitz is the representative given as the contact person for Amnesty Sweden's press statement arguing against Sweden giving Assange any guarantee against onward extradition, the content of which exactly conforms with former SÄPO agent Fredriksson's request. The Amnesty Sweden statement [image at right] reads:

"It is neither appropriate nor possible to ask the Swedish government for the issuing of guarantees that Assange shall not be extradited to the US. Amnesty Sweden's primary focus is the pre-trial investigation and that Julian Assange should be on site in Sweden..."

It's worth noting that Amnesty Sweden's statement has been modified several times since its original release and was eventually deleted entirely sometime around February 2016, but cached versions – such as the one reproduced in the image – still exist.

Considering the fact-based risk assessment of the likelihood of Julian Assange's extradition to the US [provided he is physically in custody on Swedish territory](#), [11] one plausible conclusion – now confirmed by the intervention of SÄPO's former agent Martin Fredriksson – would be that Amnesty Sweden simply follows the Swedish government's position, and indirectly, the US government's design.

*Amnesty Sweden – a persistent tendency to deviate from the stance of its parent organization, Amnesty International*

After Svd's expose, Researchgruppen – an organisation headed by Fredriksson that has done [a lot of work for feminist media](#) – distanced itself from its former CEO in a [statement](#) of 1 March 2016 (See translated excerpt of the statement in Notes & References).[13]

Amnesty Sweden, however, has not said a word.

On 11 March 2011, Journalist Erik Sandberg, who was then preparing a report on the revelations above, invited Amnesty Sweden "to join us for this interview [with Swedhr chairman]" or submit comments in response to the SWEDHR article reproduced here.

Amnesty International Sweden replied via email sent by Press Officer Ami Hedenborg, on 11 March 2016. In the main she writes:

“No individual external to Amnesty International have had any influence on our policy whatsoever – the accusations made entirely misrepresent our policy-making process.”

Yet Amnesty declined to participate in the interview because their legal advisor was away traveling...

It is high time for Amnesty International to intervene in this situation to maintain its prestige, both in Sweden and internationally. The Swedish section of Amnesty International has shown a persistent tendency to deviate from the stance of its parent organization – from which Amnesty Sweden derives both funding and prestige – on a variety of important geopolitical issues. That was the case, for instance, in Amnesty Sweden's scandalous opposition to denouncing the arbitrary and inhuman detention of Palestinian children by the Israeli authorities. [14] Or when Amnesty Sweden's executive board [rejected human rights initiatives proposed at its AGM regarding Assange and Snowden](#) following the persecution both have been subjected to by the US. [15]

Although Amnesty Sweden declares that, in principle, it is totally independent from the Swedish state, it receives government funding for the implementation of projects referred to as “training on Human Rights”. [16] [17] [18]

This is quite contrary to the stance we take in [Swedish Doctors for Human Rights \(SWEDHR\)](#). We believe that a sine qua non factor in a human rights organization's credibility is total independence from government and corporate funding. [19]

## Notes and References

[1] M Ferrada de Noli, "[Who are behind the 'Swedish prosecution' of Assange, and Why?](#)" The Professors' Blog, 5 Nov 2014.

[2] From The Daily Telegraph, 15 Dec 2010:

[3] In Craig Whitlock's article "[New Swedish Documents Illuminate CIA Action](#)", The Washington Post, 21 May 2005

[4] M Ferrada de Noli, "[Sweden VS. Assange. Human Rights Issues & Political Background](#)". Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014 & 2016. 342 pages, free download PDF.

[5] Sam Sundberg: "[När verklighetens Salander sålde ut till Säpo.](#)" Svenska dagbladet, 5 March 2016.

Translated with additional edits by Justice Integrity Project.

*The excerpts below correspond to the first half of the article.*

"Have you heard rustling in powerful stereo from the extreme political edges? It is the sound of quivering extremists. The extreme Rabulists of the outer flanks have every reason to be nervous, because one of the more nationally famous left activists, Martin Fredriksson, released in these days a bomb in social media. In a groovy Twitter slaying, he reveals that he was for many years, during a time when he has been active in the Antifascist Action and in the 'Research Group', also been paid as Sweden secret services [SÄPO] informant.

Fredriksson is best known as co-founder of journalist community Research Group [*Researchgruppen*], who conducted an extensive digging job on the Interbet activities of far right-wing characters. In cooperation with (newspapers) *Expressen* and

*Aftonbladet Researchgruppen* exposed the anonymous authors of racist sites such as *Exponerat*, *Fria Tider* and *Avpixlat*, and hateful writers on the web forum Flashback. For his collaboration with *Expressen* was awarded Fredriksson, along with five colleagues in the Research Group, with *Guldspaden*, one of Sweden's greatest prizes for investigative journalism. He has also worked as a researcher for Robert Aschberg TV show "Insider".

During the 00s spied Fredriksson on the extreme right as a part of the intelligence outfit of the left-wing group Antifascist Action Front (Afa documentation). In other words, he is one of those who had the best insight into the activity on both the political front flanks of the past decade. By his own admission, he has handed over to the Security Service only the investigations on violent right-wingers; but it is clear from the comments in social media that even his former allies are now shivering."

[6] Arbetaren, "[Prisbelönad journalist avlönad av Säpo i åratal](#)" ["Prize-winner journalist was during years paid by SÄPO"]. 2 March 2016.

[7] Amnesty International, headquarters based in London: "[Sweden should issue assurance it won't extradite Assange to USA](#)", 27 Sept 2012.

[8] Email translated from its [publication in Flashback](#), a Swedish forum allocating a chapter on the Assange case; this is a thread exhibiting over seven million reader-visits (N= 7 089 375, retrieved 6 March 216). Martin Fredriksson acknowledged the authenticity of the email.message to Amnesty in [a post on Twitter](#) done by @Researchgruppen.

The email exchange was [first published in the abovementioned forum](#) on the 28 Sept 2012.



There it is referred the source:

“[http://www.martinfredriksson.net/wik...ange\\_vs\\_Sweden](http://www.martinfredriksson.net/wik...ange_vs_Sweden)” – a link which now appears blind. However, the screenshot can be seen in The Indicter article [here](#).

[9] Carl Bildt, then Sweden's foreign minister,

[declared in DN](#) 19 August 2012:

– Rättssystemet i Sverige är oberoende. Jag kan inte göra några uttalanden som binder rättssystemet på något sätt. Då skulle jag bryta mot den svenska grundlagen.

Previously, Bild said during an [interview in Belgrade](#):

Sweden has “independent judiciary, guaranteed by law,” and that “political authorities do not influence its work”

[10] Oliver Gee, “[Assange ‘guarantees’ spark Amnesty spat](#)”. The Local, 28 Sept 2012.

[11] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden’s argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the U.S.](#)” The Indicter, 20 Feb 2016.

[12] [Amnesty Press](#), 2016, N° 1, page 28.

[13] Statement posted by Researchgruppen at [research.nu](#), 1 March 2016. Excerpts:

“Following the statements and information Martin Fredriksson has given on his Twitter account on February 28, 2016, Researchgruppen wishes to clarify the following: It came as a shock and complete surprise to us when Martin Fredriksson revealed that he was paid over several years by the Security Police...” “Researchgruppen’s position is that any journalism at all

times must be free from official interference. Therefore, we are strongly critical of Martin Fredriksson's actions, and that he concealed his cooperation with the Security Police for us and everyone else.”

[14] M Ferrada de Noli, [Swedish Section of Amnesty International voted to reject human-right actions on cases Assange, Snowden and tortured Palestinian children](#). The Professors' Blogg, 11 May 2014.

[15] Leif Elinder, [A democratic Swedish “Amnesty International” should support whistleblowers](#). The Professors' Blog, 8 May 2014.

[16] [Ett ljus som har brunnit i 50 år](#). Amnesty Press, 1 June 2011

[17] Anna Widestam. [Amnestyfonden](#). Amnesty Historia – fondens historia.

[18] Ulf B Andersson, [Amnesty i Sverige : Är krisen i Amnesty över?](#) Amnesty Press, 2 March 2013.

[19] SWEDHR: [Foundation Manifest](#) of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights.

## Paid agent of Swedish security services implicated in second disinformation campaign against Assange

In the above section of this series on Amnesty Sweden in the Assange case, [1] I exposed that a former paid agent of Sweden's Security Police had intervened with Amnesty Sweden (the Swedish section of Amnesty International), directly dictating its negative stance towards Julian Assange.

In this section I analyse whether Swedish government security agents, or 'former agents', have been further involved in a disinformation campaign against the founder of WikiLeaks and its whistleblower publishing. An important source here is the activity of *Researchgruppen*, the journalist-collective organization led by Martin Fredriksson, a former paid agent of the Swedish Security Police – or, as it's better known by its Swedish acronym, SÄPO. [2]

*Researchgruppen* is an organization founded by Martin Fredriksson and others in 2010 (while he was still a paid agent of SÄPO) that claims to target extreme right-wing or right-conservative parties, organizations that, however, all share a staunch opposition to the incorporation of Sweden into NATO. *Researchgruppen* has also received support and assignments from *Expressen*, [5] one of the main Swedish evening newspapers, well-known for leading an earlier campaign against WikiLeaks and Assange on behalf of the previous Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt. [6]

The funding of *Researchgruppen* is secret as it is registered as part of *Seppuku Media Ekonomisk Förening*, whose nominal owner is Martin Fredriksson [7]. This company was founded in 2007 at a

time when Martin Fredriksson was working as an agent for SÄPO. [4] Fredriksson's *Researchgruppen*, now led by Mathias Wåg, runs a broadcasting program called "My Special Interests" (*Mina Specialintressen*). [8]

The *My Special Interests* programs are podcasts in which the ex-SÄPO agent and guests – occasionally including other collaborators working as SÄPO agents, besides Fredriksson – share opinions on topics built around the political and geopolitical stances of *Researchgruppen*. Many of these stances are, in fact, very similar to the views held by prominent Swedish politicians who have been exposed by WikiLeaks as having provided information to US intelligence services, such as in the case of former Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt. [9]

A prominent characteristic of the podcasts is their harsh criticism of Julian Assange, combined with a fierce anti-Russian bias – particularly targeting Russia's president Vladimir Putin. The podcasts – so far 22 programs have been produced – are each about one hour long. I have therefore randomised a sample, which gave the following findings.

## An 'influential agent' working for Russia?

In the podcast N°15, *Crossfit*, Martin Fredriksson asks the interviewee 'Marlene' – completely out of the blue while she is talking about her interest in a TV series – whether she is also interested in the Assange case. Without waiting for her reply, Fredriksson says, repeatedly, "Assange is a clown" and adds "Assange has worked very hard to lower his credibility, successively and systematically". The woman finally responds: "What I think of Assange is, first it was up, like the sun, and then down, flat as a pancake. He was idealised. Then came the rape charges [sic] and that he refused to come to Sweden; he fell like a..."

The main guest in the podcast N° 16, *The spy that came from the cold*, is Joakim von Braun, another agent previously working at SÄPO according to the description in the program presentation. [10] Other sources indicate that he also worked at the [Office for Special Collection](#), a spy agency which is part of the Swedish [Military Intelligence and Security Service](#) (MUST, Militära underrättelse- och säkerhetstjänsten) and “one of the most secret parts of the [Swedish Armed Forces](#).” [11] Von Braun is a founder of the organization Sweden's Eye and Ear (*Föreningen Sveriges Öga och Öra*). [12]

In this program Martin Fredriksson compares Julian Assange to the Swedish Nazi leader Marc Abramsson [13] and asks the podcast's guest interviewee how the appearances of Assange and Abramsson on Russian media channels fit into “Russia's media strategy”. To which the SÄPO spy Von Braun replies:

“They have always been clever on that, I mean, KGB has always worked with social disinformation, with influential agents.”

“So, what is the definition of an ‘influential agent’?” ex-SÄPO agent Martin Fredriksson asks ex-SÄPO agent Von Braun. The answer:

“The definition of an ‘influential agent’ is a person that acts not only out of their own opinions but on behalf of, for instance, the stances of the Soviet Union or those of Russia.”

The dialogue above occurs against a backdrop of the most blatant propaganda I have ever heard in a Swedish broadcast transmission, perhaps only comparable with the [Swedish Radio program Studio 1](#). [14] Fredriksson maintains, for instance, that Russia did not really help the forces combating Franco during the Spanish Civil War (meaning they provided no real help to the communists, anarchists, partisans and international brigade fighters during the conflict), but only used the War as a testing ground for its arsenal.

In this program statements are made comparing Putin to Mussolini, that “Russia will soon become a ‘absolute totalitarian’ dictatorship”,

that “Russia just wants to recover its old Tsarist prestige”, and other comments that the Swedish public is used to hearing or reading from the Swedish Armed Forces, media and politicians who lobby for Sweden’s membership of NATO. “Putin controls all the media apparatus, exclusively, *all* the media apparatus”, says one guest in the *Researchgruppen* podcast. Ex-Military Intelligence agent Joakim Von Braun fills in: “I call him *a dictator*.”

### *Researchgruppen’s anti-Assange campaign on Twitter*

While Martin Fredriksson was CEO at *Researchgruppen* the organization campaigned hard against the WikiLeaks founder using its Twitter account for *ad hominem* attacks. A list of these tweets can be seen in [this link](#).

The account [@researchgruppen](#) issued nearly 100 tweets attacking Wikileaks and Julian Assange over a two-year period.

Similar campaigns in the Swedish mainstream media against Julian Assange and the organization WikiLeaks are described in my book [Sweden vs Assange. Human Rights Issues and Political Background](#)” [15]

## Conclusion

I have followed the Sweden vs Assange case since it started in 2010. The political character of the case against WikiLeaks has become increasingly clear over the years. [16] In 2011, I did research based on Swedish mainstream media references to the case and to Julian Assange in particular.

The results were that, among the articles which referred to Assange’s personal character or clearly implied features of his personality (40 per cent of the total articles), far more articles (72 per cent) did so by using hostile, detrimental or aggressive terms, in contrast to articles using positive terms (28 per cent). When

comparing these variables, the statistical analysis showed a ratio of 0.38, pointing to a significant over-representation of negative assessments. [17] This trend has persisted up to the present day. [18]

However, the attacks also came from government sources. In 2013, the international forum was shocked by Australian Senator Scott Ludlam's listing of direct interventions in the Assange case made by high Swedish government officials (including the Prime Minister, Fredrik Reinfeldt). [19]

Here in Sweden, I was myself taken aback at the force of the *ad hominem* attacks against Assange by representatives of the Swedish Armed Forces openly supportive of NATO. [20]

All these *ad hominem* attacks, to which can now be added those from organizations under the control of 'ex-agents' paid by Sweden's Security Police such as *Researchgruppen* in the case of Martin Fredriksson, were often made in contexts which had barely any direct relevance to the legal case.

Julian Assange has now received the support of the UN Human Rights Council, and more recently, the support of 500 prominent rights organizations and world intellectuals, including 60 professors and four Nobel-prize winners. [21]

## Notes and References

[1] "[Former paid agent of Swedish Security Police dictated Amnesty Sweden's stance against Assange](#)", *The Indicter*, 6 March 2016. Retrieved 12 March 2016.

[2] "SÄPO" stands for *Säkerhets Polisen* [Sweden's Security Police]. [Website](#).

It is difficult to assess the time period during which SÄPO-paid agents have intervened in the Assange case, partly because an intelligence agency naturally refuses to give out information on its

clandestine operations and agents, and partly because the information given by SÄPO ex-agents themselves does not exactly match other available sources. For example, there is a mismatch between a recent *Researchgruppen* statement [Reference 13 in [Part 1 article here](#)] and 'ex agent' Fredriksson's [public declaration](#) about the period in which he was active in SÄPO.

[3] See reference 13 in above-cited article in *The Indicter*.

[4] See previous section in this chapter.

[5] [Researchgruppen – Wikipedia](#)

[6] This campaign was exposed by *The Professors' Blog* in the series "[Anatomy of an untruthful scoop: Sweden's psychological warfare against WikiLeaks](#)" (Part One) and "[Plan Z: Sweden's latest chauvinist anti-WikiLeaks campaign in the Swedish media](#)" (Part Two).

[7] *Seppuku Media Ekonomisk Förening*, [described here](#). And accounting whereabouts are [here](#).

*The Local* reports that Martin Fredriksson – interviewed in his role of publisher of *Researchgruppen* (ansvarig utgivare) – "was unable to provide any concrete figures on the costs of the operation." In "[The Swedish group that blew the lid on hateful online comments](#)", *The Local*, 12 Dec 2013.

[8] [Mina Specialintressen](#), *Researchgruppen* podcast.

It is difficult to assess when the programs were originally broadcast because the dates for all podcasts' releases are given as 10/11/2015.



[9] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Carl Bildt, US secret information-officer, according to document released by WikiLeaks](#)“, *The Professors' Blog*, 15 June 2014.

[10] Wikipedia article, [Kontoret för särskild inhämtning](#).

[11] Wikipedia article on [Joakim von Braun](#) [Swedish]. Retrieved 11 March 2016.

[Wikipedia article](#) on the ‘Office for Special Collection’. Retrieved 12 March 2016.

[12] [Föreningen Sveriges Öga och Öra](#). Retrieved 12 March 2016.

[13] Marc Abramsson was the leader of the National Democrats, a now-dissolved Swedish Nazi political party.

[14] M Ferrada de Noli, [MH 17. The facts and the libel](#), *The Professors' Blog*, 5 August 2015.

[15] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden vs. Assange. Human Rights Issues & Political Background](#)”, Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014 and 2016. 342 pages, free download PDF.

[16] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Political facts behind the Swedish case VS. Assange](#)“, *The Indicter*, 15 December 2015.

[17] M Ferrada de Noli, [Does Sweden Inflict Trial by Media against Assange?](#), *The Professors' Blog*, 20 February 2011.

[18] M Ferrada de Noli, *NewsVoice*,

[19] “[Importantes denuncias del Senador Ludlam sobre el caso Assange](#)“, *The Professors' Blog*, 20 January 2013.

[20] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden's FOI publicly slandering Assange & WikiLeaks while in secret help building missile factory](#)

[for Saudi Arabia dictatorship](#)”, *The Professors’ Blog*, 6 March 2012.

[21] See list of supporters at

[“Julian Assange: 600+ Rights Groups and Individuals Condemn UK and Sweden for Failing to Recognize UN Arbitrary Detention Finding”](#), *andyworthington.co.uk*. Retrieved 2 March 2016.

## Amnesty Sweden rather defends the 'rights' of the government than the human rights

The Swedish section of Amnesty International – a Swedish NGO partially financed by the Swedish government [1-3] – issued a statement 14 March 2016, restating their stance on the Assange case. In it they assert, “Sweden is a *Rechtsstaat* who respects its international obligations.” [4] It is an odd statement, considering that Sweden has just refused to respect the UNGWAD ruling on Mr Julian Assange, which is based on a variety of international conventions in which Sweden is a signatory state. [5]

The Swedish section of Amnesty International – a Swedish NGO partially financed by the Swedish government [1-3] – issued a statement 14 March 2016, restating their stance on the Assange case. In it they assert, “Sweden is a *Rechtsstaat* who respects its international obligations.” [4] It is an odd statement, considering that Sweden has just refused to respect the UNGWAD ruling on Mr Julian Assange, which is based on a variety of international conventions in which Sweden is a signatory state. [5]

The statement also exhibits a central contradiction of terms: On the one hand, it advises the Swedish and UK government to comply with the above mentioned UNWGAD ruling – which calls for the release of Mr Julian Assange and the ending of the Swedish EAW against him, while on the other hand, their statement insists that the Swedish prosecutor's investigation against Assange must continue and be completed. In other words, the arrest order would still persist. [6]

The statement starts by implicitly referring to an article that the chairman of the Swedish Doctors for Human Rights published in [The Indicter](#) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 [6], denouncing a series of anomalies committed by the Swedish section of Amnesty International. These irregularities have consisted in stances deviating – or in blunt opposition to those by the parent organization, Amnesty International based in London. [7]



The initial text from the image above, corresponding to the document “Statement on Julian Assange and the Swedish investigation”, states:

“The Swedish section of Amnesty International does not stand behind the formulations of the organization [the parental organization Amnesty International based in London] about the

issue of [non-extradition] guarantees. The Swedish section does not consider it is appropriate, neither possible, to call on the Swedish government to demand the issuing of guarantees that Assange will not be extradited to the U.S.”



Among these several inconsistencies, the article in *The Indicter* emphasized the position that the Swedish section of Amnesty International (hereafter referred as Amnesty Sweden) took in 2012, *which they still maintain*, regarding the negation of guarantees against extradition to the U.S. that the parental organization Amnesty International advocated to the Swedish government on behalf of Mr Julian Assange. [8]

Our conclusive assessments in the above-mentioned article, which we stand behind fully, are as follows:

1. That a former agent paid by the Swedish secret services, Mr Martin Fredriksson, “was significantly involved in the government’s efforts to ensure that the Swedish section of Amnesty International would not advocate for the Swedish government to issue guarantees against the onward extradition of Julian Assange to the US, as called for by Amnesty International, Amnesty Sweden’s parent organization headquartered in London.”
2. That the declarations made in *The Local* on 28 September 2012 by the representative of Amnesty Sweden, Mr

Bobby Vellucci, were *nearly identical* to both a) the message sent previously to Amnesty Sweden by the above mentioned ex-government agent, [9] and b) to remarks on the issue made in an interview just weeks before by the Swedish Foreign Minister at the time, Mr Carl Bildt. [10]

3. That in his declarations made in The Local on behalf of Amnesty Sweden, Mr Bobby Vellucci had blatantly misinformed the public by stating that an “investigation of the charges” against Mr Assange would proceed. [11] The facts: Mr Julian Assange has never been charged of any crime across any investigation conducted in Sweden.

However, instead of addressing the fact-based criticism above, or the rest of issues exposed in our article, the [Amnesty Sweden statement](#) released 14 September 2016, [12] discredits the statements of SWEDHR in my article in *The Indicter* as “pure nonsense”, and bases such an assertion by exclusively using a *straw man fallacy*: the only argument in the statement against our article refers to something we never said. Amnesty Sweden argues that their email reply to Martin Fredriksson was no different than replies given to “others” on the same issue. However, we never mentioned Amnesty Sweden’s email reply to Fredriksson. Besides, Amnesty Sweden failed to show who would the “others” have been that were “questioning” the same issue as Fredriksson.

Further, Martin Fredriksson was in the main not putting a question to Amnesty Sweden on the non-extradition guarantees. The conclusive remarks to Amnesty Sweden put forward by Fredriksson in his email were placed in *imperative* form. The ex-Swedish security services agent was not in the main questioning something; he was *dictating* something. Fredriksson concluded his message of 27 September 2012 to Amnesty Sweden, in his request that they should not abide by the “incorrect” position of the parent organization

Amnesty International on the issue of non-extradition guarantees for Assange:

“I do not understand how you shall have any credibility regarding the (Swedish) rule of law if you do not correct this.” [13] No interrogation mark here.

Whether Amnesty Sweden took the same stance dictated by Fredriksson by pure ‘coincidence’ of opinion, or by pure ‘coincidence’ with the official position of the Swedish government, or by their own conviction, is less relevant. That the government has been trying to influence on the case has been well established since long ago. [14] Here, the central issue is that the position Amnesty Sweden took on the non-extradition guarantees was not only unfair regarding the protection of Julian Assange’s human rights, but was also in direct contravention to the stance that Amnesty International, the parent organization has had and still has on this issue.

Amnesty Sweden gives to the international forum the impression of preferring to defend the rights of the government rather than the human rights.



## Notes and References

[1] [Ett ljus som har brunnit i 50 år](#). Amnesty Press, 1 June 2011

[2] Anna Widestam. [Amnestyfonden](#). Amnesty Historia – fondens historia.

[3] Ulf B Andersson, [Amnesty i Sverige : Är krisen i Amnesty över?](#) Amnesty Press, 2 March 2013.

[4] “Amnesty Sverige anser att Sverige är en rättsstat som respekterar sina internationella förpliktelser”

[5] M Ferrada de Noli, [UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights says that the arresting of Mr Julian Assange can & should be put to an end.](#) *The Indicter*, 15 December 2015.

[6] “När det gäller FN-gruppen som kom fram till att Assange är godtyckligt frihetsberövad (FN:s expertgrupp för godtyckliga frihetsberövanden) anser Amnesty att både Sverige och Storbritannien bör göra det de kan för att se till att länderna rättar dig efter det FN kommit fram till – *men att brottsanklagelserna om våldtäkt måste få utredas.*”

See M Ferrada de Noli, [Statement by Swedish Doctors for Human Rights on Sweden's rejection of UN ruling ref. arbitrary detention of Mr Julian Assange](#)

[7] M Ferrada de Noli, [Sweden's argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the U.S.](#) *The Indicter*, 20 Feb 2016.

[8] Amnesty International, headquarters based in London: [“Sweden should issue assurance it won't extradite Assange to USA”](#), 27 Sept 2012.

[9] Oliver Gee, [“Assange ‘guarantees’ spark Amnesty spat”](#). *The Local*, 28 Sept 2012.

[10] Carl Bildt, then Sweden's foreign minister, [declared in DN](#) 19 August 2012:

– Rättssystemet i Sverige är oberoende. Jag kan inte göra några uttalanden som binder rättssystemet på något sätt. Då skulle jag bryta mot den svenska grundlagen.

Previously, Bildt said during an [interview in Belgrade](#):



Sweden has “independent judiciary, guaranteed by law,” and that “political authorities do not influence its work”

[11] “Förstår inte hur ni ska kunna ha någon trovärdighet när det gäller rättssäkerhet *om ni inte rättar till detta.*” Observation put forward by Nickelodion in the [Swedish debate forum Flashback](#).

[12] [Amnesty Sweden statement](#) released 14 September 2016.

[13] “Förstår inte hur ni ska kunna ha någon trovärdighet när det gällert rättssäkerhet *om ni inte rättar till detta.*” Observation put forward by Nickelodion in the [Swedish debate forum Flashback](#), 14 September 2016.

[14] M Ferrada de Noli, [Open Letter To The Prosecutor-General Of Sweden](#). *The Professors' Blog*, 4 February 2014.

## SWEDHR on role of Amnesty Sweden in the Assange Case. Interview

By SWEDHR staff

Journalist Eric Sandberg, KILTR, Scotland, interviewed the Chairman of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR), Professor Marcello Ferrada de Noli. The subject of the interview being the Swedish case vs Assange, and the debate with Amnesty Sweden held recently by SWEDHR and The Indicter Magazine. The interview was conducted from Scotland with Skype connection to Sweden on the 17 of March.

KILTR had prior the interview also asked Amnesty Sweden and the Swedish government for statements on The Indicter article-series. The government replied mailing a document containing the official statement of Sweden on the UNWGAD ruling ref. the arbitrary detention of Julian Assange. For its part, Amnesty sent a comment on the article in The Indicter.

In rebutting the position of the government and that of the Swedish prosecutors, the professor put forward the essential criticism about the management of the case, which he characterized as having a political content. At this same occasion, Ferrada de Noli rebutted thoroughly the terms against The Indicter. He restated that the SWEDHR criticism was purely based on facts and that both the statement of Amnesty Sweden (16 April) and the comment sent to KILTR avoided to meet the real criticism raised by the article series in the Indicter.

*IndependenceLive* also uploaded in YouTube the interview in its original, live-version; but it is given here in a shorter edition containing only the main statements.

*SWEDHR Research and Reports* publishes here a summary with the content of the replies to principal questions in the interview. This summary reflects the main contents of the statements in the interview and it should not be tenable as a transcription. The interview can be watched [here](#).



Professor Marcello Ferrada de Noli rebutting Amnesty Sweden pro-government stance in #Assange case

[Questions by KILTR; answers Marcello Ferrada de Noli -MFdN]:

–*KILTR: Do you think that the Swedish prosecutors have failed the women in this case?*

–MFdN: Well, insofar the Swedish prosecutors have failed in carry forward the investigation of this case; naturally they have failed the women too. But above all, they have failed Sweden and its international prestige as a decent country where the rule of law has been considered being paramount.

The Swedish prosecutor in the case had consequently missed opportunity after opportunity to implement the interrogation of Assange.

Firstly, while he was still in Swedish territory; he was not interrogated then;

Second, when Mr Julian Assange himself approached in person the British police about the European Arresting Warrant issued by the Swedish prosecutor, he was held a full week, incommunicado. There could have the prosecutor have interrogated Assange, unstoppable. What problem she could have had to do so? I mean, the prosecutor had Assange there, in isolation cell, and heavily guarded in a secure imprisonment facility; she had him in, sort to say, trapped in an “inescapable” situation. Why the prosecutor did not carry on her work?

Lastly, as associate professor Brita Sundberg-Weitman has mentioned recently, why the prosecutor did not interrogate Assange in any of the 550 days that passed between the above and the opportunity he sought political asylum in the Ecuador embassy?

*–KILTR: Would Mr. Assange really receive a fair trial in Sweden if he was to travel there?*

–MFdN. In the first place there is no indication that a trial would ever exist against Julian Assange in Sweden based on the allegations that the media has put forward. And do observe that it is the media that – in the best of cases – insists on “accusations of rape”; while some others outlets in the Western media persist in repeating the disinformation, “Assange is *charged*” for this and that.

Secondly, it seems to be a consensus in Sweden, including in juridical circles, that the “case against Assange” – still under prosecutor’s investigation after over five years – will never make it to court because it lacks of any substantial ground. For example, that was the message delivered by the former Minister of Justice Mr

Thomas Bodström in declarations to the Swedish TV after the UNWGAD ruling became known. He also meant that Swedish courts are not under UN jurisdiction.

–KILTR: With regard to [your article dated 6th March in the Indicter](#), that a Former paid agent of Swedish Security Police dictated Amnesty Sweden's stance against Assange the response I received from Amnesty Sweden was:

*“the claim in the article is complete nonsense and without any substance. No individual external to Amnesty International have had any influence on our policy whatsoever – the accusations made entirely misrepresent our policy-making process.”*

–MFdN: It is true the article's title referred that a former paid agent of Swedish Security services dictated Amnesty Sweden's about their stance against Assange. But, to the best of my knowledge, to dictate means, in English, to give instructions, or to request.

And that it was exactly what Mr Martin Fredriksson – the ex-informant paid by the Security services did in his communication with Amnesty. That is all what we said.

Then, we also remarked in the article that the declarations made the day after by the representative of Amnesty Sweden to the news outlet The Local were in consistence with both what the ex-agent has requested in his email to Amnesty, and the position held by the Foreign Minister Carl Bildt some weeks ago that occasion, on the same issue.

If that was a “coincidence”, if the fact that what Amnesty said is exactly what the agent requested, what the government was requesting, if all that is a pure coincidence...Well that is to reader to assess.

We don't back on the statement on the article regarding to what was requested by the ex-agent to Amnesty.

Further, that is not the central issue here. The central issue is not about who talks or not with Amnesty, or whatever coincidence. The central issue is what is in fact the output of their “decision-policy making process”.

The central issue is 1) that the position of Amnesty Sweden, in our opinion, infringes the human rights of the arbitrarily detained Julian Assange –for the full implementation of his political asylum. 2) A central issue is also that the Swedish section of Amnesty International is in frank contravention with the parent organization Amnesty International based in London.

And let me add something here. Please notice that there in that particular article I am signing on behalf of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights. Well, most members in this organization, particularly the board of directors are professors or doctors in a variety of fields.

We therefore share a common, basic methodological approach: we do not judge after the only *one time occurrence* of only one symptom. Any person, or any organization may once have incur a less fortunate statement, once. But this is not an assessment based on one episode. As we said in our profession, is a series of similar episodes what it constitutes behaviour.

The episode that Amnesty now is trying to explain occurred in September 2012, but in 2014 they repeat the same hostile stance against the human rights of Julian Assange. And, by the way, also against Edward Snowden.

Amnesty Sweden says –as you told me here now– that we are misrepresenting their policy-making process. We are not. That [which I referred] happened in the middle of their policy-making process, in their annual conference.

The leadership of Amnesty Sweden opposed a proposition from the ranks to initiate a human activity on behalf of Edward Snowden and Julian Assange.

An now again, in this statement they produced on the 16 of March, they repeat the same position, which is the [Swedish] government's positions, that the prosecutor has to carry on with this remarkable so-called investigation against Mr Assange – in spite that the UNWGAD has clearly ruled that Mr Assange shall be released – and that he is even entitled to compensation from Sweden.

How could Amnesty Sweden possibly deny their support to the Swedish government official stances in the case Assange? They do this no matter the high embarrassment that it entails. For instance, in their last statement of 16 March they say “Sweden is a *state under the rule of law* who respects its international obligations.”

And they say *that*, precisely after Sweden has received substantial international criticism for refusing to respect the UNGWAD ruling on Assange.

They [Amnesty] say “Sweden respects its international obligations”, but everybody knows at this stage that those decisions taken by the UN body were based on international conventions signed by Sweden, for instance the International Declarations of Human Rights or the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights.

The statement of Amnesty Sweden of 16 March also exhibits, as we said, a central contradiction of terms: On the one hand hopes that the UK and Swedish governments would “find the way” to comply with the UNWGAD ruling on Assange. But this ruling calls unequivocally for the release of Mr Julian Assange, the ending of the applicability in this case of the EAW issued by the Swedish prosecutor.

Well, The statement of Amnesty Sweden of March 2016 insists on the same stance of the one in September 2012: that the prosecutor's investigation against Assange should be completed. But this means that such an arrest, or similar, would continue to be under enforcement. And that is the opposite of what the UNWGAD is saying in their conclusion. Where is Assange's freedom here?



## Swedish Section of Amnesty International voted to reject human-right actions on cases Assange, Snowden and tortured Palestinian children

Corresponding perfectly to the paradigm shift in the Swedish government's geopolitics from “Neutrality” to blunt US-NATO subservience, Amnesty International Sweden ceased of being a critical human rights organization – to be converted in yet another Swedish vassal institution aimed to the implementation of the US government's agenda. It is imperative for the worldwide credibility of Amnesty International to act promptly and clarify their stance regarding the Swedish Section.

And one more question: How come that after so many years still whistle-blower Chelsea Manning is not recognized by Amnesty Sweden as *Prisoner of Conscience* in the US, while they took only a couple of weeks to declare “Pussy riot” *Prisoner of Conscience* in Russia?


Recently in 2019, it was known that Amnesty International neither accepted to recognize Julian Assange as prisoner of conscience.

This report is followed by an interview with Dr Leif Elinder on the events at the Amnesty annual meeting in Malmö.


NOTE: A background on the situation at Amnesty Sweden with regard to the issues here below, is found in the article by Dr Leif Elinder, “[A democratic Swedish ‘Amnesty International’ should support whistleblowers](#)”.

The annual convention of Amnesty-International Sweden ended today in Malmö with the voting by the delegates on what Amnesty’s actions shall be for the future. There, the Board of directors of Amnesty International Sweden presented as “main proposals”:

That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for that the Swedish government gives guarantees that [Julian Assange](#) will not be extradited to the US.

1.5 Angående motion om Julian Assange från årsmötet 2013		[73]
Huvudförslag:		[68]
att avslå motionen.		
Andra förslag:		
1. att Svenska Amnestysektionen verkar för att Sveriges regering lämnar garantier som förhindrar att Julian Assange utlämnas till USA.		[4]
2. att 2013 års motion om garantier mot en utlämning av Julian Assange blir föremål för en förnyad omröstning. (UF)		[1]
<b>1.5 Regarding the proposal on Julian Assange at the 2013 annual-meeting</b>		<b>[73]</b>
<b>The Board's main proposal:</b>		
<b>To reject the (following) proposals:</b>		
1. That the Swedish Section of Amnesty International works towards the Swedish government to grant guarantees preventing Assange being extradited to the US.		[4]
2. That the proposal on guarantees against an extradition of Assange, presented at the 2013 year-meeting, be considered for a new voting. (UF)		[1]

That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for that the Swedish government grants asylum to [Edward Snowden](#).

2.2 Stöd till Edward Snowden	[66]	 <b>2.2 Support to Edward Snowden [66]</b>  <b>The Board's main proposal:</b>  <b>To reject the (following) proposal: [56]</b>  <i>That Amnesty actively works for that Sweden grants asylum to Edward Snowden [10]</i>
Huvudförslag:		
att avslå motionen.	[56]	
Andra förslag:		
att svenska Amnesty aktivt verkar för att Sverige erbjuder Edward Snowden politisk asyl. (UF)	[10]	

That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots of making compulsory to the Amnesty-Sweden Board to implement a campaign for the liberation of **all prisoners at Guantanamo** who cannot be convicted in a civilian court.

That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for that the responsible of the **war-crimes in Gaza** be taken to the International Court of Justice, ICJ.

That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for denouncing the mistreatment and **tortures of Palestine children detained** at the Israeli legal system.

The Board presented as well other proposals that were approved by the delegates, such as a variety of economic details regarding remuneration for the members of the board of Amnesty International Sweden:

**2.7 Motion gällande krigsbrott i Gaza**

**Huvudförslag:**

att avslå motionen

**Andra förslag:**

att svenska Amnesty tar initiativ till att få de ansvariga för krigsförbrytelserna i Gaza ställda till svars inför den Internationella Brottmålsdomstolen (ICC) i Haag. (UF)

**Samtalsledarens kommentar:**

Inga övriga förslag utöver UF och styrelsens yttrande las.

**2.7 Board's main proposal on war crimes in Gaza** [66]

• That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for that the responsible of the **war-crimes in Gaza** be taken to the International Court of Justice, ICJ. [59]

**2.8 Motion gällande tortyr av fängslade palestinska barn**

**Huvudförslag:**

att avslå motionen

**Andra förslag:**

att svenska Amnesty, om möjligt tillsammans med Amnesty International, under kommande år aktivt och specifikt kommunicerar frågan om misshandel och tortyr av palestinska barn inom det israeliska rättssystemet med berörda parter, och - i den händelse en process inte omedelbart inleds för att åtgärda situationen - utreder möjligheten att agera juridiskt eller på annat sätt för att få slut på missförhållandena. (UF)

**Samtalsledarens kommentar:**

Inga övriga förslag utöver UF och styrelsens yttrande las.

**2.8 The Board's main proposal regarding torture of detained Palestine children** [66]

• That the delegates reject initiatives by the grass-roots asking Amnesty-Sweden to work for denouncing the mistreatment and **tortures of Palestine children detained** at the Israeli legal system. [59]

*The board's proposals above won with a clear majority of votes from the delegates.*

**2.1 Motion om arvodering av ledamöter i sektionsstyrelsen** [85]

**Huvudförslag:**

att arvoda alla ledamöter i sektionsstyrelsen med:

- 5 % av inkomstbasbeloppet för styrelseledamöter inklusive suppleanter;
- 10 % av inkomstbasbeloppet för vice ordförande och kassör; och
- 15 % av inkomstbasbeloppet för sektionsstyrelsens ordförande.

Om en ledamot väljer att nyttja denna möjlighet avsäger hen sig möjligheten till ersättning för förlorad arbetsinkomst. (UF alt. A) [35]

## Interview with Dr. Leif Elinder



*Photo above: Professors' Blog [TPB} interviewing Dr Leif Elinder [LE] at the Grand Hotel in Lund, after the grass-roots' setback in the remarkably Amnesty Sweden meeting in Malmö. Dr Elinder has pioneered proposals at Amnesty on the issues of Assange, Snowden, and the Guantanamo prisoners since long. Leif Elinder is a renowned Swedish doctor in paediatric medicine and a human-rights advocate, and he has also intervened in vital scientific research debates.*

TPB – The position of Amnesty-Sweden's board members was known already, through your op-ed published by us, and in Swedish by Prof. Anders Rommesjö on [Jinge.se](https://www.jinge.se). So I will ask you about the

rest of the delegates, how come that the majority of delegates voted against your proposals on this variety of human-rights issues?

LE – My impression is that the delegates in general, the members of the board included, have only a precarious background-knowledge on the cases of, for instance, Assange and Snowden.

TPB – But didn't you have the possibility of explain to the delegates the reasons for your proposals, for instance the updates received since the last vote in 2013 on the situation for Assange in the US?

LE – Those possibilities were yet limited. As I explained in my [op-ed](#) the board changed the procedures by which the proposal-authors could reach the rest of the delegates. To star with, we were scattered in various “opinion-stations” in which we as proposal-authors could elaborate some arguments, but they were operating “simultaneously”, and also picked up by the delegates in voluntary basis; in other words it was clear tat the message would not reach the delegates as a whole.

Another aspect is that when we finally had the voting today, which happened with all the delegates being present, we (the authors of the respective proposals) were given *only two minutes* to state our cause. I mean, we were expected to manage in those two minutes, both explaining why the delegates should vote for our proposals, and explaining our criticism to the respective contra-proposal by the board of directors.

TPB – Would you please give me the exact results, the vote-counting, for each of the grass-roots' proposals rejected after the board's suggestions?

LE – No, I can't, because the numbers were not given. The “moderator” just asked the delegates to raise one arm as to whether they agree or not with the proposals. That was all. One could see thou that the board proposals – opposing our proposals – had majority.

TPB – You mean the vote was not secret?

LE – It was not secret.

TPB – Well, I guess I could sum up with what you wrote in your op-ed, let me see, “The loser is not just a single proposal from an individual delegate, but also the democratic process as such.”

LE – Yes

TPB – Finally, may I ask you, what is the feeling you have about all this, about what happened at the Amnesty meeting?

LE – The worst is that they, the board, they lied to the delegates about their stance on guarantees of no-extradition for Assange. In the previous discussions they affirmed that a guarantee against extradition it would constitute a breach of the Constitution, “a crime against the Constitution” (*“brott mot grundlagen”*). That was a strong argument, and a false argument, that convinced many delegates for not support our proposal on behalf of the human rights of Assange. But now the board is taking distance from that statement, and affirm that what they really meant it was, “it could be hypothetically that way”.

TPB – Hypothetically? Excuse me, but this new statement from the board seems even worse than the previous one. If it is true that they believed only “hypothetically” it could result in a “crime against the Constitution”, well it is the same than to say that “hypothetically” it was not any crime at all. In either case they were obliged to search for an unequivocal juridical statement before plainly rejecting a proposal based on ignorance, or on that “they did not know what it could happen”.



# Psychological Torture of Assange – Open Letter to Amnesty International Sweden by Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR)



To: Ms Amanda Jackson, Chair of the Board at Amnesty International Sweden.

CC: Ms Margot Wallström, Swedish Foreign Minister; Prof Nils Melzer, UNHRC.

From: Prof Marcello Ferrada de Noli, chair; Prof Anders Romelsjö, vice-chair, SWEDHR.

Subject: Psychological torture of Julian Assange.

Enclosures: Prof Nils Melzer's report and follow-up letter.

Dear Madam Chairman,

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted in its 34th session a resolution which extended the mandate of Professor Nils Melzer as the *Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment*, for a further period of three years. [1]

Nils Melzer is Professor of International Law at Glasgow University, and Human Rights Chair at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Switzerland. Formerly,



Legal Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In exercising this mandate from the United Nations Human Rights Council, Prof Melzer has thoroughly examined the situation of Mr Julian Assange, and concluded in his report that “Mr. Assange has been, and currently still is, exposed to progressively severe pain and suffering, inflicted through various forms and degrees of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the cumulative effects of which clearly amount to psychological torture.” [2]

It is worth mentioning that, among other tasks specified in the UNHRC mandate, the Special Rapporteur was assigned with:

“To seek, receive, examine and act on information from Governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, individuals and groups of individuals regarding issues and alleged cases concerning torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;” and

“To continue to cooperate with the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and relevant United Nations mechanisms and bodies and, as appropriate, regional organizations and mechanisms, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and to contribute to the promotion of strengthened cooperation among the above-mentioned actors.” [1]

It is within the afore mentioned framework that our organization SWEDHR has recently received a copy of the Special Rapporteur's documents which are conveyed here. In our last retrieval of human rights materials published/republished and/or commented by Amnesty International Sweden public site, [3] we have failed to find mention of the reports by Prof Melzer. We have found it neither at the Swedish Foreign Ministry nor at Swedish Prosecutor sites.

We have instead found the recent statements published by your office, in which “Amnesty International Sweden welcomes prosecutor Eva-Marie Persson’s decision to reopen the preliminary investigation on rape”, [4] and where your organization’s most recent update emphasizes, “Amnesty International Sweden does not consider Julian Assange a political prisoner” [4]. Mr Julian Assange is currently detained in the *high-security Belmarsh Prison in London*, pending extradition hearings at the bequest of the U.S. government in charges related to WikiLeaks’ exposures of war crimes.

We hereby send over the full Melzer Report on the Assange investigation. We would like to draw attention to one main conclusion by Prof Nils Melzer, which states,

“In reality, as far as the alleged incident of rape is concerned, there are no allegations by the concerned woman or other indications of coercive or incapacitating circumstances suggesting lack of consent, as would be required for a finding of rape. Moreover, the evidence submitted by the second woman in support of the alleged incident of sexual assault other than rape consists of a condom, supposedly worn and torn during intercourse with Assange, which was found to carry no DNA of either Assange or the concerned woman.” [5]

We would like to ask Amnesty International Sweden for a comment on the report referring psychological torture of Julian Assange, and to help spreading these important attached documents of the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Sincerely,

Professor emeritus, med dr Marcello Ferrada de Noli, chair,

Professor emeritus, med dr Anders Romelsjö, vice-chair,

Swedish Doctors for Human Rights –SWEDHR.

## Notes and References:

[1] [“United Nations Human Rights Council adopted in its 34th session, March 24, 2017. “Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 24 March 2017, 34/19. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: mandate of the Special Rapporteur”](#). 27th meeting.

[2] Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
REFERENCE: UA SWE 2/2019. See document in Enclosures, down below.

[3] Amnesty International Sweden / [Amnesty International Sverige](#).

[4] [”Svenska sektionen av Amnesty International om Julian Assange”](#). Updated 3 May 2019.

”Amnesty International välkomnar vice överåklagare Eva-Marie Perssons beslut att återuppta förundersökningen om våldtäkt.”

”Svenska sektionen av Amnesty International anser inte att Julian Assange är en politisk fånge. ”

[5] Follow-up letter to Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment  
REFERENCE: OL SWE 3/2019. See attached document below:

## Enclosures:

[“\[On Julian Assange psychological torture\]. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”](#). This document contains:

A. Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. REFERENCE: UA SWE 2/2019.

B. Follow-up letter to Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. REFERENCE: OL SWE 3/2019.

## Swedish version:

[“Psykologisk tortyr av Assange – Öppet brev till Amnesty International Sweden av Swedish Doctors for Human Rights \(SWEDHR\)”](#). Published in [Global Politics](#), Sweden, 7 August 2019.

## Extradition issues from Sweden

# This is why Sweden continually refused to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange. But Sweden's argument was fallacious and hides its real commitment to the US

## Introduction

It has been nearly six years since Time Magazine acknowledged that the organization founded by Mr Julian Assange, WikiLeaks, “...[could become as important a journalistic tool as the Freedom of Information Act](#).” It is there where the true strategic reasons of the protracted detention of Mr Julian Assange –the WikiLeaks’ CEO and its forerunner– are to be found. Likewise, it would be among the main reasons why the US government would like to keep Mr Assange further detained – why not 30 years in a high security US military prison, just as in the case of Manning.

In fact, the former chairman of the United Nations’ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), the Norwegian jurist Mads Andenas – who worked with the case Assange since the beginning – has recently declared that “[the panel came under considerable political pressure from the US and UK when compiling their report](#).”

Why would the US government put pressure against the release of Mr Assange, if not for the reason they want the Swedish arrest warrant against Julian Assange shall be fulfilled, ergo, that Mr Assange should end under custody of Sweden’s authorities? What

other reason the US is having for this, if not for it would made possible the implementation of the [indictment against Julian Assange](#) and [WikiLeaks](#)? [1] [2]

For the above, the obvious is that Sweden would have to extradite the WikiLeaks founder. However, the Swedish government refuses to give guarantees. For instance, former Foreign Minister Carl Bildt declared to Human-Rights lawyer Jennifer Robinson that Sweden “couldn’t give that guarantee; that it’s a judicial process.” [3]

And against the backdrop that Mr Assange has been called “terrorist” by the Vice President of the US [See down below], [4] it is necessary to clarify once for all what is the record of Sweden with regards to the US on matters of legal and of extra-court extraditions, including renditions.

As seen below, the judge who chaired the committee on Sweden’s extradition-law revealed recently that the “(Swedish) anti-terrorism law gives the government wide discretion”. [5]

Contrary to speculations by Swedish scholars [See my rebuttal to a comment sent by Assoc. Professor Mark Klamberg to The Professor’ Blog] [6] or disinformation spread by a monopoly Swedish press, [7] a fact-based analysis demonstrates that the extradition of Mr Assange by Sweden to the US is not only juridical feasible, but most certain to happen, provided he will be taken to custody in Swedish territory.

Corollary to the juridical (and extra-juridical) feasibility of a prospective extradition of Mr Julian Assange to the U.S. feasible, the analysis shows that Sweden’s stance on the ‘legal impossibility of giving non-extradition guarantees’ is fallacious.

Besides the political motivations and geopolitical interests behind the prosecution of Assange, the request to Sweden from the U.S. government, etc., analysed in my article “[Sweden doesn’t follow U.N., but U.S. – Prosecution of Assange requested by the US,](#)

[Snowden document reveals](#)“, we witness the spectacle of statements on the ‘juridical status’ of the case consistently made by the government representatives – not by the ‘independent’ judiciary or prosecutor carrying out the ‘legal case’.

The above became re-enlighten when the [declarations of the prosecutor Marianne Ny](#) about the UNWGAD-ruling on her arbitrary detention of Assange came *after* the government had issued a statement via the Minister of Interior Affairs Anders Ygeman, [who said](#) among other:

*“I do not think it [the UN-ruling] will affect a possible trial.”* [8]

Prosecutor Ny had then green light to state, consequently:

*“Regarding the (UNWGAD) report that came last week I just can note that it does not change my earlier assessments”* [9]

And in the same fashion that in the previous government Prime Minister Reinfeldt [10] or the Minister of Social Affairs Göran Haglund [11] intervened with ad-hominem declarations against Assange in the middle of the ongoing ‘legal process’, nowadays this interference of the executive power is executed – as we saw above – by the very Minister of Domestic Affairs.

But the verdict against Sweden – and which included particular reference against the prosecutor’s behaviour – by this organ under the UN Human Rights Council on the arbitrary detention of Julian Assange shall have profound consequences for Sweden, internationally.

For it’s not about Assange, it’s about an UN ruling, and it’s about stances on basic human rights established in international conventions on which Sweden is a signatory. Paramount, it is a matter of Sweden’s credibility.



Most recently, the UN- Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner published the document “[UN rights expert urges the UK and Sweden to give good example to the world and implement the Assange ruling](#)” [See excerpt in image below; click to enlarge], where expert Mr. de Zayas messages to Sweden:

*“If a State is truly committed to a philosophy of human rights, it cannot limit the enjoyment of those rights by engaging in narrow pedestrian positivism or invoking technical distinctions or loopholes in an attempt to escape ethical obligations.”*

And it has to do not only with Sweden's credibility-losses as “*Rechtsstaat*” in the minds of key major observers, or at plenty international forums housing the commoners. Such reiteration in infringements against UN ruling will anew confront Sweden with shameful vote-results in its bids to be elected as member of Human-Right international bodies.

Further, it also most likely shall alter the prospective of economic transactions with human-rights aware governments of the Third World. Negative effects on tourism or tourists, including Swedes abroad, will unfortunately also be noticeable.

## Sweden's renditions to the US, and other less known Swedish participation in likewise extraditions

The Swedish behaviour on extraditions matters has been persistent during the latest decade, as Sweden has continued distinguishing itself with violations on the human rights in matters of extraditions.

That was the case of the sanctions for serious violations on the International Ban on Torture after the Swedish government

participation in the CIA operation for the extradition to the two political refugees from Egypt. [12]

Apparently, the previous sanctions from the UN have not stop the anti-human-rights behaviour of key member of the Swedish government.

For instance, and what is less know by the public, Sweden again in 2013 incurred in the same violations; while the former Foreign Minister Carl Bildt was accused of not impeding the extradition in Somalia to the US of yet two other refugees – Swedish citizens – ‘suspected’ of terrorism by the US. This, despite that the Swedish Security Police (SÄPO) had issued an statement to the government, that the two refugees were not consider terrorists in Sweden, and that they were not considered of being of any “terrorist risk”. [13]

In fact, long after Sweden has been sanctioned by the United Nations for Sweden’s transgressions to the international ban of torture (the Egyptian political refugees secretly extradited by Sweden to the CIA, picked up on Swedish territory), [12] Sweden obtained the lowest counting among UN countries in the voting for a seat in the UN Human Rights Council. A fact that it was not properly reported to the Swedish public. [14]

At that time, as it was confided to me by two different ambassadors from African countries, these countries would not easily sign anew commercial treaties for the purchasing of made-in-Sweden products including vehicles and arms.

## Why was the argument of ‘impossibility of non-extradition guarantees’ fallacious?

As means of introductory summary, I will reproducing a recent exchange I had with Judge Krister Thelin on Twitter. His stance on this issue, in my opinion, well summarizes the arguments of the

Swedish government, the mainstream media and ‘the legal establishment’ – which in Sweden is in fact the very same thing when referring to issues of foreign policy (this peculiar Swedish phenomenon of merging consensus is detailed in chapter “The Swedish Media Paradox and The Case Against Assange”, in my book [“Sweden VS Assange – HR issues & Political Background”](#). [15]

Judge Krister Thelin [image above] is a respected figure within the international juridicum; he has been member (2008-2012) of the UN Human Rights Committee.

In 2008 he was judge at the [UN war-crimes tribunal on the former Yugoslavia](#) in Haag. In Sweden, Judge Thelin was Department Secretary of Justice during the government of Reinfeldt/Bildt, and he chaired the committee studying Sweden’s extradition legislation.

## Two different Swedish legislation on extradition?

First, Judge Thelin refutes the notion of a ‘political’ extradition of Assange, since extradition involves the Swedish Supreme Court. However, in further clarification, he mentions the distinction between cases under the “normal” extradition legislation, and cases of the extradition of terrorists.

And when it is about terrorists, the government has “wide discretion”, says Mr Thelin. [5] Meaning, the Swedish government does not need to have any clearance of the extradition upon the courts.

All which raises a key issue, would Sweden regard Assange as ‘terrorists’?

My answer is definitely, yes, most likely. And I base my assumption on the following:

Who decides at the Swedish government if a person is a terrorist, or suspected terrorist, is not Swedish Security Police SÄPO, but the US government.

This was demonstrated in the above-mentioned case of the Somalia extraditions. I will detail on this down below.

Professor Krister Thelin:



*“The reason [why] the [Swedish] government cannot give [non-extradition] guarantees is simply that extradition involves the Supreme Court ruling on the matter”.*

To which I replied:

*“Where was the Supreme Court [ruling] when Justice Minister Thomas Bodström extradited [Egyptian] refugees on CIA orders?”*



Judge Thelin says in his rebuttal that the Egyptians were extradited under the “Terrorist law”, whereas in the Assange case, the issue would be treated under the “Extradition law”, says Thelin:



**Krister Thelin** @KristerThelin · Feb 6

@ProfessorsBlogg Bogus. The Egyptian case was decided under Antiterrorism Law, which gives Govt. wide discretion. Not so, under >  
< The Ordinary Law on Extradition which would apply in JA:s case. Som. hasn't done his home work or is diss. disinformation



**Prof Ferrada de Noli** @ProfessorsBlogg · Feb 6

Dear Judge @KristerThelin Would U pls tell of ANY extradition requested by #US last decade, ever denied by #Sweden?  
#UN4JA #Svpol #Assange



**Prof Ferrada de Noli** @ProfessorsBlogg · Feb 6

.@KristerThelin Since 2000 #Sweden never denied #US any extradition when the individuals were in #Swedish territory  
#UN4JA #Svpol #Assange



**Krister Thelin** @KristerThelin · Feb 6

@ProfessorsBlogg I do not have that info at hand. But know of earlier cases where crime was cons. "political" and request denied as per law.



**Prof Ferrada de Noli** @ProfessorsBlogg · Feb 15

@KristerThelin Thanks, interesting. Would you please date & name examples of such earlier cases you said you know about?



**Krister Thelin** @KristerThelin · Feb 15

@professorsblogg NJA 1982 s. 520, NJA 2008 s. 680 och NJA 2009 s. 557





## The political cases in which Sweden has denied extradition has nothing to do with US-government requests on ‘terrorists’

I have examined the documentation on the cases referred by Krister Thelin in the twitters above, namely the cases “where the crimes were considered ‘political’ and [thus] extradition-request were denied per law”. Thelin referred the cases NJA 1982 s. 520, NJA 2008 s. 680 and NJA 2009 s. 557. However, two of these cases fell under the European Extradition Convention of 1957, which would not allow the extradition for ‘political crimes’.

This convention was also signed by some non-European countries, but not by the US. This means that the legal body shall not hamper an extradition for “political crimes” to the US. The other case refers to an extradition request by Russia, but, in hyper Russophobe Sweden, “dissidents” against the Russian government are per default to be protected. These are not pro-NATO rulers for nothing. And not for nothing has WikiLeaks – the organization founded by Julian Assange – exposed former PM and Foreign Affairs Minister Carl Bildt, accusing him of being a US-government agent.

For my part I have already clarified on this issue of the incumbent extradition of Assange to the US in previous publications. Some excerpts:

(2012) [“The Assange Extradition Case Revisited. Part III of the series Sweden Versus Assange – Insider Analyses”](#):

“Of course the government of Sweden can give such guaranties. Because, even in the eventuality that the legal process ends by granting the extradition (and it will certainly do that if asked by US – see down below), the executive power – the Prime Minister and its government – have the full possibility of exercising veto on such decision.”

In other words, it is fully possible for the Swedish government to give guaranties expressing it in this fashion, for instance: “in case the extradition would be approved by the legal system, the Swedish government would be vetoing such decision because of the risk for capital punishment.”

(2013) [“It is up to the Swedish Government, Not to the “Swedish Legal System”, to comply on pressures to extradite Assange. Part II of the series The Seven Pillars of Deception”](#). Here I denounce that the extradition to the US of the two refugees –Swedish citizens- arrested in Djibouti with the collaboration of the Swedish Foreign Office (Bildt) demonstrated that:

1) if the “terrorist” characterization is done by the US, it does not matter that SÄPO concludes that the subject does not present a terrorist threat, ergo not being a ‘terrorist’.

2) Praxis would show that Swedish govt follows rather the decision of the US govt, than the judgment of its own Security Agency (SÄPO).

## Would Sweden also regard Assange as “high tech terrorist”?

Julian Assange has been described in the US as “high tech terrorist”, [[“Julian Assange like a hi-tech terrorist, says Joe Biden.”](#)]

According to The Guardian, Biden claimed that “by leaking diplomatic cables Assange had put lives at risk and made it more difficult for the US to conduct its business around the world.” [16] See below Vice-President Bidén making his statements on Assange and WikiLeaks on video. [Click on the image for the video].

It would be highly appropriate that the Swedish government declares whether they consider Assange a terrorist or not. This is essential for the debate, because top US-govt officials and politicians have already labelled Assange as ‘terrorist’. In this meaning, the extradition request from the part of the U.S. government could be by arguing Assange is indicted on terrorist activities.

Following Judge argumentation, an extradition processed in Sweden under the terrorist legislation does give the government extraordinary powers, meaning, it does not need to submit the case for consideration by the Court. In other words, this crime-categorization would even make the process quicker and less complicated in Sweden.

In the context, there is a very aggravating accusation against Julian Assange which equalizes with the American “cyber terrorist” charges. It was put forward directly by the Swedish military. Assange was accused during a main TV news program ‘Rapport’, broadcasted by the Swedish state TV, of being “blackmailing Sweden” See details on this preposterous accusation on straightforward criminal behaviour, such as blackmailing the Nation of Sweden, in my post [“Sweden’s FOI publicly slandering Assange & WikiLeaks while in secret help building missile factory for Saudi Arabia dictatorship”](#). And who is the accusation-messenger Mr Mike Winnerstig? A reserve-army officer and member of the Swedish Military Academy, was at the time Deputy Director of the Military Research Institute FOA (under the Ministry of Defence). He has participated as lecturer in events sponsored by NATO and the US Embassy in Sweden, and a strong lobbyist for Sweden’s entrance to NATO.



## Why is the ‘impossibility of non-extradition guarantees’ a fake?

Simply, because the government of Sweden has the legal possibility of vetoing any court decision, any police authority decision, any immigration authority decision on issues of deportation, extradition or rendition. Period.

I have already clarified in page 18 of my book (2016) “Sweden VS Assange. Human Rights issues & Political Background”: [14]

*“At the contrary of what is stated by Swedish sources, it is the Swedish government –and not the judicial system – which ultimately can decide the issue of extradition to a third country. The government is fully entitled to issue guarantees of a non-extradition.”*

On the question of the likelihood of an extradition to the U.S. from Sweden: The Swedish practice during the last fifteen years has been to approve all extradition requests from the United States – when the person in question has been found in Swedish territory.

Why has the US not delivered an extradition request of Mr Assange to Sweden? The answer is very simple: because Assange is not in Swedish territory; he is not under police custody in Sweden. And that is *the* reason why Assange sought – and the reason why it was granted – political asylum in the Embassy of Ecuador. No matter how many times the Swedish media and the Swedish government, seconded by the UK, repeat the infamy on that Assange “is just avoiding justice in Sweden”. Avoiding ‘justice’ for what? There is no legal ground for a “legal case” against Assange in Sweden.

## Epilogue: ending the myth “Assange’s extradition from Sweden to the US is not likely”

I will end this analysis on the myth, “Assange’s extradition *from* Sweden to the US is not likely”, with a text quoted from, “[Sweden will grant extradition of Assange to US if not stopped by international political pressure](#)”: [15]

In the labyrinth of news around the court deliberations in London on the Assange-extradition, I have traced the origins of such myth to a dispatch by Malin Rising, a Swedish journalist working as correspondent for Associated Press.

The journalist had published time ago a “Question & Answers” article headed “[Questions and answers about the Julian Assange sex crimes case and Swedish extradition rules](#)”. The piece was also distributed word-wide by Yahoo news and it is found in numerous sites among other ABC News, Salom.com, etc.

On the extradition issue, one of the items read:

**“Question:** *Assange’s lawyers say there’s a “real risk” that Sweden would hand him over to the U.S. How likely is that?*

**“Answer:** *... Swedish legal experts say he would be no more likely to be handed over from Sweden than from Britain. Because of the current extradition proceedings between Sweden and Britain, handing him over to a third country would require approval from both countries, says Nils Rekke, legal chief at the Stockholm prosecutor’s office. Rekke notes that Britain is a closer ally to the United States.”*

However, Sweden has not excluded it would be willing to go along with a US demand on extradition:

Rekke *did not* deny that Sweden would be willing (or “like”) to hand over Assange to the USA, what he *really* said is that “Sweden cannot do as Sweden likes” in that specific matter “before asking Britain first”!

This is instead what [\*Christian Science Monitor\*](#) wrote, quoting Nils Rekke:

“If Assange was handed over to Sweden in accordance with the European arrest warrant, Sweden cannot do as Sweden likes after that,” and, “If there were any questions of an extradition approach from the US, then Sweden would have to get an approval from the United Kingdom”.

Is there any doubt that [the meetings held in London](#) by top government leaders of USA, UK and Sweden – exactly on the days of the verdict on Assange’s extradition – were also an opportunity to decide together issues on the above, politically?

The one and only reasonable conclusion here is: the real reason why Sweden refuses to give Mr Assange non-extraditions guarantees is because they are planning to do precisely that.

Otherwise, why would the US government put so much pressure on the UNWGAD in trying to change the conclusions of their investigation of the arbitrarily detention of Julian Assange? What would the US business on this if not to keep Assange under custody by Sweden in order to ultimately implement their own indictment plans – and for which an extradition from Sweden is essential?

## Notes and References

[1] [Important Statement by the US Centre for Constitutional Rights regarding reported sealed Assange indictment.](#) The Professors’ Blog, 28 Feb 2012.

[2] [US investigation of WikiLeaks now entering 5th year. By Alexa O'Brien](#). The Professors' Blog, 25 Feb 2014.

[3] Lawyer Jennifer Robinson quoted in the Rixstep's article "[Jen-Rob Meets Carl Bildt](#)", 7 July 2012:

'I asked him to guarantee that Assange wouldn't be rendered to the US if he came to Sweden, and Carl Bildt said that they couldn't give us that guarantee, that it's a judicial process. I told him that at the end of the day it's a political decision by the government.'

[4] U.S. Vice President Joe Biden interviewed by ABC News, footage-excerpt [uploaded on YouTube](#) 19 Dec 2010.

[5] Krister Thelin on Twitter, 6 Feb 2016:

<https://twitter.com/KristerThelin/status/695965881176879104>.

[6] From The Professors' Blog article "Sweden will grant extradition of Assange to US if not stopped by international political pressure", 4 Nov 2011:

[\*Mark Klamberg \(Sweden\)\*](#)

*November 7, 2011 at 8:04 am*

"You write: "Sweden has granted extradition in the TOTAL OF CASES in which the prisoner was in Swedish territory". What research have you made to reach this conclusion? It took me 2 minutes to find NJA 1982 s 830 where the Supreme Court of Sweden refused extradition to the U.S."

*Reply*

[\*Marcello Ferrada de Noli \(Italy\)\*](#)

*November 8, 2011 at 12:14 am*

“”What I wrote (quoted from the article above) is this: “The fact is, regarding the “open” requests of extradition from the USA, Sweden has granted extradition to the USA in ALL OF CASES in which the asked person was in Swedish territory: “This counting is based in the following information given by the Associated Press article of Swedish journalist Malin Rising (“Questions and answers about the Julian Assange sex crimes case and Swedish extradition rules”). The article was published in several news-sites all over the world, also in Yahoo news. The following is given in the Associated Press report (I quote again from my article). Please do note that the figures given are “according to the Swedish Justice Ministry”:

“Since 2000, the U.S. has requested the extradition of seven citizens from Sweden, according to the Swedish Justice Ministry. Five of the requests were approved, and two were rejected because the suspects were no longer believed to be in Sweden.”

As I am reproducing in my article the complete text from AP, it is clear in the article that it referred to the cases – again, as expressed in the text – from year 2000 (“Since 2000”)Ergo, according to the quoted figures from the ministry of Justice: The five US requests approved correspond to the extradition of the five requests asked with regard to individuals that were in Swedish territory. That is ALL OF CASES (or TOTAL of cases) IN WHICH THE ASKED PERSON WAS IN SWEDISH TERRITORY because, 5 of five cases is not more not less than ALL the cases! Which is what I said in my article.

Now, those are the cases asked to Sweden on the “open”, i.e. known by the public. I do not know how many other “CLANDESTINE” cases of extraordinary renditions have been done in secrecy (not in the open), approved by Sweden, under the time Thomas Bodström was Minister of Justice. One case, which

became fairly exposed, was that of the asylum seekers in Sweden taken to torture in Egypt from a Stockholm airport, given to CIA personnel by the Swedish police with the knowledge of the Swedish authorities [M Zettersröm, “[We have the right to know](#)” [“Vi har rätt att få veta”]. Aftonbladet, Stockholm, 20 January 2009.

It is also widely known, in reference to the above, by the international opinion (not much discussed in Sweden), that Sweden was ruled by NU of severe violation of the NU Absolute Ban on Torture:[Human Rights Watch, “[Sweden Violated Torture Ban with U.S. Help.](#)” U.N. Committee Rebukes Sweden for Sending Terror Suspect to Torture”, 19 May 2005.

[7]



[8] “[Ygeman om Assange: Finns häktningsgrund](#)“, SvT, 5 Feb 2016.

[9] – “När det gäller rapporten som kom i förra veckan kan jag konstatera att den inte förändrar mina tidigare bedömningar i förundersökningen, säger Marianne Ny.” Declarations by Marianne Ny in “[Marianne Ny: FN-rapporten förändrar inte bedömningarna i förundersökningen mot Assange](#)“, Dagens Juridik, 9 Feb 2016.

[10] On 11 February 2011, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt stated in the DN and Aftonbladet newspapers, that Julian Assange had been indicted. He then went on to take a position that was biased in favour of the complainants in the case. Not only was this political interference in an ongoing case, but also it was based on untruths; Julian Assange has not been charged. The statement by the Prime Minister was:

“We have an independent judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian Assange on allegations of rape”. And, “I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward. ” DN, 11 Feb 2011.

[11] On 15 August 2012, Göran Haglund, Swedish Minister of Social Affairs, told the Expressen newspaper: “Assange is a very coward person that does not dare to confront the charges against him”. And he added, “If he did the things he is accused of, I think one can call him a lowlife. He seems to be a miserable wretch.”

“Assange är en väldigt feg person som inte vågar konfrontera anklagelserna mot honom.” “– Om han har gjort det han är anklagad för så tycker jag att man kan kalla honom för ett kräk.

Han verkar vara en ynklig stackare.” In: “Hägglund om asyl för Assange: “Fegis” . Expressen, 4 Febr 2012.

[12] Human Rights Watch, “[Sweden Violated Torture Ban with U.S. Help](#)“. 19 May 2005.

[13] M. Ferrada de Noli, “[It is up to the Swedish Government, Not to the ‘Swedish Legal System’](#)“, to comply on pressures to extradite Assange. Part II of the series The Seven Pillars of Deception”. The Professors’ Blog, 22 Jan 2013.

[14] From, M. Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden VS Assange – HR issues & Political Background](#)”. Libertarian Books – Sweden, 2014, 2016, Page 18:

“In recent developments, during an important voting at the Human Rights organ of the United Nations in November 2012, Sweden obtained the lowest preference from the voting country delegates. The election concerned Sweden’s own candidacy towards becoming a member of the United Nations Human Rights organization. Also in recent years and for the first time in modern history, the government of Sweden has been obliged to face the burning of Swedish flags by angry protesters in countries as far away as Pakistan.

Motive for those actions were found in the reaction of normal, law abiding citizens of various countries, which felt insulted by the permissive stance of the Swedish government and Swedish media around the “Muhammad drawings controversy” of 2007, provoked by the racist Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks. The native Swedish cultural elites appealed to the “freedom of expression”.



Which was used as a pretext to further reproduce the offensive material. This was done in conscious disregard towards the numerous groups of immigrants and refugees, which, in spite of being of diverse nationalities, share peacefully Islam as their religion or culture.”

[15] M. Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden will grant extradition of Assange to US if not stopped by international political pressure](#)“. The Professors’ Blog, 4 Nov 2011.

## Mainstream media in US and Sweden finally admitted that Assange risks to be extradited to the US by the Swedish government

On the 11 August 2016, the main Swedish Radio (SR) news-program “Ekot” (07.30) acknowledged that Julian Assange is at the Ecuador’s Embassy in London in connection to “fear of being extradited to the US”. This was in the context of the announcement that Assange’s lawyers are pursuing a new appeal at the Stockholm Court to obtain his release, based in the verdict of the UN-panel which is commented in the article here below.

In spite no further details were given by SR on this particular item, it was the first time at the state-owned Swedish media that the political asylum of Assange in the embassy of Ecuador was not explained by the reiteration “is-only-to- avoid-Swedish-justice”.

In other parallel development, The New York Times also acknowledged that “Although there is no open indictment against Mr. Assange in Washington, he and WikiLeaks are the subject of an investigation in the United States.”

The United Nations’ Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) has ruled that the detention of Mr Julian Assange is illegitimate and in breach of Articles 9 and 10 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as with several articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [1] Mr Julian Assange should be set free, states in UNWGAD [2] and points out that Sweden is a signatory to both conventions on which the decision is based. [3]

## Why was U.S. exerting pressure on UNWGAD?

The Norwegian jurist Mads Andenas, then chairman of UNWGAD, recently declared that the US exerted “considerable political pressure” to influence the conclusions of the UNWGAD’s report on the Assange case. [4] Why is the U.S. applying pressure regarding the arresting whereabouts of Assange?

The direct pressures exercised by the U.S. government onto UNWGAD reveal their direct interest in that Assange should be kept detained under the Swedish arresting warrant. Further, there is yet an aspect that needs to be reminded about in the context of this case: The mediate aim of the arresting warrant – that U.S. stressed to be kept enforced – is not the “interrogation of Assange”, but the transport of Julian Assange into Sweden. That, together with the following, it makes the incumbent U.S. extradition-request to Sweden quite obvious:

## The US government is pursuing a case against Julian Assange on charges of terrorism

Assange will be charged according to the US Patriotic Act that define specific computer crimes as terrorist attacks [5], as well as the CFAA (Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 1-a). [6] We have to consider these facts against the backdrop of a series of statements by prominent U.S. politicians accusing, implying or equalizing WikiLeaks activities with anti-American “terrorism”. The very Vice President of the United States has unambiguously described Assange as “cyber-terrorist”. [7]

Already in December 2010 CNN informed that Swedish authorities knew that “a secret grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, is

meeting to consider criminal charges in the WikiLeaks case”. [8] Alexa O’Brien confirmed in 2014 the continuity of this case. [9]

Further, Kevin Gosztola reported in 2015 the on-going case against WikiLeaks and its founder Julian Assange. Among the facts reported: a) the Grand Jury in Virginia on WikiLeaks continues being empanelled; b) The US government had even sent warrants to Google for the transcription of documents and information on Julian Assange and members of the WikiLeaks staff for the purpose of a case dealing with violations of the Espionage Act, Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) and a “conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud the United States”; and c) The US Department of Justice announced that there is an on-going FBI criminal case against WikiLeaks and that records should not be made public because it would harm “pending future prosecution”. [10]

NBC News reported that a legal panel has predicted that “Assange will be indicted”. They also reported that Attorney General Eric Holder said, “Charges may be brought under the Espionage Act of 1917 or other laws”. One of the panel members, Paul Rosenzweig (Heritage Foundation, and former Homeland Security official), affirmed that an U.S. indictment against Julian Assange is 80 per cent likely, and that “it’s a political necessity”. [11]

**In applying the anti-terrorism legislation, the Swedish government has the legal power to execute the extradition of Assange to the US without the consent of any court of justice.**

Another important item that it has so far not deserved a proper attention is this: Provided that the US extradition request will be based, as indicated above, on an indictment which considers crimes committed in the sphere of ‘terrorism’, the legal perspective in Sweden in the managing of such a request is also special:

Judge Krister Thelin, formerly the chairman of the committee that studied the Swedish extradition law, communicated to me via Twitter that whereas in normal cases of extradition – even politically related – all cases are to be treated in court, when there is a request involving terrorist activities the Swedish government has instead “wide discretion” in managing those extradition cases. [12]

And *that* is the reason why Julian Assange sought political asylum in Ecuador's embassy, and the reason why his asylum was granted by the Ecuadorian government. [13] He did not flee from the Swedish justice, he has not refused to be questioned by the prosecutor, neither he has been charged of any crime. In addition, the Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné after having minutely examined the case stated: “I do not think there is reason to suspect that he has committed rape.” [14]

## By refusing to abide by UNWG ruling, Sweden, not Assange, is under legal scrutiny

Sweden did not contest UNWGAD's legitimacy but instead participated by responding to communications sent by the UN legal counsel group. [15] However, after the decision was unfavourable to Sweden, its authorities said that they would not accept neither would regard such a decision as binding. The Interior Minister commented that the Swedish Supreme Court has its own decision, [16] and his party colleague Thomas Bodström, former Minister of Justice (then main partner in the law firm Bodström & Borgström, that asked for the reopening of the case against Mr Assange), declared to the Swedish TV, “a United Nations organ cannot be upper a Swedish court.” [17]

Numerous international human rights organizations have criticized this new awkward bearing of the Swedish authorities regarding the Assange case.

The blunt rejection of Sweden to a verdict of a panel of international jurists appointed by the US is considered detrimental to the human rights situation in the world. By a similar decision could UNWGAD achieve the release of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, the Washington National Post journalist Jason Rezaian in Iran, President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, etc.

To the best of my knowledge, in addition to Egypt, Sweden is the only country that has rejected such a UN decision, and this position can hardly help Sweden to get a seat in the UN Security Council in the upcoming election in June 2016. Human Rights Watch concluded that the neglecting by Sweden of the UN-organ ruling on Mr Julian Assange's arbitrary detention has "seriously damaged" Sweden's reputation. [18]

This week starts the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the UNHCHR in Genève. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Raad Al Hussein has messaged:

"Human rights law, the treaty body law is binding law, it is not discretionary law, it is not some passing fancy that a state can apply sometimes and not in the others." [19]

Swedish Doctors for Human Rights call on Swedish authorities to abide by UN's decision and rescind the arrest of the WikiLeaks founder Mr Julian Assange.

## Notes and References

[1] ["Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention \(UNWGAD\). Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at its seventy-fourth session, 30 November – 4 December 2015."](#) Page 17:

"The deprivation of liberty of Mr. Assange is arbitrary and in contravention of articles 9 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 7, 9(1), 9(3), 9(4), 10 and 14 of the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It falls within category III of the categories applicable to the consideration of the cases submitted to the Working Group.”

[2] Id., page 17:

”Consequent upon the opinion rendered, the Working Group requests the Government of Sweden and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to assess the situation of Mr. Assange, to ensure his safety and physical integrity, to facilitate the exercise of his right to freedom of movement in an expedient manner, and to ensure the full enjoyment of his rights guaranteed by the international norms on detention.”

”The Working Group considers that, taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the adequate remedy would be to ensure the right of free movement of Mr. Assange and accord him an enforceable right to compensation, in accordance with article 9(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

[3] Id., page 1:

“Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”

[4] The Guardian, “[Julian Assange hails ‘sweet victory’ of UN report – as it happened](#)“, 5 Feb 2016:

“The former chair of the UNWGAD panel, the Norwegian lawyer Professor Mads Andenas, told Owen Bowcott that the expert lawyers and members of the group had come under considerable political pressure from the US and UK when compiling the highly critical report.

Andenas completed his term in office last summer but was involved in earlier stages of compiling the report on Assange’s

arbitrary detention. He endorsed the broad result of the findings released on Friday.

“I’m absolutely convinced that [the panel] has been put under very strong political pressure,” he said.

“This is a courageous decision which is important for the international rule of law.”

[5] [American Bar Association](#). Computer Crimes and the USA PATRIOT Act . Criminal Justice Magazine, Summer 2002, Volume 17 Issue 2.

[6] Cornell University Law School, Legal Information Institute. [18 U.S. Code § 2332b – Acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries](#):

“Federal crime of terrorism” means an offense that—

(A) is calculated to influence or affect the conduct of government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct; and

(B) is a violation of ... 1030(a)(1) (relating to protection of computers),”

[7] Joe Biden interviewed in the program “NBC’s meet the Press”. [“Assange a high-tech terrorist: Biden”](#). YouTube video uploaded by ABC NEWS (Australia), 19 December 2010.

[8] CNN, [“Assange attorney: Secret grand jury meeting in Virginia on WikiLeaks”](#). London, 13 December 2010.

[9] Alexa O’Brien, [“US investigation of WikiLeaks now entering 5th year. By Alexa O’Brien”](#). The Professors’ Blog, 25 February 2014.

[10] Kevin Gosztola, [“Search Warrants Against WikiLeaks Staff: Justice Department, Google & US Media Silence Threaten Press Freedom”](#). ShadowProof.com/ 25 January 2015.



[11] NBC News, "[U.S. v. WikiLeaks: espionage and the First Amendment](#)". 2013.

[12] M. Ferrada de Noli, "[Sweden's argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the U.S. – Analysis](#)". The Indicter Magazin, 20 February 2016.

"Judge Thelin refutes the notion of a 'political' extradition of Assange, since extradition involves the Swedish Supreme Court. However, in further clarification, he mentions the distinction between cases under the "normal" extradition legislation, and cases of the extradition of terrorists. And when it is about terrorists, the government has "wide discretion", says Mr Thelin. [5] Meaning, the Swedish government does not need to have any clearance of the extradition upon the courts."

[13] Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Watch, "[On Assange, Following the Rules or Flouting Them?](#)", op.cit:

"Let's be clear: the issue is not Assange fleeing Swedish justice; he has continually expressed his willingness to be investigated by Sweden. What he won't do is risk eventual extradition to the United States, which would like to prosecute him under the Espionage Act."

[14] Dick Sundevall, "[Åklagaren föregriper beslut avseende Assange](#)". Magazine Paragraph.

[15] "[Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention \(UNWGAD\). Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at its seventy-fourth session, 30 November – 4 December 2015.](#)" Page 1:

"The Government of Sweden replied to the communication of 16 September 2014 on 3 November 2014."

[16] SVT, 5 Feb 2016, "[Ygeman om Assange: Finns häktningsgrund](#)":

“Anders Ygeman ifrågasätter slutsatserna i den utredning som FN:s arbetsgrupp mot godtyckliga frihetsberövanden, UNWGAD, gjort om Wilileaksgrundaren Julian Assange.”

”– Jag konstaterar att man kommit fram till en annan slutsats än svenska Högsta domstolen.”

[17] SVT, 5 Feb 2016, “[Advokat: Assange borde stanna kvar på ambassaden](#)”.

Thomas Bodström, ex Justitie Minister:

“– Ett FN-organ kan inte stå över en svensk eller brittisk domstol.”

[18] Human Rights Watch, “[On Assange, Following the Rules or Flouting Them?](#)”, 5 Feb 2016:

“(UK and Sweden) have severely damaged their own reputation for being so ready to dismiss upholding inconvenient human rights obligations and their credibility as global advocates for rights by refusing to respect the institution of asylum.”

[19] DNA, “[Britain, Sweden should accept Julian Assange ruling: UN rights chief](#)”

## The strategic target of the EAW was not the detention of Assange, but the creation of an extradition process

*A new look into the political motivations of the Swedish EAW against Assange, and on other misconceptions around the case*

### An unusual debate in Sweden around the deadlock in the Assange case

An important debate took place in Sweden's leading media 2014-2015, in search of a solution to the deadlock in the Assange case. Julian Assange, who was never been charged with any crime, had begun his fourth year under house arrest, and subsequently staying at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London after being given political asylum.

The asylum to the WikiLeaks founder was granted ensuing Sweden's refusal to give assurances that Assange would not be handed over to the U.S. – should such request be received by the Swedish authorities. However, the UK would not allow him to leave the Embassy and travel to Ecuador, because a Swedish prosecutor was demanding that he should be questioned in Sweden.

Likewise, the two women who filed accusations against Assange were still waiting in Sweden for statements from their lawyers, Claes Bogström (of the firm Bodström & Borgström) and Elisabeth Massi Fritz, on whether anything can happen (in terms of a prosecutor's decision) to move the case forward.

In addition, there seems to be a broad consensus in Sweden that such a protracted procedure, together with the peculiar mismanagement of the case, has been further harming Sweden's international reputation.

Known personalities in the Judiciary, former prosecutors, lawyers and members of parliament had contributed with constructive proposals. In April 2013, Justice Stefan Lindskog (from Sweden's Supreme Court) expressed in a lecture at Adelaide University in Australia, that it is possible for a Swedish prosecutor to question Assange in London. He said, literally: "I would like to comment upon the possibility of the prosecutor to go to London. It is possible that the prosecutor could travel to London and interrogate him there. I have no answer to the question why that hasn't happened." [1]

Johan Pehrson MP, member of the Justice Committee and the political spokesperson for the Liberal Party (Folkpartiet), told Swedish National Television SvT: "This is an exceptional case. Therefore, one can wonder if the prosecutor should not turn on the stones again, to see if we can get this thing out of the world", [2] The chairman of the Swedish Bar Association, Anne Ramberg, was also interviewed in the SvT program Agenda. As well as characterising the entire affair as a "circus", Anne Ramberg said that the prosecutor should simply go to London. Period. [3]

In an article published in Svenska Dagbladet, one of the plaintiff's lawyers, Elisabeth Massi Fritz, resents such proposals. She protests on the very existence of the media debate on whether the "Assange case should be closed down." And she is critical of the mere fact that Johan Pehrson MP has spoken out in the SvT program. Lawyer Massi Fritz says in SvD: "Criminal cases should be handled in court, not in the media", and she adds: "Nor should a prosecutor be subjected to political pressure or let the media affect their actions." [4 ] Below, I respond to a variety of statements in Massi Fritz's SvD article.

Elizabeth Massi Fritz is right about requesting that the general democratic principle she formulates above (on the separation of powers) is implemented in full; I have recently commented on this important issue in [Open Letter To Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev](#). However, in her SvD piece Massi Fritz blends together various aspects – which in the end contradicts her version. The first aspect relates to the role of the media; the second one to the behaviour of politicians in the case.

On the media role: a) One aspect is the central duty the media has in keeping the public updated on relevant events, not least about subjects that are important to Sweden's international reputation – like the Assange case. And that is what the Agenda program has accomplished; both versions were heard. b) Another aspect is the discussion on whether the media indulges in any special treatment of the parties in such disputes. I will come back to that point.

Concerning the politicians' intervention in the case: a) One thing is that a politician (as MP Pehrson did) proposes measures to legally terminate the “circus” – as the Bar Association president referred to – a situation that in the long run can be harmful to the nations' interests, and b) A completely different thing is if a politician (particularly politicians within government) produces public statements in support of only one side of the dispute. It is exactly this kind of behaviour that can cast a shadow over the image of the independence of the nation's legal system.

Precisely because Massi Fritz is right when she states in SvD that “We are all equal under the law, it is a prerequisite for the rule of law”, she must also deplore, for example, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt's partial intervention in favour of the plaintiffs in articles published simultaneously by DN and Aftonbladet – where he also wrongly alleged that Assange has been indicted. Quote:

“We have an independent Judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian

Assange on allegations of rape”. And, “I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward.” [5]. However, the fact remains that Julian Assange has not been charged.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister emphasized in a program about the Assange case at Studio Ett: “we take very seriously allegations about rape, because there are also elements that try to reduce how we have evolved, and stands for, a good law in this case”. [6] This, unfortunately, was interpreted as though the Assange case was of symbolic significance to the authorities. This attitude has previously been expressed by representatives of Sweden’s feminist movement, which promotes the enhancing of rape-related legislation. The promotion of Sweden in the international community as a country with a modern legislation, should be praised. However, if this PR endeavour is enforced at the expense of individual human rights, the entire effort is compromised.

## On the Swedish media-harassment

Regarding what Massi Fritz calls “media-harassment”: to the best of my knowledge, in the Swedish media there has never been the smallest negative or condescending commentary about the plaintiffs in the case. They have never been “vilified” by any program or article written by journalists working in the Swedish media.

Conversely, in the judgement issued in Belmarsh Court in London (City of Westminster Magistrates’ Court) regarding the transfer of Assange on 24/2/2011, Judge Riddle wrote literally: “There has been considerable adverse publicity in Sweden for Mr Assange, in the popular press, the television and in parliament (by the Swedish Prime Minister)” [end of quote]. [7]

In a study to which I referred in Newsmill, an article the site headed “Professor: media reporting of Assange untruthful and

uniform”, I reported an analysis on 117 consecutive publications in the Swedish press during the period 17/1 – 2/17/2011. The results showed that, amongst the articles that directly referred to Julian Assange’s personal character, or made hints about Assange’s personality traits (forty per cent of the total articles), significantly more articles (72 per cent) did so with the use of hostile or condescending terms, in contrast with articles using positive terms (28 per cent). [8]

The statistical analysis of these variables revealed a ratio difference of 0.38, pointing to a significant over-representation of negative reviews *ad hominem* on Assange. The findings, as reported in the above-mentioned article, were also received in open court at Belmarsh Court in London. They have never been refuted by other researchers, or by the media referred to in the study.

## Why are political dissidents granted political asylum?

Lawyer Massi Fritz states, referring to Julian Assange’s situation: “It’s about a man who has locked himself in an embassy in London, for which Marianne Ny routinely is blamed for being responsible.”

I shall look into Marianne Ny’s role, but first I would like to put the record straight about the meaning of political asylum. Individuals seeking asylum in embassies of countries that respect human rights, must indeed have reasons – strong reasons. For example, the Swedish Embassy in Chile received hundreds of dissidents who preferred to “lock themselves in an embassy” rather than risk arrest, prosecution, or even death.

The reasons put forward by the individuals seeking asylum are subject to careful consideration by governments. In this case, a sovereign state, Ecuador, gave asylum to Julian Assange because they had information that indicated that Assange may be at risk of

being extradited to the United States. In fact, Sweden has granted extradition to the United States every single time there has been a request, on the condition that the person sought is in Swedish territory.

## A new look into the political motivations of the Swedish EAW against Assange

In the original version published on 5 February (still unchanged when I retrieved it online at 16.00 on 7 February), Massi Fritz stated:

“Assange left the country the same day that he, for the second time has been arrested in absence”.[9]

**Julian Assange har sedan hösten 2010 undanhållit sig det svenska rättsväsendet efter att han uteblivit från förhör i Sverige. Han lämnade landet samma dag som han för andra gången blev anhållen i sin frånvaro. Han vägrade sedan att återvända. Det resulterade i att åklagaren i fallet Marianne Ny, efter att Assange hade häktats på**

Thus the law-abiding Swedes are made to believe that the EAW was issued because Assange had twice ignored Ny's call to come to the interrogation meeting!

However, in the English version (for the international audience), Massi Fritz had to take away the notion of a “twice-fugitive Julian Assange”. She changed the text to:

“(Assange) disappeared from Sweden on the same day as he was detained in absentia. He has subsequently refused to return. This resulted in Marianne Ny, the prosecutor for the case, issuing a European Arrest Warrant for Assange. [10]



There is some remarkable aspects in Massi Fritz's statements. On the one hand she says that the "detention in absentia" order was issued before Assange left Sweden; then she suddenly says that *because Assange left and subsequently refused to return*, Marianne Ny issued the detention order in EAW form; but without mentioning that Assange never got any notification about such "detention in absentia" while still in Sweden. Besides, Massi Fritz hides the fact – which is essential in the context of the event she is taking up – about that Assange made himself available for interrogation by the prosecutor office. Before he had to leave for his scheduled meeting in Berlin [11], Julian Assange presented through his lawyer some alternative dates to the prosecutor. One of the dates put forward by Assange was refused by prosecutor NY on the excuse that "the interrogation leader was on sick leave". This, as if she could not arrange one among the twenty thousand police officers that have received training in criminal interrogations at the Police Academy of Sweden. [12]

All of the above has made me rethink the Assange case. This is an account of the EAW Swedish itinerary.

- Assange arrived to the airport around noon, and even chosen to change to a later SAS flight of his preferences. He finally left Arlanda Airport for Berlin Tegel at 17.15. Latest around 16.55 he would have gone through airport security where, with the usual heavy police presence, staff at the gate leading to the departure hall checked his passport (if not already checked at the desk), boarding card, etc. Besides, the police have all the passengers lists in advance.
- According to the prosecutor office in Gothenburg, Assange was "detained in absentia" already at 14.15 on 27 September 2010. [13] Normally, such order goes to all police units in the country. Why wasn't he detained at the airport? It could not be that they missed his identity. Quite the opposite:

because they knew his identity at the airport desk or at the control gate, the police (or government officials, or whoever agency was operating) managed to take the laptops from Assange's checked-in suitcase. [14] Besides, he stayed around five hours at the airport's premises. They just couldn't have missed him.

- Assange was never informed about the “detention in absentia”. Further, Assange's lawyer Björn Hurtig had obtained an agreement from the prosecutor Marianne Ny that Julian Assange “was free to leave Sweden”. [15]

- In fact, Assange's lawyer received the communication on the “detention warrant” issued by Marianne Ny (the warrant that Elisabeth Massi Fritz is writing about in connection to Assange's departure for Berlin on the 27 of September), as late as the 30 September 2010. This means three days after that it was issued by the same Marianne Ny.

- In support of this claim I refer here to the Supreme Court document “Agreed Statement of Facts And Issues. Between: Julian Paul Assange (Applicant) V. Swedish Prosecution Authority (Respondent)”, hearings 1-2 Feb 2012,. In Item 17, page 5, it reads: “On 30th September 2010, the Appellant's counsel [Björn Hurtig] was advised of the existence of the arrest warrant.”

So what were the dialectics of Sweden's EAW?

## The real target of the EAW: the creation of an extradition process

### *What was to be gained by this?*

The EAW immobilized Assange and, to a greater extent, WikiLeaks' activities. In previous analyses, I have demonstrated that it is beyond doubt that this case is political motivated. There isn't a genuine legal case behind the charade of the Swedish Prosecutor Authority and the plaintiff's prejudiced lawyers. This is not the first time that this sort of behaviour has been seen in Sweden.

What would have happened if Assange had been detained at the airport? The prosecutor would have had to interrogate Assange within a few hours. Assange would have requested the presence of a lawyer or that the interview was videotaped. Afterwards he would have been released, because in terms of the evidence available to the prosecutor, there would have been nothing new that had not already come up in the preliminary investigation, conducted by prosecutor Finne (who had previously dismissed the case on this evidence). He would have never been held incommunicado, as he will certainly be if he comes to Sweden under the extradition terms that resulted from the EAW.

Only the EAW could have produced the political benefits created by this scenario, which enables a prolongation of Assange's prisoner status. My "stalling-the-process hypothesis" [16] was correct from the start.

## Notes and References

[1] M Ferrada de Noli. "Government-Sponsored Presentation Of Swedish Supreme Court Judge In Australia Increased Doubts On Sweden's Legal System". In: *"Human Rights Issues in the Swedish case VS. Assange"*. Libertarian Books – Sweden, 2014. Page 201.

[2] SvT. "Kravet: Förhör Assange nu". SvT Nyheter, 2/2 2014.  
<http://www.svt.se/nyheter/sverige/trycket-pa-aklagaren-i-assange-fallet-okar>

[3] SvT. Program Agenda, 2/2 2014.

[4] Elisabeth Massi Fritz. "Varför ska undantag göras för Assange?" Svt, Brännpunkt, 5/2 2014.

[5] TT. "Reinfeldt beklagade negative bild av rättsväsendet". DN, 11 Feb 2011. Artikeln vid samma namn i Aftonbladet, 11 Feb 2011.

[6] Sveriges Radio, Studio Ett, 25/1 2012

[7] City of Westminster Magistrates' Court (Sitting at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court). "The judicial authority in Sweden –v- Julian Paul Assange. Findings of facts and reasons". See "Summary of facts found", Item 19, page 10.

<http://www.infotorgjuridik.se/premium/incoming/article159944.ece/BINARY/Det+brittiska+domstolsbeslutet.pdf?fromType=branchartikel>

[8] M Ferrada de Noli. "Professor: medierapporteringen om Assange osaklig och likriktad", Newsmill, 20/2 2011. Material, antal artiklar; (DN n=24, SvD n=31, AB n= 32, Expressen n= 16). Drop-out cases N= 13 (DN n=2, SvD n= 7, AB n=1, Expressen n= 3).

[9] “Han lämnade landet samma dag som han för andra gången blev anhållen i sin frånvaro. Han vägrade sedan att återvända.” In: Elisabeth Massi Fritz. ”Varför ska undantag göras för Assange?” SvD, Brännpunkt, 5/2 2014.

[http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/varfor-ska-undantag-goras-for-assange\\_8958694.svd](http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/varfor-ska-undantag-goras-for-assange_8958694.svd)

[10] Elisabeth Massi Fritz. “Make no exception for Assange”. SvD, Brännpunkt, 7/2 2014.

[http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/make-no-exception-for-assange\\_8968448.svd](http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/make-no-exception-for-assange_8968448.svd)

[11] The meetings have been scheduled long before. Partly it was the working-meetings with Kristinn Hrafnsson and the *L'Espresso* journalist Stefania Maurizi on the 27-28 September (this was about the “Afghanistan materials” that the Italian paper was going to publish). And partly it was the meetings with Holger Stark and Marcel Rosenbach from *Der Spiegel*, the day after.

[12] Polishögskolan. “Intervju- och förhörsmetodik”. Kursplan [http://www.polis.umu.se/digitalAssets/9/9137\\_reviderad-kursplanintervju-o-frhr.pdf](http://www.polis.umu.se/digitalAssets/9/9137_reviderad-kursplanintervju-o-frhr.pdf)

[13] [Information avs. tidpunkten för arresteringsorder] retrieved from a post signed by Duqu at FB-forum. I have asked for the original source, which will be posted here.

[14] See Affidavit of Julian Paul Assange, 1. Summary of Claims, Item 4.

[15] UK:s Supreme Court document “Agreed Statement of Facts And Issues. Between: Julian Paul Assange (Applicant) V. Swedish Prosecution Authority (Respondent)”, hearings 1-2 Feb 2012, Item 13, sidan 4.:

*“On 14th September 2010, the Appellant’s counsel enquired in writing as to whether the Appellant was permitted to leave*

*Sweden. On 15th September 2010, the prosecutor informed the Appellant's counsel that he was free to leave Sweden."*

The "Julian Paul Affidavit" refers also in No 4, "Extended stay in Sweden", Item 113, "My lawyer in Sweden Bjorn Hurtig obtained an agreement from the prosecutor Marianne Ny that I was free to leave Sweden. I left Sweden on 27 September 2010."

[16] M Ferrada de Noli. "*Operation Stalling. Explaining Sweden's Reluctance To Conduct Assange's Interrogation In London*". In: "*Human Rights Issues in the Swedish case VS. Assange*". Libertarian Books – Sweden, 2014. Page 72.

# How the creation and managing of the Assange case put Sweden's international prestige at stake

## Summary

Now that the Swedish TV and media have finally acknowledged the risk of extradition of Julian Assange to the US, prosecutor Marianne Ny has embarked in a remarkable campaign to influence the court's decision. Assange's freedom is at stake, and so is the issue of the international prestige of Sweden.

Marianne Ny has renewed her old and unfulfilled promise to interrogate Assange in London. However, what are the real intentions behind the new Swedish announcement of an interrogation of Julian Assange?

As facts demonstrate, the interrogation of Mr Julian Assange has already been conducted in Sweden. Further, several scholars debating recently this issue – including a former Swedish prosecutor – concur on that a new interrogation of Assange in London is not only unnecessary but also deceiving. A main thesis here is that the announcement of an incumbent interrogation of Assange –as now again has been put forward by the Swedish Prosecutor Authority– represents anew a manoeuvre by the prosecutor aimed to influence upcoming decisions of the Swedish court regarding the appeal recently presented by Assange's lawyers. Essentially, the same mechanism was assayed before by the prosecutors during the Spring 2015. I.e., the Swedish Court ruled against the appeal for Assange's freedom in *the believe* that an interrogation would be conducted in

London – as it was announced in previous days by the prosecutor. Which it never happened.

In both instances, Mr Assange's lawyers put forward the recent decision of the UN panel on the immediately freedom of Assange. What the court should be consider in the first place is the respect regarding this UN ruling, which comprises a decision of an official body belonging to the highest organism representing international law: The United Nations.

## Sweden's legal praxis not according to democratic countries

The Swedish ministers of foreign affairs and defence (Ms Margot Wallström and Mr Peter Hultqvist, respectively) were recently interviewed by [Foreign Policy](#). There, Minister Hultqvist declared:

“For small nations to be respected, international law is crucial. We can't see anything positive if big powers try to create their own laws and their own principles to imprint that on the international community.”

Indeed. The problem is that Sweden appears doing exactly the opposite. On the one hand creating a series of legal process-rules that contravenes the international praxis of democratic countries; for instance, the institution of [lay judges](#) which conform the majority at the courts in spite they are elected by political parties and not by the magistrate authority. Or that the Montesquieu-kind separation of powers is in fact not applied in Sweden in certain cases implicating geopolitical interests, such as the “Assange case”.

On the other hand Sweden is not respecting ruling based in international law. Previously, one most illustrative case is the one of the secret collaboration of Swedish ministers with the CIA to help implementing CIA's extraordinary rendition program. For this, for contravening the International Convention banning the use of



torture, UN sanctioned Sweden. But nowadays, the most flagrant case of Sweden's neglect of international legal-ruling is their position against the UN-panel known as the [UNWGAD, whose verdict](#) was that the detention of Mr Assange has been arbitrary, and therefore requested his immediately release.

## Early Prosecutor's statement dismissing Assange case, deleted by Swedish authorities

Among the odd aspects of the 'legal case' of Sweden versus Julian Assange, we have found that the Swedish Prosecution Authority has deleted from the series of press releases on its website [1] the early press releases by the first prosecutor who assessed the case evidence, Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné.

After both complainants had been interrogated, and the Swedish pro-NATO newspaper *Expressen* had published that Assange had been detained under accusations of 'rape', [2] the Chief Prosecutor Eva Finné concluded that there were no grounds for such 'charges', nor for his detention, and publicly declaring that Julian Assange was to be set free. The Guardian reported the following on 21 August 2010 (the day after the women's visit to Klara police station):

"The Swedish Prosecution Authority website said chief prosecutor Eva Finné had come to the decision that Julian Assange was not subject to arrest. In a brief statement Eva Finné said: 'I don't think there is reason to suspect that he has committed rape'." [3]

However, the Swedish Prosecution Authority's press-release series on the Assange case, which they say includes all prosecution statements from 2010 to 2015, omits the above statement by Eva Finné. Instead, the series starts with the "Request for detention of Mr. Assange (2010-11-18)" press release by prosecutor Marianne Ny – nearly three months after the start of the investigation. In that press release, Ms. Ny states she has requested that the District Court

of Stockholm detains Mr. Assange in his absence: “The reason for my request is that we need to interrogate him. So far, we have not been able to meet with him to accomplish the interrogations.” [1]

Now, six years later, why is it that the interrogation of Julian Assange that was conducted on 30 August 2010 is not mentioned at all in the current debate?

The facts: The website Rixstep documented that “the interrogation took place at the Family Violence Unit of the police at Bergsgatan 48 in Stockholm, began at 17:43, and concluded at 18:37.” Besides Julian Assange, four other people were present at the 30 August interrogation, according to the Rixstep report: Mats Gehlin (the chief interrogator); Ewa Olofsson, police interrogation witness; the interpreter Gun von Krusenstjerna; and Assange’s lawyer Leif Sibersky. It is added: “Julian Assange’s testimony was later translated and transcribed by Jennie Wolgast.” [4]

It is of most interest to remind here that the case was reopened at the request of a politician, Claes Borgstrom, at the time the main partner in the law firm Bodström and Borgström (Thomas Bodström is a former Swedish Justice Minister, and at that time residing in Virginia, US). One of the women declared that she felt “railroaded by police and others around her”. She even sent messages from the very police station in which she was at the moment, saying that she “did not want to put any charges on Julian Assange but that the police were keen on grabbing him”; and that she “did not want to accuse Julian Assange for anything”; that “it was the police who made up the charges”. All this is found in the police report. [5]

## The artificially protracted interrogation in London

Recently, the Swedish prosecutor’s office announced that they would accept Ecuador’s latest offer to interrogate Julian Assange at Ecuador’s embassy in London. This announcement was made by the

Prosecution Authority on 11 August 2016 (a day after it was published in the Swedish press about Assange's lawyers file for appeal).

The 12 of August the former prosecutor Mr. Rolf Hillegren wrote in *Svenska Dagbladet*, a leading Swedish newspaper: "All who have read the witness statements of the case would recognise that the upcoming interrogation is totally unnecessary."

In the opinion of this scholar – Mr. Hillegren is a prosecutor with vast experience in reviewing such cases – "The Assange case, it's crystal-clear, should be dismissed." And, with regard to the upcoming interrogation in London, Hillegren states that Assange has been "interrogated enough already in 2010." [6] The publisher of *Magasin Paraşraf*, Dick Sundevall, is of the same opinion in his article "Assange has already been interrogated", recently published in an English translation by SWEDHR Research & Report. [7]

Further, Rolf Hillegren's article wonders why would Marianne Ny suddenly decide (on 13 March 2015) to change her mind about not interrogating Assange in London and instead announce for the *first* time that she was willing to conduct an interrogation at the London embassy.

I believe I have found the explanation, which also dates from 13 March 2015 [8] and was mentioned during an interview done by German newspaper *Deutsche Welle's* journalist Matthias von Hein. The following passages come from a report by Dr Armando Popa on the *Deutsche Welle* interview that was published by SWEDHR Research & Report: [9]

"The subject of why prosecutor Marianne Ny suddenly decided in the Spring of 2015 to interrogate Assange in London (or give the pretence that she wished to carry out the interrogation) has not been the object of enough analysis in the international press. General comment centred around the fact that the Swedish prosecutor had made a 180-degree turn on her position. Why?" The SWEDHR chairman had assayed this rationale already on 13 March 2015: "...

Prosecutor Marianne Ny has now (this Spring) announced she is ready to interrogate Assange in London. It is because the Swedish Supreme Court has recently decided, at the request of Assange's lawyers, to take up the case in view of 'the conduct of the investigation and the proportionality principle'. "This unequivocally referred to the prosecutor's conduct in not carrying the investigation forward. And this, in its turn, anticipated the dismissed of the case by the Supreme Court." [8] In other words, the main rationale for the Supreme Court's decision in May 2015 to uphold Julian Assange's arrest warrant was this 'impending' interrogation Marianne Ny had announced two months earlier in March.

Another 18 months later, this is the very same reason – and seemingly under the same mechanism – why Sweden is now finally replying to Ecuador that the prosecutor is willing to perform the "interrogation of Assange at the Embassy in London". What's really happened is that Assange's lawyers have recently presented to the Swedish SVEA Court [equivalent to the UK High Court] a new appeal

for the release of Julian Assange based on the resolution of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, [10] which requested the immediate revoking of the arrest warrant, and the release and

	Assange's lawyers file	Swedish prosecutors react	Swedish Court verdict
<b>2015</b>	<b>25 February 2015</b> Assange's lawyers file for appeal to Swedish Court for his freedom	<b>13 March 2015</b> Swedish Prosecutor reacts by suddenly announcing interrogation of Assange in London	<b>11 May 2015</b> Assange's arrest upheld. Main formal rationale: Completion of all announced procedure needed (i.e. the said 'interrogation')
<b>2016</b>	<b>10 August 2016</b> Assange's lawyers file for appeal to Swedish Court for his freedom	<b>11 August 2016</b> Swedish Prosecutor reacts by suddenly announcing interrogation of Assange in London	<b>?</b>

compensation of Mr. Assange. This, predictably, is what has led to the Swedish prosecutor's 11 August announcement of an interrogation of Assange in London.

My conclusion is that the Swedish prosecutor have never really been interested in conducting an interrogation with Julian Assange – in Sweden, London or elsewhere – and which would lead to his release. What the Swedish authorities have instead demonstrated all along is that they in fact do whatever they can to protract the case. Those who wish to keep Assange 'detained' are those who wish to keep the WikiLeaks endeavour 'detained', or at least obstructed.

This has never been a 'legal case'. It is only a political case and, unfortunately, it has morphed into a case of *Sweden vs. Human Rights*. [11] The fact being that the interrogation of Assange in London promised by the prosecutor Ny never took place. It would be also highly worrisome that decisions at an independent court of justice would be anew influenced by a prosecutors' announce deprived of serious intent.

## References

[1] Swedish Prosecutor Office press-release series on the case Assange. [Pressreleases2010\\_2015.pdf](#)

[2] *Expressen*, 21 Aug 2010.

[3] [Swedish rape warrant for Wikileaks' Assange cancelled](#). The Guardian, 21 Aug 2010.

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## Why did the UK court deferred Assange extradition hearing to next year?

([Interview](#))

*Sputnik: Why did the UK court deferred Assange extradition hearing to next year?*

*Marcello Ferrada de Noli:* It is the UK government, not the UK courts that ultimately decide on the extradition issue. The determinant decision around this case is not the one taken today by the court. Instead, the most relevant judgement is the one taken by the UK government. I explain: There is a widespread notion, fueled by the UK authorities themselves, that a final decision on extradition issues in Great Britain is a matter of the courts of justice. That notion is utterly mistaken.

For instance, in 1998, the former Chilean fascist dictator Augusto Pinochet was in London for some medical treatment. Some members of the European judiciary and other academics –among myself, at that time professor in Norway– requested the extradition of Pinochet. In my case I requested him to be taken to an European court for war crimes and systematic violations of human rights. [1] The UK courts approved the extradition, but finally the UK executive power intervened and annulated the extradition decision, thus allowing Pinochet to return to Chile without being processed for the crimes he committed on behalf of the power that installed him at the Chilean government via a bloody coup –meaning the U.S.

In the case of Assange, the UK government has clearly signaled that they favour his extradition to the U.S. –Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt recently declared that he was not going to block an extradition

of Assange to de U.S. [2] [3] And now the Home Office has confirmed that U.K. has signed the extradition order regarding Assange. [4] So, what the court shall finally decide in 2020 is not final in terms of the extradition fate of Julian Assange.

We have to take into consideration that the exposures of WikiLeaks in regards to the occupation wars of Iraq and Afghanistan also had repercussion in terms of the responsibilities of the UK armed forces, which are US closest allies in a variety of such military interventions, including illegal ones. To this has to be added the relatively recent spreading by WikiLeaks of revelations around the UK's "Integrity Initiative".

*Sputnik: What are the reasons for this delay?*

*Marcello Ferrada de Noli:* The U.S. Justice Department has received much criticism, including from some own ranks, on the partly technically-deficient and partly inappropriate juridical construction of the accusations gathered against Julian Assange.

One conceivable reason of this delay is that it gives time to the U.S. authorities to a) partly prepare a better presentation at the courts to 'base' their extradition request, and b) partly to campaign both domestically and internationally on the legitimacy of this indictment.

Such indictment against Assange, which has been sought for his activities in WikiLeaks, has a direct impact in the institutions of freedom of expression and freedom of the press. This is theme that since long has been taken up by academics, professors, Nobel Prize laureates and human rights organizations including Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR). [5]

Now, after the dramatic eviction and arrest of Assange at the Ecuadorian Embassy and the subsequently U.S. extradition request, the issue has gradually being in the focus of Western stream



media and a variety of journalist organizations –which in the U.S. are obliged to connect the issue with infringements to the Fifth Amendment.

Against that background, the U.S. authorities are in the need to convince about the legitimacy of the accusations against Assange which entail the *publication* of secret materials –which is a journalist/publicist endeavour that many mainstream outlets have also indulged in (including, previously, in partnership with WikiLeaks). For that the U.S. authorities need some time, and that time is now been provided by the decision of the U.K. court.

Do analysts have the right, or facts-ground, to imply that courts would be working not as separate constitutional powers –as it should be– but instead under a common strategy with their governments? Or that governments in the West could intervene in decisions that nominally would be the domain of its legal-system or judicial authorities?

My opinion is, that is exactly the case. For example, in the Assange case, a Snowden document reveals that the prosecution of Assange was requested in 2010 by the US, to the countries participating in the Afghan war under U.S. command –such as Sweden. [6]

And furthermore, it has been already revealed in the treatment of the Assange case, that prosecutors authorities in one NATO country such as U.K., could intervene in the prosecutors' activities of another country such as Sweden. At that opportunity, it was the UK prosecutors asking Swedish counterparts to protract the investigation of Julian Assange –and not to close the extradition case, as it has been considered in Sweden. (The Guardian, 11 Feb 2018) [7]

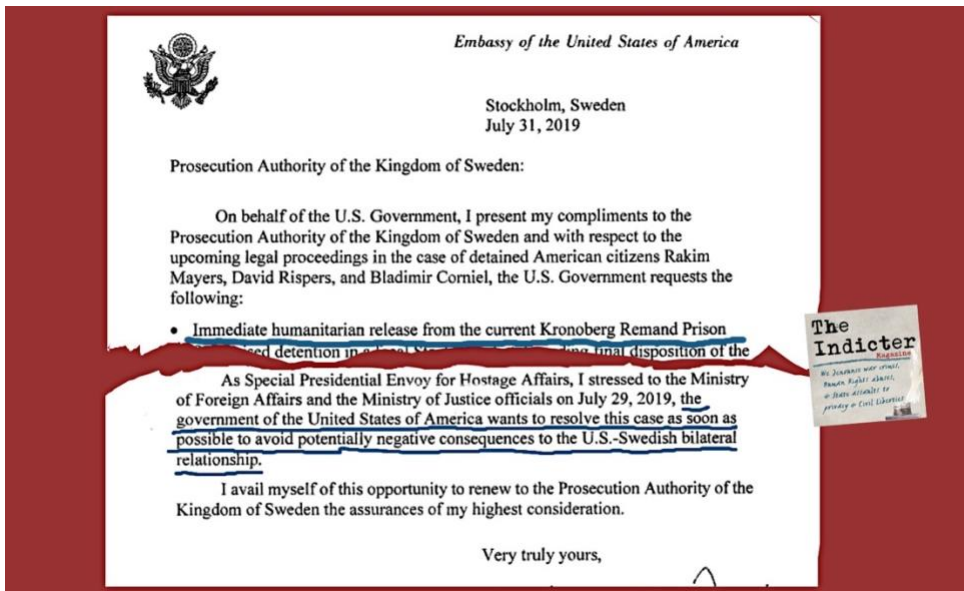
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## Sweden's geopolitical paradox in the ASAP Rocky affair

First, came members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which citing human rights violations, demanded ASAP Rocky's release from the Swedish Detention Center.

Then came the petition from U.S. President Donald Trump to Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven about how to "treat Americans fairly". The reply of the Swedish PM produced these two remarkable statements: "In Sweden everyone is equal before the law," and "The Government is not allowed, and will not attempt, to influence the legal proceedings, which are now ongoing."



Such declarations – enjoyed widely by the entire Swedish political spectrum and media– conveniently reflected an anti-Trump sentiment prevalent in Sweden. Nevertheless, “is equal” should be read instead as “*should be equal*”, and “is not allowed” should be read as “*It should not be allowed*”.

This is because, as analysed below, these statements do not correspond with the reality of the Swedish legal system. The Swedish government, including at Prime Ministerial level, actively and directly interferes in favouring a certain political or ideological course in current legal cases. Additionally, Sweden’s prosecutor-general interferes in specific cases, either by intervening personally or attempting to sway public opinion regarding decisions taken by prosecutors in a specific case.

*“Abracadabra”, and the Americans Rakim Mayers (stage name ASAP Rocky), David Rispers and Bladimir Corniel, were released just days after the U.S. government letter, thanks to –*

*”Abracadabra”, again– the prosecution was not any longer able to use a previous witnesses testimony about a certain bottle used in the street-fight. A testimony highly incriminating for the accused.*

In the case of ASAP Rocky imprisonment, we have the U.S. president’s special envoy for hostage affairs, Robert O’Brien, visiting Sweden to lobby for his release and a letter where *the U.S. government threatened Sweden with “negative consequences” in their bilateral relationship [if Sweden did not release the rap artist ASAP Rocky from prison](#)*. The letter was nominally addressed to the Swedish Prosecution Authority. Additionally, the U.S. president’s special envoy had meetings with a number of government officials when he conveyed the U.S. government position on this matter.

Swedish prosecutor-general Petra Lundh replied to U.S. president’s special envoy O’Brien that “no other prosecutor, not even I, may interfere with a specific case”. Which is exactly the opposite of

https://www.expressen.se/nyheter/darfor-drojer-julian-assange-utredningen/

**EXPRESSEN**  
Tisdag 6 augusti 2019 BERÄTTANDE SOM BERÖR

JOHAN HAKELIUS  
Man blir en sämre människa utan hund

START SPORT PREMIUM TV NÖJE KULTUR LEDARE DEBATT DINA PER

# Därför dröjer Julian Assange-utredningen

Publicerad 3 sep 2010 kl 05.56 Uppdaterad 3 sep 2010 kl 06.07



Så här såg Eva Finné ut dagen. Första uppgiften var att hon skulle komma in på eftermiddagen. Susanne Sommargren talade med henne. Hon skulle återkomma.  
2010-08-24  
Talade med Eva Finné, hon anser inte att det är väldigt. Meddelade att jag inte helt med...  
men att det är hon som äger utredningen. Hon sade att Eva Finné...  
har varit i alla delar av utredningen.

**“Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev personally intervened in the Assange investigation.”**

Foto: ROGER VIKSTRÖM

Expressen kan i dag avslöja att riksåklagaren Anders Perklev personligen ingrep i Assange-utredningen.  
Han ville försäkra sig om att det fanns tillräckliga resurser. Resultatet blev tvärtom.

Dela artikel

f t e

Chefsåklagare Eva Finné inledde sitt arbete som ansvarig för Assange-utredningen på lördagen genom att leda den från sitt lantställe.  
Bland annat fattade hon då beslut om att riksåklagaren Maria Hällebo Kjellstrands beslut

what Swedish prosecutor-general have done in the Assange case. Although a variety of posts and press-release have now been deleted by the Prosecutor-General, some are still retrievable. For instance, newspaper Expressen (Sept 3, 2010) reads, “[Prosecutor General Anders Perklev intervened personally in the Assange investigation case](#)“. And in March 28, 2015, in the middle of

discussions about the Assange case, the prosecutor-general interfered [\*with that specific case\*](#). Perklev said, "...I consider that the reasons for the detention [of Julian Assange] still outweigh the reasons against the detention. In that light, I consider that the prosecutor [of the case] had grounds for her assessment of waiting to comply with Julian Assange's request to be heard at the London embassy."

Ms Petra Lundh continued: "Furthermore, when a person is charged and the case is brought before a court, only the court can decide, during or after the trial, whether or not to release the person or decide on supervised detention."

Despite the pompous declarations of "independent legal system" made by the Swedish government, in the end, the Prosecution Authority, complying Swedish media, and Sweden's "independent court system" did exactly what U.S. president Donald Trump told them to do.

"Abracadabra!", and the Americans Rakim Mayers (stage name ASAP Rocky), David Rispers and Bladimir Corniel, were released just days after that letter. That thanks to –"Abracadabra!", again– the prosecution was no longer able to use a previous witnesses testimony about a certain bottle used in the street-fight. A testimony highly incriminating for the accused.

Instead for two years prison or so, the prosecution asked for only six month for Mayers, an unusually short sentence for crime cases of this type. The short length sentence request, conveniently influenced the decision of the court into releasing the detained Americans,

anticipating an acquitting verdict or non-prison sentence. This, among other, because Mayer, Rispers and Corniel have already "served" a month or so in a Swedish prison/detention facility

Although the verdict is not yet official, the outcome is implied in news updates from the U.S. indicating that Rakim Meyers

“[Reportedly Has No Plans to Return to Sweden](#) and that his legal team has already [confirmed](#) that Meyers “won’t need to return to Sweden for the verdict.”

## The truth is that the Swedish legal system is indeed politicized, and not that “independent”

The verdict in the case against Mayers, Rispens and Corniels is pending August 14th, and it will be given by a Swedish court of five members. In Sweden, lay judges appointed by political parties constitute the majority of the judging team mix. The team of judges presented with a case and reaching a verdict at any given time, is comprised in the [most part by lay people appointed by political parties](#); only a minority are academically qualified people with the professional status of a judge.

The use of lay judges is practiced in other countries too. However, the differences in the use of “lay judges” between Sweden and other countries are worth noting:

*First: Unlike other countries where [lay judges are used in some civil law jurisdictions](#), in Sweden lay judges are also used in criminal-law cases.*

*Second: in Sweden the politically appointed lay judges are not assessors, they ARE JUDGING in a team together with (a minority) of professional judges.*

In Swedish District courts –which is the type of court dealing with the ASAP Rocky et al case– there are up to three lay judges in the court case. They participate in the judging with the same “judging prerogatives” than the professional (career) judge/s.

*Third: The political affiliation of lay judges DOES MATTER in the judging and verdict outcome. As I have previously recalled, “[lay](#)*

judges have a tendency to judge according to their political affiliation“.

And here is where the Swedish geopolitical mindset becomes relevant in these types of cases. This aspect is also evident in the Swedish case against Julian Assange. At such level of political stakes, all political parties in Sweden (including the so-called Left Party originating from the Euro-communist party) press the consensus button. This consensus dictates that Sweden shall stay pro corporate-America and deeply Russo-phobic. Sweden, since the end of the Cold War, is not neutral or nonaligned.

So, from the moment the U.S. government threatened Sweden with “negative consequences” in their relationship, the outcome of the Swedish “ASAP Rocky case” became instantly clear, and the same applies to the Swedish case against Julian Assange.

## Sweden and Trump

*Before* the strong “do it, or else” to the Swedish authorities by the U.S. president’s special envoy, the collective negative-response of Sweden’s political elites and media to President Trump’s *initial wishes* expressed to Sweden’s PM Löfven, can be better understood in the context of the bias adopted against Mr Donald Trump in Sweden before he was elected.

This bias was formed on the basis of the alignment of Swedish elites to the geopolitical model offered by Trump’s main opponent in that election, Ms Hillary Clinton.

Swedish elites are clearly seeking military confrontation with Russia, in the line Hillary Clinton promised during the presidential campaign (“they will pay a price”). Swedish elites have been advocating all along for a “No-Fly Zone” in Syria, precisely aligned to Hillary Clinton’s policy. Trump’s policy differs. Sweden’s



government, strongly backed by Swedish political parties, are pioneers in the escalation of economic sanctions against the Russian Federation. In contrast, Trump had, at least in his initial declarations, pursued instead the policy of dialogue with Russia. Still, in reality he was not permitted to pursue this policy by the prevailing dynamics within his own administration.

In fact, PM Stefan Löfven interfered in the U.S. election process around the time of his visit to the U.S., when, according to [Svenska Dagbladet](#), “he added that the risk that Trump may become U.S. president made him worried, and that he hoped for the victory of the Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton” and “I mean that the best for the U.S. and the world is if Hillary Clinton become president”, [said Sweden's PM](#) Stefan Löfven in the middle of the U.S. presidential campaign. Such sentiments were repeated by Löfven [immediately after](#) it became known that Trump won the election.

This bias might never been given attention in the U.S., but the Swedish *officials* position have certainly contributed –in a country characterized by strong consensus in geopolitical issues that stays unchallenged by the press– to Trump being considered “[uniquely unpopular in Sweden](#)“. This, according to a poll commissioned by Swedish Radio where this State-owned broadcast concluded that “Eighty per cent of Swedes dislike US president Donald Trump”.

## [A Swedish geopolitical paradox](#)

The animosity of the Swedish elites against Russia is historical and idiosyncratic as well as a successful NATO-intelligence operation via collaborators in the media and politicians. The fact is that, particularly under the government of Carl Bildt and onward, Sweden has increasingly been cooperating with NATO, and particularly with U.S. military operations worldwide (Libya,

Afghanistan, etc). Sweden has also been in the lead of aggressive diplomatic efforts against Russia in international forums as UN, EU, etc., for instance in the issue of asking for more economic sanctions.

In another instance, we find the government of Sweden vis-à-vis with the U.S. in the preparation, implementation and subsequently support of the putsch in Ukraine which eventually caused the separatist rebellion in Donbass (Eastern Ukraine). This development was then used by Sweden to legitimate further cooperation with NATO and at the same time ask the EU for a more tough stance against the Russian Federation.

In that Swedish political stand, Bildt did not hide his imperialists dreams for Sweden. Furthermore, there is a variety of political formations in Sweden, mainly from nationalistic inspiration, that seems to seek *vendetta* for the defeat of Sweden by the Russian army in Poltava –considered a turning point in what would be the declining of Sweden as a big Baltic power.

Furthermore, there are prominent figures in both the government and Swedish mainstream media that are of Finish origin who, judging from their actions, hold a strong anti-Russian sentiment.

However, the problem faced by the Löfven government and his warmonger minister of defence Hultqvist, is that Sweden has a poor military capability. For example if compared especially with Finland or also with other Nordic countries in relation to per-capita figures. Swedish warmongers seem to wish a war with Russia, but they wish and *need* that others do the thing for them. That opportunist geopolitical approach has been a pattern, in fact a geopolitical strategy, in a variety of Swedish stances in the past.

Against that backdrop, the military possibilities of Sweden are those that can essentially be provided by forces from NATO, both in gear and manpower.



*Peter Hultqvist –the warmongering defence minister in the “feminist” Swedish government– hammering last nails in Sweden’s “neutrality” coffin.*

This dependency on a possible U.S. commitment in “helping” Sweden, is what makes the government of Sweden so docile in front of requests as the one conveyed by Trump’s special envoy.

Surely Swedes may dislike Trump, but they surely dislike much more the risk of being left without U.S. military support amidst provocations and warmongering against “archenemy” Russia. And this is the Swedish geopolitical paradox that the ASAP Rocky affair has made evident. This may help explain the different positions, at times contradictory, adopted by Swedish authorities and media during this affair.

In my opinion, if Sweden would stay neutral and non-aligned, and particularly if it stayed away from provoking Russia with actions [that](#)

[could be taken as an act of war](#), it would not need to be dependent on a U.S. promise of military help.

Therefore, it is not true that Swedish Prime Ministers or others at government don't interfere with the Sweden's justice system

Here below are some examples on how these Swedish government authorities interfered in the legal case against Julian Assange

On 11 February 2011, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt [stated in the newspaper DN](#) (and Aftonbladet) that Julian Assange had been indicted. He then went on to take a position that was biased in favour of the complainants in the case. Not only was this political interference in an ongoing case, but also it was based on untruths; Julian Assange had not been charged. The statement by the Prime Minister was:

*“We have an independent judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian Assange on allegations of rape”. And, “I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward.”*

On 15 August 2012, Göran Haglund, Swedish Minister of Social Affairs, [told newspaper Expressen](#): “Assange is a very coward person that does not dare to confront the charges against him”. And he added, “If he did the things he is accused of, I think one can call him a lowlife. He seems to be a miserable wretch.”

The arrest in Sweden of the Grammy-nominated American artist ASAP Rocky has made once again relevant at the international forum two other Swedish idiosyncratic features:

a) The selective unfairness in the Swedish legal system on ideological and/or ethic grounds [already commented in the post “[Does Swedish justice depend on who stands accused?](#)”, and

b) The extremely nationalistic consensus in matters of foreign policy. I have previously commented these issues [See chapter “Analyzing The Swedish Phenomenon Of Political Consensus”, page 78 in my book [Sweden VS. Assange](#). Free download].

To add to the above the allegations on “systematic racism” by Swedish authorities against black rappers [See down below].

## Carl Bildt

As the “Sweden VS. ASAP Rocky” affair progresses, Swedish politician Carl Bildt grasps the media opportunity given by the case to remind us via a Washington Post’s headline “[I was Sweden’s prime minister and no, Mr. Trump, I could not have freed A\\$AP Rocky either](#)”. In his op-ed, Bildt develops:

“There certainly are countries around the world where the judiciary is little more than an instrument of the arbitrary powers of the ruling strongman, and where the political leadership can send people in and out of prison at their discretion. Sweden is most certainly not one of those countries.”

Of course. He would neither free Nelson Mandela if he could have the possibility, for “[niggers are niggers](#)“, and as he said, “[a Swede is a Swede and a Jew is a Jew](#)”.

But what about “political leaderships send people in and out of prison at their discretion”? Carl Bildt was the Swedish minister of Foreign Affairs at the time when [United Nations condemned Sweden for having violated the global torture ban](#) due to its involvement in the CIA extraordinary renditions of refugees that were held prisoners in Sweden. This was a secret cooperation of the Swedish authorities

in the U.S. transfer of Mohammed al-Zari to be tortured in Egypt which totally subverted and by-passed the legal system of Sweden.

This was the same Carl Bildt who, as minister of Foreign Affairs at the time the [U.S. government asked](#) all countries participating – under U.S. command– in the military occupation of Afghanistan, to prosecute Julian Assange, complied with the request.

The above facts emphatically contradict the pompous and deceptive, Swedish declarations of “non-interference” in legal matters.

## Ecuador Embassy issues in the Assange case

## What was behind Ecuador's move to change its ambassador in the United Kingdom?

([Interview](#))

*Sputnik: What is behind Ecuador's move to change its ambassador in the United Kingdom? Why has Moreno taken the step now?*

*Marcello Ferrada de Noli:* The background of the Assange case, now maintained for over eight years, may not be quite known by the public. A less publicized document around the Snowden revelations revealed that in 2010 — this means after “Collateral Murder” and the “Afghan Logs” published by WikiLeaks, US military leaders in contact with their counterpart powers participating in the Afghanistan war under the US-command, asked them to pursue a prosecution of Julian Assange. Of these countries, only Sweden complied.

The case has therefore never been a “legal case”, but purely political in its administrations, and obeying to geopolitical interests. On its development, the case has grown further to other spheres of global dimension: The attacks to WikiLeaks and the impeachment against its publisher Julian Assange have nowadays conveyed determinant survival issues for the Freedom of Speech principle, the freedom of information, added the ethics of Western journalists in regards of reporting or non-reporting precisely about all those press-related issues.

The now suddenly deposed Ecuador's Ambassador in London, Carlos Abad, has been a career diplomatic since 1971 and served also



as Ecuadorian ambassador or top diplomat in India, France, Austria, Peru, the Caribbean countries, etc. So, he is not a political “appointee” of the former government of Rafael Correa, and therefore his removal by President Moreno cannot be explained for reasons of domestic praxis of changing politically appointed ambassadors on the cause of newly elected administrations. Furthermore, the same Constitutional Decree N° 147 called by Moreno to “terminate services” of Abad in London, also allows the president to appoint Abad in another diplomatic mission—which did not occur.

The above summed the known economic agreements between Moreno and the US government—which deepened the dependence of Ecuador towards the US and through it, to NATO countries- calls for other explanations.

In a meeting in London 2017 with Ambassador Abad, to which he kindly invited me, he told me in the presence of the embassy’s political adviser in London about his concerns on Assange’s risk for a deteriorating health status. I perceived the ambassador as a human and engaged diplomat. And I believe that provided nothing really significant could be done since then to ameliorate that risk, any directive on that regard must have come directly from Moreno’s desk, not from Ambassador Abad’s.

Obviously, a deterioration of the health status of the publisher of WikiLeaks can only serve the interests of political-military establishments which fear and oppose further strong WikiLeaks revelations, as those that provided evidence for the allegations on US war crimes in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. What about engagements of that kind that possibly may have occurred in Syria or Yemen, one may wonder.

Thirdly, we have that Ambassador Abad was known for his efforts to reach a settlement with the UK authorities about Julian Assange, and which would prevent the extradition of Julian Assange to the US.

The question being, would be the UK really interested in finding a solution which may result in avoiding that extradition? My answer is plain, no. The UK is equally interested in silencing or worsening WikiLeaks publish endeavour.

Furthermore, I see quite similarities between the British authorities' behaviour on that issue, and the one adopted by its Swedish counterparts which I have studied thoroughly. In my book *Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues*, where I have described how the trumpeted accusations against Assange, added the artificial or unjustified protracting of the prosecutor's procedure, only aimed to give the US administration opportunity to complete their indictment.

Instructions may have come, for instance, through the then US Justice Minister, Eric Holder, who travelled to Stockholm to lecture his Swedish counterpart precisely on the days the Assange case was due to be dropped in Sweden.

Another similarity has been the use of “processual” arguments to delay the freedom of Assange (requested already by the UNGA, a UN body). In the case of Sweden was to allege a false prohibition to interrogate suspected persons abroad, and in the UK case is the retention of Assange on the base that he would not have followed a duty to report to a police station during the Swedish issued of the international arresting warrant, even when that that order not any longer exists (ultimately the Swedish authorities were forced to withdraw the accusations against Assange, when it was proven unfeasible that they would stand in any court).

And due to whichever artificial “legal” resource, Assange is still in London waiting for the implementation of the same US indictment that motivated the process in Sweden.

*Sputnik: How concerning is this development for Assange? Will it signify his eventual expulsion from the embassy?*

*Marcello Ferrada de Noli:* In the worst of cases, the current Ecuadorian government may finally pursue the termination of the political asylum of Assange by Ecuador, arguing that Mr Julian Assange would have not complied with the terms of their hospitality, for instance, Mr Assange's alleged continuation of a publication endeavour that the government of Moreno may consider it harms the relationship of Ecuador with a "friend country".

However, that also would be a feeble argument, and that in fact that would go against the commitments done instead by the Ecuadorian government itself, when they grounded the political asylum to Assange on humanitarian reasons, and explicating that such an asylum would prevent Mr Assange to be extradited to a country in which a death penalty is an option in cases where US authorities would relate the prosecution of Mr Assange to issues of national security, for instance, penalized in the Espionage Act.

*Sputnik: The departure of Abad leaves Assange virtually surrounded by people he does not know which some see as a sort of 'psychological torture'. How grounded is such an assessment?*

*Marcello Ferrada de Noli:* Independently of those personnel changes, the conditions of such a protracted staying at the embassy, without the possibility of even taken some steps under the sun, without proper medical attention—even if the previous administration has done their best to provide that attention at the embassy's compound- all that is enough to constellate a situation of "psychological torture". Let us not forget that in the core of the experience of torture under captivity, we find the uncertainty on when the next episode would arise, or whether those torture episodes would ever stop, or if they would evolve to be terminal

in terms of the life of the individual suffering that torture. I know what I am talking about.

To the above should be added the constant threat of extradition first from Sweden to the US, then from the UK to the US, and now a possible extradition facilitated with the assistance of the very government that granted asylum against that contingency. He had to even face the possibility of a storming to the embassy, as suggested for instance by a highly publicized report in Newsweek magazine.

With unpredictable fate regarding his life, all that would very well constitute a sum of severe stressors.

With all that considered, when I last met personally Julian Assange, at the Ecuadorian embassy in London August 2017 — in the period when that was still possibly — I found remarkably that in spite of visible health issues he was so strong in his spirits, and with his personal integrity at the top, as always. His message was of optimism and solidarity.

## What the arrest of Assange means for the Human Rights of all

We have repeatedly expounded the issue of right to existence as the primary of all human rights, and of human rights for all. War and its wilfully killing is thus N° 1 enemy of such humanity's essential right.

Hence, we have warmly supported the denounce of preparations, propaganda and perpetration of occupation-wars, illegal wars, war-abuses, crimes perpetrated under the name of one power's 'national security' against the international security of many nations, the widespread killing of civilians, the using of prohibited chemical weapons, etc.

All that denouncing has been a leitmotif in the endeavours of WikiLeaks. Julian Assange, the founder of that organization, has established an example of civil courage, a behaviour which has been followed by important other exposures at different latitudes.

This movement, which also perfected the mechanisms of modern alternative media to counter arrest the disinformation routine that has characterized MSM, have provided free information, and thus education, as to how deal with the alienation pursued by the messages of those in power that are transmitted by the media at their service.

The arresting of the WikiLeaks publisher Mr Julian Assange signifies not only a hard blow for Western democratic principles referred to freedom of speech and freedom of the press. It also entails a further threat to all honest journalists, public and private officials which have undertaken the honourable mission of denouncing war

crimes allegedly perpetrated by NATO and its aligned forces in various scenarios of illegal wars.

On the other hand, amidst the dramatic circumstances in the now unpredictable fate of Mr Julian Assange, emerges another truth. This is, the Western media in consensus, invariably dismissed the risk of extradition of Assange as the invention of “conspiracy theorists” – referring to the NGOs that defended Assange’s human rights.

Instead, the first news arising after the arrest of Assange was known, is the public acknowledgement of an extradition request from the part of the US government.

Hence, it was not “Assange’s paranoia”. And our analyses were accurate.

Let’s begin by clarifying that Julian Assange has never been charged with any crime, neither in Sweden nor elsewhere. Instead, he has been made responsible for the legendary exposures in “[Collateral Damage](#)”, the documentary which denounced atrocities in the Iraq war, including the killing of civilian journalists –and already viewed by over 16 million people.

Due to WikiLeaks exposures on alleged US war crimes in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the US has been after the extradition of Assange since 2010.

After the publication of WikiLeaks of over 70,000 classified documents covering the war in Afghanistan, the US urged nations participating in the US-led coalition in Afghanistan to initiate prosecution against Julian Assange.

This is documented in the ‘Snowden papers’, which text relevant to this issue was [republished](#) in The Indictor Magazine in 2016. Of the countries then consulted, only Sweden complied with the US request and subsequently they opened an investigation against Assange on alleged sexual offences to permit a warrant for his arrest. Those accusations probed to be unsustainable, and the case had to

be dropped after years of Assange being held under the Swedish arrest warrant.

The real reason for the arrest was, according to open investigations SWEDHR has access to and which we earliest denounced, the extradition of Assange to the US. A sealed process against Assange had been opened in Virginia –also negated by the authorities at that time– and which only recently has been [confirmed](#) by the U.S. Department of Justice.

While in house arrest, and in order to avoid the impending rendition to Sweden from the part of the London authorities, Julian Assange sought asylum at the Embassy of Ecuador in London. The government of Ecuador under the presidency of Rafael Correa granted political asylum to him due to the risk of his extradition to the US from Sweden.

The UK then instructed Sweden to protract the ‘investigation’ on Assange, to which the Swedish authorities docilely complied. Meanwhile the process against Chelsea Manning continued.

But after Sweden dropped the investigations on Assange, The UK has said that it will arrest Assange anyway in case he leaves the embassy’s premises.

This on the argument that Assange would have violated the conditions of his house arrest by seeking instead asylum at the Ecuador embassy.

In the meantime the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), had requested the immediate freedom of Mr Assange.

When I met Julian Assange at the embassy in London in August 2017, his situation had been substantially changed. Although efforts deployed by the outgoing ambassador, Assange’s health was deteriorating after years of isolation, sun deprivation, etc.

He also told me about the unjustified accusations of involvement with Russian interests around the US presidential election narrative, which he categorically denied.

But the change of government in Ecuador had started to show consequences for his juridical, and physical safety at the Embassy.

President Moreno had another stance on issues of Ecuador's national sovereignty – read, relationships with the US government. which openly consider South America as “our backyard” – and in pursuing better terms for financial deals for his country with the US, president Moreno was said to include the fate of Assange in those negotiations. At least, according to WikiLeaks reports.

One first complaint against Assange was his use of Internet connections, provided to him at the Embassy, to embarrass “friendly governments”, such as the US. But the real reason turned out being another “embarrassing”. Which was President Moreno's own.

And so we arrive to the “INAPapers” affair, which was apparently used by Moreno as a pretext to justify his decision of rendering Julian Assange to the UK authorities (and subsequently to the US). Here is the “INAPapers affair in summary:

According to reports published in Ecuador local media, Ina Investment Corporation is an offshore company related to Xavier Macías Carmigniani, his wife María Auxiliadora Patiño Herdoiza, and the Ecuador president Lenin Moreno's family.

Between 2012-2016 the company allegedly had a bank account in the Balboa Bank de Panamá. WikiLeaks mentioned in a tweet some of the information that has been already published in Ecuador. Also an investigation in Ecuador's National Assembly was opened.

One issue that I could read is that several furniture items were presumably acquired and stored at Lenin Moreno's apartment in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2015.

The published source that I am using here ([Periodismo de Investigación](#)), also reported that from such account departed



transfers to purchase an apartment in the Mediterranean coast, in 2016.

The transfer pertaining the furniture deal, is alleged to consist in \$19 342, and the recipient firm was described as “Moinat S.A. Atiquities” en Suiza. And regarding the apartment of Moreno in Switzerland, this would have correspond to the residence he has at the time he served as UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility –an [appointment](#) he received from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. All according to what has been described by [Periodismo de Investigación](#).

Already on April 4, WikiLeaks tweeted that “A high level source within the Ecuadorian state has told WikiLeaks that Julian Assange will be expelled within “hours to days” using the INAPapers offshore scandal as a pretext—and that it already has an agreement with the UK for his arrest.”

This was immediately denied by Ecuador’s Foreign minister José Valencia:

In the morning of April 5, 2019, Ecuador Foreign Minister José Valencia tweeted (he later did withdraw it) in response to the above mentioned post by WikiLeaks:

*“Diplomatic asylum is a sovereign privilege of a state, which has the right to grant it or withdraw it unilaterally when deemed necessary”*

Ensuing, SWEDHR produced the following statement: [Statement seen in next page]:

### **SWEDHR – Statement April 5, 2019**

**This is why Ecuador's Foreign Minister Jose Valencia is logically and ethically wrong about the situation of Mr Assange in London:**

- 1. It is not a "diplomatic" asylum; it is a political asylum.**
- 2. The conditions of the asylum at the embassy, as changed by the Lenin Moreno administration –which has deprived Mr Assange of fundamental human rights and which are also worsening his health – have added to the political asylum of Mr Assange a huge humanitarian issue.**

**Both these human rights infringements on the person of Mr Assange and the violation, or threat of violation, of the political-asylum conventions prevalent in the Latin American countries, are matters for which the Foreign Ministry of Ecuador will sooner or later have to answer for to international Human Rights bodies.**

- 3. One of these bodies, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD), has requested the immediate freedom of Mr Assange.**

**This is the solution for which Mr Valencia should be working, while representing his country and its noble people – instead of working for the rendition of Mr Assange to the powers that are responsible for this protracted situation in the first place.**



**Professor, med dr, Marcello Ferrada de Noli, chairman  
Professor, med dr, Anders Romelsjö, vice-chairman  
Swedish Professors & Doctors for Human Rights  
SWEDHR**

## Pro-Clinton media calls UK to suspend diplomatic immunity of Ecuador Embassy over WikiLeaks publication of Hillary's emails

A Newsweek op-ed article authored by Paul Webster Hare, “Assange And Wikileaks Make a Mockery of the Diplomacy They Enjoy” – also published in other media, e.g. UPI Top News – [1] asks the UK authorities to consider the suspension of the diplomatic inviolability of the Ecuadorian Embassy in London in order to stop the WikiLeaks publication of Hillary Clinton emails. Webster Hare, a lecturer at Boston University, concludes after his plea:



Now the U.K. legal authorities have to decide whether the precedents Assange has set in handling “stolen” property while residing in a diplomatic mission is sufficient reason to rescind temporarily the inviolable status of Ecuador's mission.

It appears quite odd that this author, at the same time that as he profusely cites the [Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations](#), ignores its Article 22, § 1, which refers to the agreement signed by UK and other 60 countries that the premises of the mission shall be inviolable:

*“§ 1. The premises of the mission shall be inviolable. The agents of the receiving State may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission.” [2]*

In his article the author advocates for rescinding the applicability of the Vienna Convention in the case of Ecuador's diplomatic mission. He adduces that WikiLeaks – and in particularly Mr Julian Assange whom all over the text is equated with that organization – has “stolen property” (the files containing Hillary Clinton's emails). What the Newsweek article does not mention is that WikiLeaks is only *publishing* the material they receive in its journalist endeavour; WikiLeaks does not obtain the material through active ‘hacking’.

Secondly, the Newsweek author is utterly wrong in imputing that the Republic of Ecuador or Mr Assange is in violation of stipulations within the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations – by misinterpreting Article 41, § 3. That article reads: “premises of the mission must not be used in any manner incompatible with the functions of the mission as laid down in the present Convention or by other rules of general international law...”. But the truth is:

*1. The government of Ecuador has not engaged in any interfering activities towards the US presidential election via their embassy in London.*

*2. Likewise Mr. Assange, and the WikiLeaks organisation, also did not engage in publishing activities concerning emails of a candidate to the US presidential election from the Embassy of Ecuador despite Julian Assange residing there.*

On October 24, 2016 WikiLeaks clarified that their publishing occurs from the countries that host their servers, Ecuador does not host any of the WikiLeaks servers. [3]

The article in Newsweek, as most articles in mainstream Western media that are staunch supporters of Ms Clinton's candidacy and the geopolitical stances she represents, do not treat the main issues in the context of:

a) whether the published Clinton's emails kept on *private* servers are a matter of state-secrets or of national security;

b) whether the *content* of the revelations provide evidence of corruption in relation to, for instance, Hillary Clinton, The Clinton Foundation, and the DNC administration; or

c) whether the revelations done by WikiLeaks *refer to true facts*—which should be the paramount concern of the analyses, instead of solely focusing on WikiLeaks as the messenger, or in how the material was obtained and by whom.

Furthermore, accusing Mr Julian Assange of “theft” is not the only libel in the Newsweek article. Webster Hare also declares that Assange has been *charged* of a crime in Sweden:

“Assange is a fugitive in the U.K. because he skipped bail in 2012 after a long court battle against his extradition to Sweden on sexual assault charges.”

The TRUTH is: Mr. Assange has never been charged with any crime. See a summarized itinerary of this political case at “[Mr. Julian Assange has never been charged of any crime. The powers behind the hunt of WikiLeaks.](#)” [4]

And the spinning goes on:

“Ecuador gave him asylum based on his claim that the extradition process was a charade.”

The TRUTH is: In spite of the Swedish extradition request which, in my opinion, mounted in a legal ‘charade’, Ecuador granted asylum because of [a documented risk of extradition to U.S.](#) [5]

Finally, the Newsweek article presents as ‘conclusive evidence’ an issue which is only under investigation phase; hence not clear if it

will be dismissed after the US presidential elections; namely, Hillary Clinton has repeated the claim that a conspiracy exists between Russia and Assange against her candidacy:

The TRUTH is: The Newsweek author links to a CNN article which in turn quotes *one mysterious* source (“one US official”) who said that “US intelligence officials are *still investigating*”; meaning, there is *no conclusive evidence* as purported by Hillary Clinton – and echoed by the Newsweek’s author Webster.

The Newsweek author’s proposal to the UK authorities constitutes a wrong interpretation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. As it was shown above, the article is libellous towards Mr. Assange, and, in the opinion of Swedish Doctors for Human Rights, it represents an action against both the human and political rights of Mr Assange. Finally, the article’s main proposal, calling on the UK to suspend diplomatic immunity to Ecuador over WikiLeaks’ publications, is against the very notion of what it means to be a principled publisher or journalist.

## Notes and References

[1] Paul Webster Hare, “[Assange And Wikileaks Make a Mockery of the Diplomacy They Enjoy](#)”. Newsweek, 30 October 2016.

The *Newsweek* article previously appeared in other Western media sympathetic to Hillary Clinton’s presidential candidacy. See *UPI Top News*, “[Julian Assange, WikiLeaks are harming diplomacy more than Clinton campaign](#)”; see *The Conversation*, UK edition, “[Julian Assange and WikiLeaks are harming diplomacy more than the Clinton campaign](#)”.

[2] [Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Optional Protocols](#). Organization of American States, Vienna, 18 April 1961.

[3] [WikiLeaks Editorial Board statement on the status of Julian Assange, Ecuador and the US election](#), 23 October 2016.

[4] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Mr. Julian Assange has never been charged of any crime. The powers behind the hunt of WikiLeaks.](#)” The Indicter magazine, 17 September 2016.

[5] M Ferrada de Noli, “[Sweden’s argument for refusing to issue non-extradition guarantees to Mr Assange is fallacious and hides real commitment to the U.S. – Analysis](#)”. The Indicter magazine, 20 February 2016.

# Assange's integrity remains unwavering in the face of heightened threats to his health, safety and freedom

## What is the Assange case all about?

It is about the situation of the publisher of an important news outlet, where the information “goal is justice, the method is transparency”.

A recently published story in Newsweek, headed “Prosecuting Assange is Essential for Restoring our National Security”, carries a noteworthy statement by its author, a former officer in the US Intelligence apparatus. He declares:

“I was constantly reminded that my job was ... not to think about the larger questions of who he was and why he mattered.” [\[i\]](#)

The above – although it refers to another person – reveals an utter misconception among people, perhaps the majority among mainstream media readers, about what the libellous information, ad-hominem attacks, or even legal prosecution pursued towards certain public figures is all about.

In the case of the long-protracted persecution of the WikiLeaks publisher, exercised by powerful Western powers with help of their client states, “the larger questions” –that their public or law enforcement officials are not supposed to think, are of essential societal value.

I am talking about the First Amendment in the United States Constitution, the Freedom of the Press and Speech principles that



are supposed to reign in Europe and the Transparency obligation of governments towards its citizens which should be universal.

Another societal value is the accountability of those elites responsible in promoting, perpetrating, collaborating, or defending war crimes. This includes MSM.

In a recently published interview [\[ii\]](#) regarding the new developments in the situation of Mr. Assange at the Ecuadorian embassy, I conveyed my opinions regarding heightened perils of an extradition to the U.S.

## Real background of the case

The background of the Assange case, now maintained for over eight years, may not be quite known to the public. A little publicized document from the Snowden revelations disclosed that in 2010 – after “Collateral Murder” and the “Afghan Logs” were published by WikiLeaks, U.S. military leaders in contact with their counterpart [\[allied\]](#) powers participating in the Afghanistan war *under* US-command, asked them to pursue a prosecution of Julian Assange. [\[iii\]](#) Of these countries, only Sweden complied.

The case has therefore never been a “legal case”, but a purely political one in relation to its administration, and obeying geopolitical interests.

As it developed, the case has grown further to other spheres of global dimension:

The attacks to WikiLeaks and the impeachment of its publisher Julian Assange, have now become determining factors in the survival of principles like Freedom of Speech, freedom of information, as well as the ethics of Western journalists with regards to the reporting or not of precisely those press-related issues.

## What was behind Ecuador's move to change its ambassador in the United Kingdom

The, now deposed, Ecuadorian Ambassador in London, Carlos Abad, has been a career diplomat since 1971 and served also as Ecuadorian ambassador or top diplomat in India, France, Austria, Peru, the Caribbean countries, etc. So, he is not a political “appointee” of the former government of Rafael Correa, and therefore his removal by President Moreno cannot be explained for reasons of domestic praxis of changing politically appointed ambassadors to enable policies of new elected administrations.

Furthermore, the same Constitutional Decree N° 147 called by Moreno to “terminate the services” of Abad in London, also allows the president to appoint Abad to another diplomatic mission –which did not occur.

The above, summed the known economic agreements between Moreno and the U.S. government –which deepened the *dependence* of Ecuador towards the U.S. and through it, to NATO countries– calls for other explanations.

In a meeting in London 2017 with Ambassador Abad, to which he kindly invited me, he told me in the presence of the embassy's political adviser in London about his concerns of the risks to Assange due to his deteriorating health. I perceived the ambassador as a humane and engaged diplomat. And I believe that provided nothing really significant could have been done since then to ameliorate that risk, any directive on that regard must have come directly from Moreno's desk, not from Ambassador Abad's.

Obviously, a deterioration of the health status of the publisher of WikiLeaks can only serve the interests of political-military establishments which fear and oppose further strong WikiLeaks revelations, as those that provided evidence for the allegations on U.S. war crimes in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars. What about

engagements of that kind that possibly may have occurred in Syria, or Yemen, one may wonder.

## The U.K. is not interested in finding a non-extradition option as solution. Similarities with Sweden

Thirdly, we have that Ambassador Abad was known for his efforts to reach a settlement with the UK authorities about Julian Assange, aiming to prevent the extradition of Julian Assange to the U.S.

The question is, would the U.K. really be interested in finding a solution which may result in avoiding that extradition? My answer is plainly, no. The U.K. is equally interested in silencing or making things more difficult for WikiLeaks as a publishing endeavour.

Furthermore, I see similarities between the British authorities' behaviour on this issue, and the one adopted by its Swedish counterparts which I have studied thoroughly. In my book *Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues*, [iv] I have described how the trumpeted accusations against Assange, leading to the artificial or unjustified protracting [v] of the prosecutor's procedure, aimed to give the US administration the opportunity to complete their indictment. Instructions may have come, for instance, through the then U.S. Justice Minister, Eric Holder, who travelled to Stockholm to lecture his Swedish counterpart precisely at the time when the Assange case was due to be dropped in Sweden [vi].

Another similarity has been the use of “processual” [due process] arguments to delay the freedom of Assange (requested already by the UNWGAD, a UN body). In the case of Sweden it was alleged falsely that there law prohibited the interrogation of suspected persons abroad, and in the present U.K. case Assange's detention is on the bases that he would not have followed a duty to report to a police station to enable the execution of the international arresting warrant

[EAW] issued by Sweden, even though that order no longer exists (ultimately the Swedish authorities were forced to withdraw the accusations against Assange, when it was proven unfeasible that they would stand in any court).

And due to this artificial “legal” process, Assange is still in London waiting for the implementation of the same U.S. indictment that motivated the process in Sweden.

*Will the above signify the imminent expulsion of Mr. Assange from the embassy?*

In the worst of cases, the current Ecuadorian government may finally pursue the termination of the political asylum of Assange by Ecuador arguing that Mr Julian Assange would have not complied with the terms of their hospitality. For instance, Mr. Assange’s alleged continuation of a publication endeavour that the government of Moreno may consider it harms the relationship of Ecuador with a “friendly country”.

However, that would be a feeble argument, as it would go against the commitments undertaken by the Ecuadorian government itself, when it bestowed political asylum to Assange on *humanitarian* grounds. The context was that such an asylum would prevent Mr. Assange from being extradited to a country in which death penalty is an option as in cases where the U.S. authorities would relate prosecution, like the one against Mr. Assange, to issues of national security, for example prosecution under the Espionage Act. [\[vii\]](#)

## On the ‘psychological-torture like’ descriptions which has increasingly been depicted amidst concerned commentators

Independently of those [Embassy] personnel changes, the conditions of such a protracted stay at the embassy, without the

possibility of even taken some steps under the sun, without proper medical attention –even if the previous administration has done their best to provide that attention at the embassy's compound– all that is enough to constellate a situation of “psychological torture”. Let us not forget that in the core of the experience of torture under captivity, we find the uncertainty on when the next episode would arise, or whether those torture episodes would ever stop, or if they would evolve to be terminal in terms of life of the individual suffering that torture. I know what I am talking about. [viii]

To the above should be added the constant threat of extradition first from Sweden to de U.S., then from the U.K. to the U.S., and now a possible extradition facilitated with assistance of the very government that granted asylum against that contingency. He had to even face the possibility of the embassy being stormed, as suggested for instance by a highly publicized report in Newsweek magazine. [ix]

With unpredictable fate regarding his life, all that would very well constitute a sum of severe stressors.

With all that considered, when I last met personally Julian Assange, at the Ecuadorian embassy in London August 2017 – in the period when that was still possibly – I found remarkable that in spite of visible health issues he was so strong in his spirits, and with his personal integrity intact, as always. His message was of optimism and solidarity.

## Notes and References

[i] Newsweek, 24 November 2018.

<https://www.newsweek.com/prosecuting-assange-essential-restoring-our-national-security-1229856>

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<https://sputniknews.com/analysis/201811281070186588-usa-ecuador-uk-sweden-assange-wikileaks/>

[iii] M Ferrada de Noli, “Sweden doesn’t follow U.N., but U.S. – Prosecution of Assange requested by the US, Snowden document reveals”. The Indicter Magazine, 6 February 2016.

<http://theindicter.com/sweden-doesnt-follow-u-n-but-u-s-prosecution-of-assange-requested-by-the-us-snowden-document-reveals/>

[iv] M Ferrada de Noli, “Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues & Political Background”. Libertarian Books. Sweden, 2014, 2016.

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[v] M Ferrada de Noli, “The ‘Affair Assange’ – Malicious handling of a political case”. The Indicter Magazine, 14 September 2016.

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[vi] M Ferrada de Noli, “Amidst discussion in Sweden on dropping the “case” VS. Assange, US Justice Minister Eric Holder arriving to meet Swedish counterpart & lecture in Parliament”. The Professors’ blog, Stockholm, 2 February 2014.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2014/02/02/holder2visitswe/>

[vii] M Ferrada de Noli, “While U.S. admits “pending future prosecution” of Julian Assange, Sweden refuses to abide by U.N. ruling on his arbitrary detention”. The Indicter Magazine, 11 March 2016.

<http://theindicter.com/?s=While+U.S.+admits+%E2%80%9Cpending+future+prosecution%E2%80%9CD+of+Julian+Assange%2C+Sweden+refuses+to+abide+by+U.N.+ruling+on+his+arbitrary+detention>

[viii] I know what I am talking about. [viii] both professionally and by personal experience as former prisoner in Pinochet prisoner camps in the aftermath of the defeated resistance to the US-backed military coup of 1973 in Chile.

[ix] M Ferrada de Noli, “Pro-Clinton media calls UK to suspend diplomatic immunity of Ecuador Embassy over WikiLeaks publication of Hillary’s emails”, The Indicter Magazine, 1 November 2016.

<http://theindicter.com/pro-clinton-media-calls-uk-to-suspend-diplomatic-immunity-of-ecuador-embassy-over-wikileaks-publication-of-hillarys-emails/>

## Sweden's neglects of UN organs' decisions on Assange case



# UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights says that the arresting of Mr Julian Assange shall be put to an end

## NEWSVOICE

NEWSVOICE IN ENGLISH VÄRLDEN EKONOMI LIVSSTIL SJUKVÅRD KULTUR VETENSKAP

MEDIA WIKILEAKS

### According to the UN International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, Assange's detention should be ended

Av NewsVoice - 30 april, 2015

2

A view of *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR)* is that the case versus Mr Assange in Sweden has conveyed an overriding *political* factor rather than abiding a *legal* one, being that political factor also prominent in the breaches against Mr Assange's human rights all along this process.

By Prof. Marcello Ferrada de Noli, Chairman, Swedish Doctors for Human Rights – SWEDHR

[1] Instead, the stalling of the Swedish 'case' – going now to its fifth year – has mainly given time to the on-going investigation by the U.S. against the organization WikiLeaks, whose founder and principal CEO is Julian Assange.

[2] In fact as it has been recently republished (27 April 2015) "The Department of Justice is



Prof Marcello Ferrada de Noli

This analysis was first published April 30, 2015 in [NewsVoice](#)

A view of [Swedish Doctors for Human Rights](#) (SWEDHR) is that the case versus Mr Assange in Sweden has conveyed an overriding *political* factor rather than abiding a *legal* one, being that political factor also prominent in the breaches against Mr Assange's human rights all along this process. [1] Instead, the stalling of the Swedish 'case' – going now to its fifth year – has mainly given time to the ongoing investigation by the U.S. against the organization WikiLeaks, whose founder and principal CEO is Julian Assange. [2] In fact, as it has been recently republished (27 April 2015), "*The Department of Justice is conducting an investigation, and it remains ongoing*, says a Department of Justice spokesperson by email." [3]

One main aim stated by our organization is the reporting of "institutional assaults on the human rights of individuals who have denounced war crimes, or exposed serious infringements to the civil liberties of the population", and the advocacy of their human rights cause. [4] SWDEHR's has thus also been concerned about breaches against the human rights of Mr Julian Assange – the WikiLeaks founder – enacted by a variety of Swedish authorities and institutions [5] as well by means of a "trial by media". [6] The specific facts constellating in the SWEDHR criteria for matching the aforementioned aim are listed elsewhere. [7]

We believe that, aside the logical/legal incongruences of the case that have put forward by several experts and journalists specialized in juridical issues, [8] a further delay in resolving the case only fosters damage to the international position of Sweden.

We mean that even a high-standard democratic country as Sweden can in the long run risks a disastrous condemnation upon its government, by the international community as a whole, for the management of the case Assange. For instance, the extreme intervals and deferral in the Swedish managing of the case have ostensibly evolved in infringement of Article 9, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the United

Nations (ICCPR). This international-law pledge, of which Sweden is a signatory, stipulates that all individuals under prosecution investigation – even if they are only “detained” and thus, even if they are not being charged with any crime – as it is the case of Mr Assange – “shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. [9]

## Background

The “case” against Mr Assange was earlier dismissed by a chief prosecutor, Ms Eva Finné, for it did not match any legal criteria for being considered criminal offences according to the Swedish law. [10].

However, the case was reopened after a petition to the prosecutor office of Ms Marianne Ny by the law firm Bordström & Borgström. [11] Lawyer Thomas Bodström, in his role of ex Minister of Justice, has been identified by Eva Franchell (press secretary for the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, Anna Lindh) as directly implicated in the collaboration with CIA over the illegal extradition (so called secret extraordinary renditions) of prisoners from Sweden. [12] Bordström has been reported to the Swedish Parliament’s constitutional committee over the extraordinary renditions to the CIA in 2001. For this Sweden has already been sanctioned by the United Nations for infringement on the UN Torture Ban. [13]

At that time (10 August 2010), the U.S. government had requested the countries participating in the US-led military occupation of Afghanistan to initiate prosecution of Assange, the WikiLeaks founder. [14] Based in the Snowden documents exposed by Glenn Greenwald and Ryan Gallagher (*The Intercept*, 18 February 2014), Kevin Gosztola wrote in *Dissenter*:

“The United States on 10 August urged other nations with forces in Afghanistan [...] to consider filing criminal charges against Julian Assange, founder of the rogue WikiLeaks Internet website and

responsible for the unauthorized publication of over 70,000 classified documents covering the war in Afghanistan.” [15]

Sweden was also that time a “nation with forces in Afghanistan”; More specifically, Sweden one of the few nations, and longest lasting, participating in the U.S. led military occupation of Afghanistan.

The request from the U.S. government to the countries participating in the Afghanistan operations was put forward on the 10 of August 2010. In the document “Affidavit of Julian Paul Assange”, we read that it was around that date when Sweden took decisive steps to “consider filing criminal charges against Julian Assange” – as requested by the U.S. government. [16]

## Case has been stalled by all accounts, during years

Despite the Swedish Court of Appeal direct recommendation to the prosecutor (Court of Appeal’s decision of 12 November 2014) to be more active in finding an “alternative formula” for completing the interrogation of Mr. Assange – indicating for instance an interrogation at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, [17]

Despite Mr Assange has declared is ready for such interrogation [18] – the prosecutor Marianne Ny still has not performed the interrogation in London.

This, after the U-turn the prosecutor made on her previous decision, which she made to last for years, about refusing to interrogate Mr Assange in London. [19] Just recently (26 April 2015) the Swedish Supreme Court has granted to hear an appeal by Mr Assange in regards to the European Arresting Warrant. [20]

Nevertheless, The ‘case’ is – technically speaking – still at a preliminary stage; no charges were ever made against Mr Assange, while the case is soon concluding its FIFTH YEAR.

We at *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights* consider that this excessive delay violates the above cited Article 9, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the United Nations (ICCPR), which demands that a detained person “shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. [9]

## Asylum issue

The asylum of Mr Assange granted by Ecuador has to be respected, according international conventions and praxis. This asylum was granted after a thorough evaluation of the risk for both a) prison, b) and/or assassination of Mr Assange in the event he is extradited by Sweden to the United States.

Such risk of imprisonment relates to indictment pertaining to the on-going Grand Jury sealed investigation against Mr Assange and WikiLeaks in Virginia, linked to the exposing of secret data allegedly harmful to national security.

The risk of physical harm relates to several prominent U.S. politicians publicly advocating for the assassination of Mr Assange. [21] The U.S. investigations on WikiLeaks have continued unabated. [22]

## Guarantees on extradition dismissed anew by the Swedish government

Searching for a solution on the above-described stalemate, we have essayed a proposal to the new Swedish government for issuing guarantees that Mr Assange will not be extradited to the U.S. from Swedish territory. [23] We attempted this solution to meet the basic human rights of Mr Assange, and to facilitate the completion of the preliminary investigation in Sweden.

Unfortunately, the view of the new government – expressed on the occasion of a similar request regarding Mr Edward Snowden – is still that such guarantees cannot be issued ahead, and can only be considered in the instance of an extradition request. Although we regard this tenure to contradict the self-sovereignty principle, we have to accept that is the government's privilege. That is to say, according to Swedish law, it is ultimately the privilege of the executive power to decide if a court-decided extradition will be processed or not.

It is worth noting that the international human rights organizations Amnesty has advocated – on behalf of Mr Assange's human rights – for the granting of such guarantees of no extradition from the parte of the Swedish government. [24] However, the Swedish Section of Amnesty has opposed to such petition, [25] and thus taken instead a staunch stance on behalf of the positions expressed by the Swedish Foreign Ministry – at that time headed by Carl Bildt – and of the prosecutor authority. *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights* have denounced thus stance by the Swedish Section of Amnesty. [4]

The prospective of an extradition to the U.S. from the Swedish authorities is highly likely, in case such request would be presented. As we have warned elsewhere, “data regarding the praxis of extraditions by Sweden to the U.S: reveal that during the last decenniums all of these requested for extradition has been granted by the Swedish government, in cases in which the individual in question has been localized in Swedish territory“. [26] [27]

## Conclusion

In merit of the facts above, we conclude that the case has been lost in a labyrinth leading nowhere, with no *actual* feasible resolution. It is therefore, now the responsibility of the Swedish judicial authorities

to intervene and drop the case. Against the backdrop of this human-rights infringement, keeping a person detained and *without any charges*, in a variety of ways during a period of over four years, ranging from solitary cell to house arrest and confinement in an embassy's room, the question remains, whether Sweden is acting as a "Reich stat". An assertion that increases internationally every day this case remains unsolved.

## Notes and References

[1] M. Ferrada de Noli, "[Analysis – Human rights of Julian Assange continuously infringed by Swedish institutions and media](#)". NewsVoice, 20 April 2015.

[2] RT interview with Prof. Marcello Ferrada de Noli. Video "[MSM blacks Assange as US seeks Manning link \(Interview with Marcello Ferrada de Noli in RT Channel, on the risks of extradition of Julian from Sweden to the USA\)](#)". Aired 27 March 2012. Retrieved 8 March 2015.

Transcripts of the RT interview in: Ferrada de Noli, Marcello (2013). "Operation Stalling". [\*Sweden Versus Assange. Human Rights Issues\*](#) (PDF). Sweden: Libertarian Books. pp. 99–105. ISBN978-91-981615-1-9.

[3] Kashmir Hill, "Three days in Beijing with three of the world's most famous dissidents". Fusion, 27 April 2015. The quoted text is in the context of Jacob Appelbaum being "subject to a criminal grand jury investigation in the U.S. due to his involvement with the transparency organization WikiLeaks, which has published half a million classified U.S. military documents about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; 250,000 diplomatic cables from the State Department..."

[4] SWEDHR's [Foundation Manifest](#)

[5] M. Ferrada de Noli, "Open Letter To The Prosecutor-General Of Sweden" of 4 February 2014. Published in *Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues*. Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014. Pages 106-108. Excerpts:

"On 11 February 2011, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt stated in the DN and *Aftonbladet* newspapers, that Julian Assange had been indicted. He then went on to take a position that was biased in favour of the complainants in the case. Not only was this political interference in an ongoing case, but also it was based on untruths; Julian Assange has not been charged. The statement by the Prime Minister was:

"We have an independent judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian Assange on allegations of rape". And, "I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward."

The Swedish Prosecution Authority has also backed the case-prosecutor, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by ex-minister Carl Bildt, judging from a variety of statements on the case Assange from the office of the Prosecutor General of Sweden, and at the site of the Foreign Office. Apart of the expressions by PM Reinfeldt cite above, some worse expressions ad hominem against Mr Assange have been uttered in the Swedish press by ex-minister Göran Haglund, also while in office [See Andrea Gunnarsson, "[Hägglund om asyl för Assange: 'Fegis'](#)". *Expressen*, 15 August 2012].

[6] M. Ferrada de Noli, a) "[Swedish government using media to interfere in the legal process against Julian Assange](#)". The



Professors' Blog, 27 January 2012; b) [Does Sweden Inflict Trial by Media against Assange?](#) The Professors' Blog, 20 February 2011; c) [Trial by Media fortsätter](#). The Professors' Blog, 4 February 2013; [Journalister till tjänst i krigföringen mot Assange, och mot hederlig journalistik](#)"; d) The Professors' Blog, 17 February 2012; ["Om de upprepade anklagelserna mot Assange av svenska journalister"](#). The Professors' Blog, 17 February 2012; e) ["The 'Duck Pond' Theses. Explaining Swedish journalism and the anti-Assange smear campaign"](#). The Professors' Blog, 1 December 2011; f) ["Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. PART 1: The Political Agenda"](#). The Professors' Blog, 15 April 2011; g) [Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. Contents & Links to Parts I – V](#). The Professors' Blog, 14 April 2011.

[7] In SWEDHR's article ["Analysis – Human rights of Julian Assange continuously infringed by Swedish institutions and media"](#) (published by NewsVoice, Sweden, 20 April 2015), we wrote:

"We found the case to match the aforementioned inclusion criteria, based on the following:

a) The various exposures on war atrocities that Mr Assange has done through his organization WikiLeaks; [See for instance, ["The Iraq War documents leak"](#), and ["The Afghan War documents leak"](#)]

b) The investigation initiated by the U.S. government on WikiLeaks in regards to unveiling of war-outrages events in Iraq and Afghanistan; [See ["US investigation of WikiLeaks now entering 5th year"](#)]

c) The breaches on the principle of impartiality towards procedures in the legal system, done by the interferences of members of the Swedish government on the legal case, and in detrimental of Mr Assange's rights; and

d) The smear campaigns ad-hominem against Mr Assange performed by journalists employed by the two main concerns owning Sweden's main stream media – situation that has been called 'Trial by media' – and which have included the State-owned 'public service' outlets. [See Reference 6, above]

[8] An example of these juridical experts is the former chief prosecutor Rolf Hillegren's article "[Åklagaren i Assange-fallet bör bytas ut](#)" ["Prosecutor in the Assange-case should be replaced"]. SvD, 17 March 2015. Prominent among analyses by journalist specialized in legal matters is Dick Sundevall's "[Prosecutor's behaviour in 'case' Assange questions Swedish principle of prosecutor-neutrality](#)", *SWEDHR Research & Report. Vol 1., No 12, 3 April 2015*.

[9] United Nations, "[International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)", into force since 23 March 1976:

"PART III, Article 3. Anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release. It shall not be the general rule that persons awaiting trial shall be detained in custody, but release may be subject to guarantees to appear for trial, at any other stage of the judicial proceedings, and, should occasion arise, for execution of the judgement."

[10] SvD, “[Assange inte längre misstänkt för våldtäkt](#)”, 21 August 2010.

[11] Former Justice Minister of Sweden Thomas Bodström announced 3 of December 2010 in his blog “Bodströmsamhället” (“*Society according to Bodström*”) that it is his very legal firm who represent the plaintiff against the WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange (“[Det är vår advokatbyrå genom Claes Borgström som är målsägandebiträde](#)”). Bodstromsamhallet.com/ Retrieved 8 December 2012.

[12] Tommie Ullman, “[New book: Top politicians lied about CIA aircraft](#)”. Stockholm News. 19 January 2009.

[13] TT/Peter Vinthagen Simpson, “[Bodström reported over CIA terror deportations](#)”. The Local, 19 January 2015.

Further, on the sanctions issue, see: Human Rights Watch, “[Sweden Violated Torture Ban in CIA Rendition](#)“. 10 November 2006.

[14] Glenn Greenwald and Ryan Gallagher, “[Snowden Documents Reveal Covert Surveillance and Pressure Tactics Aimed at WikiLeaks and Its Supporters](#).” The Intercept, 18 February 2014.

[15] Kevin Gosztola, ‘[Manhunting Timeline](#)’ Further Suggests US Pressured Countries to Prosecute WikiLeaks Editor-in-Chief. The Disenter, 18 February 2014.

[16] WikiLeaks org. “[Affidavit of Julian Paul Assange](#).”

[17] DN, “[Hovrätten ger Assange avslag](#)“. 20 November 2014.

[18] Sputnik News, “[Julian Assange Agrees to Be Questioned in Ecuadorian Embassy in London](#)”. 16 April 2015.

[19] Christina Boyle, “Sweden bends in Julian Assange case, asks for interview in London”. Los Angeles Times, 13 March 2015.

[20] Reuters, “[Sweden’s Supreme Court says will hear Assange appeal over arrest warrant](#)”, 28 April 2015.

[21] Nima Shirazi, “[Bloodthirsty Americans call for Assange’s assassination](#)”. Reportergary.com. 18 December 2010.

[22] Alexa O’Brien, “[US investigation of WikiLeaks now entering 5th year](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 25 February 2014.

[23] M Ferrada de Noli, Leif Elinder and Anders Romelsjö, “[En politisk lösning i fallet Assange – regeringsgarantier mot en utlämning.](#)” Västerbotten Kuriren, 31 October 2014. In English: “[A political solution to the legal stalemate in the case Assange – Government guarantees against extradition.](#)” The Professorsblogg, 1 November 2014.

[24] Amnesty International, “[Sweden should issue assurance it won’t extradite Assange to USA](#)”. 27 September 2012.

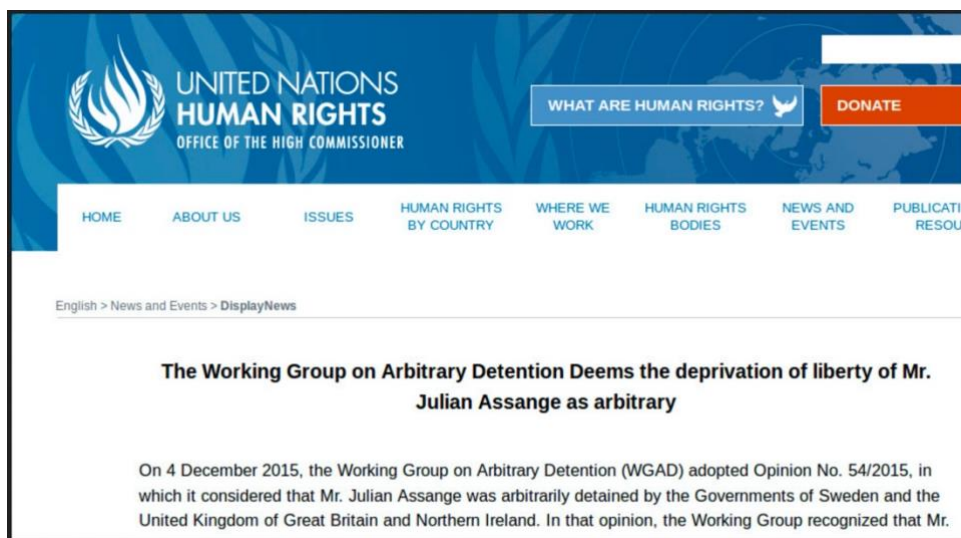
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[27] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[It is up to the Swedish Government, Not to the “Swedish Legal System”, to comply on pressures to extradite Assange. Part II of the series The Seven Pillars of Deception](#)“. The Professors’ Blog, 22 January 2013. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

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## What the UNWGAD ruling arbitrary the detention of Assange reveals about the Swedish system and political culture



There is no charge whatsoever against Julian Assange in Sweden; and he does not need to be “pardoned” by Sweden. It is Sweden that needs to abide with the decision taken by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) demanding the immediate freedom of Julian Assange.

In the past, Sweden has been internationally recognized as a leading country on matters of human rights and respect of individual’s political and civil rights. At its peak, the ethical stature of the late PM Olof Palme positioned the government of Sweden in

the chairmanship of a variety of international bodies for world peace and for prominent participation in the non-aligned movement.

After the assassination of Olof Palme, which took place in the middle of an ad-hominem [campaign driven by the Swedish press](#), a successive series of government initiated by Carl Bildt, and successively Göran Persson and (Justice) Tomas Bodström, have transformed the independent stances of Sweden.

The nation's exemplar non-alignment was subsequently abandoned and has instead been converted into an another geopolitical instrument of Hillary Clinton's doctrine, which conveyed a close partnership with NATO for those aims – including the military assistance or direct participation in occupation wars.

Further, the human-rights ideal that was once paramount to Sweden's international policy was definitively buried by Hillary Clinton's political associate Carl Bildt, during his period as ruler of Sweden's foreign affairs.

In consensus Sweden, the governments and monopoly media ultimately replace the citizens' political initiative. Eventually, even the Left Party of Sweden (the former euro-communists) followed the political establishment in the compact supporting of Hilary Clinton during the presidential campaign [see "*Donald Trump won in the US election, how this fact would influence on the situation of Mr Assange in Sweden?*", in "[Trump, WikiLeaks, Assange and Sweden](#)"].

Furthermore, a preposterous ad-hominem campaign has been waged all along against Julian Assange, and in these days extended to the person of Donald Trump, the US President-elect. Main political factors behind this campaign are described in the recent published articles "[The Assange case in the context of Sweden's feminist foreign policy for international trade gains](#)", and "[The 6-years Assange case in the context of Sweden's national security](#)".

Meanwhile Sweden still refuses to abide with the UN-ruling declaring Mr Assange's detention arbitrary, no matter that UNWGAD newly has confirmed its previous decision, turning down an appeal presented by the UK. But the international protest is growing, and a [coalition of international human-rights and jurist organizations](#) have submitted a document to the UN on this matter.

The following factors in the Assange case has to be also understood in the context of the military occupation of Afghanistan pursued by Swedish troops, under US-command:

The US government asked in August 2010 the few EU nations participating under their military command in Afghanistan to initiate the prosecution of Julian Assange. WikiLeaks had published documents related to US military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, and with evidence that supported accusations of war crimes. Further, WikiLeaks exposed the secret Intel cooperation agreements (illegal in Sweden) between the Swedish government and the US, which entails providing to US private information gathered on Swedish citizens. Sweden was the only country among those integrated into the US-led coalition in Afghanistan that complied with a prosecution of Assange.

However, after six years, all main deceptions in the “legal” prosecution initiated by Sweden against Mr Assange are now widely exposed. These are the facts:

- Mr Assange has never been charged with any crime, neither in Sweden nor elsewhere.
- No woman has ever accused Mr Assange of rape; rather, “rape” was a characterization constructed by the Swedish police (in Sweden, an institution under the Ministry of Justice). The women declared their reason for going to the police was to seek help to compel Mr Assange to undergo a HIV test.



- Simultaneously, the Swedish media – contrary to a principled rule in Sweden – rushed to cable to the world that “The founder of WikiLeaks (with *name*) Julian Assange” was arrested, charged of rape in Sweden”. This claim was not accurate. Despite it being forbidden in Sweden to publish the name of a person who has not been yet convicted, the Swedish media involved in this transgression was never disciplined.

- Chief-prosecutor Eva Finné immediately dismissed the accusations put forward in the police report after she examined the case.

- The leading woman (of the two scheduled to visit to the police station) was a personal friend of the police officer, Irmeli Krans, who performed the interviews and interrogations. Irmeli Krans – also a member of the social democratic party the complainant belongs to – was in turn a public supporter of the lawyer-politician Claes Borgström, of the law-firm Bodström & Börgström (both at the time members of the same Social Democratic Party).

- The case was reopened at the initiative of the said law-firm Bodström & Börgström, the firm that also “defended” the women – as declared by the main partner, Tomas Bodström, at that time a resident of Virginia, USA.

- The ‘woman accuser’, a former Swedish embassy employee elsewhere, had been expelled from Cuba on charges of activities on behalf of the CIA.

- The same ‘leading woman’ was at the time political secretary of the “Brotherhood” (a small organization within the Swedish Social Democratic Party) where Justice Thomas Bodström was a principal member.

- As Justice Minister, Bodström was a principal actor from the Swedish government in implementing CIA

operations in Sweden – done in secret and against Swedish law (e.g. the secret rendition to CIA of refugees in Sweden, where Bodstrom has been indicated as the responsible official from the part of the Swedish government).

- The initiative to open the case was taken by a selected prosecutor, Ms Marianne Ny, at the behest of the same Bodström & Borgström law-firm. Ny, Bodström and Borgström had previously shared governmental committees to study further enhancing of the radical-feminist legislation on sex crimes.

All these irregularities are a backdrop against which the recent UNWGD ruling on Mr Assange's arbitrary detention should be considered. Nevertheless, on the strict juridical issue of Mr Assange detention, Swedish Doctors for Human Rights (SWEDHR) had already on April 5, 2015, issued the public appeal, "[According to the UN International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights, Assange's detention should be ended](#)". The statement, originally published in NewsVoice and Research & Reports, argued that:

"Even a high-standard democratic country as Sweden can in the long run risks a disastrous condemnation upon its government, by the international community as a whole, for the management of the case Assange. For instance, the extreme intervals and deferral in the Swedish managing of the case have ostensibly evolved in infringement of Article 9, paragraph 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the United Nations (ICCPR). [1]

This international-law pledge, of which Sweden is a signatory, stipulates that all individuals under prosecution investigation – even if they are only "detained" and thus, even if they are not being charged with any crime – as it is the case of Mr Assange – "shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release."

We are profoundly satisfied with the ruling of UNWGAD of February 5, 2016, on the true juridical status of the detention of Mr Assange; a verdict that also fully confirms the afore-mentioned SWEDHR's statement of April 5, 2015.

A series of notable world organizations and personalities have now added their support, strong and sharply, to the UNWGAD ruling on the Assange case. To mention just a few: Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, etc.

Swedish authorities have replied that they won't recognize the UNWGAD ruling on this flawed case. Nevertheless, in spite the efforts of the Swedish government and media of omitting any reference to Sweden's human-rights violations that, in fact, the UNWGAD ruling is about, the international community will – rightly – further condemn Sweden as a government with less and less self-dignity, ready to implement the errands of superpower USA in detriment of Sweden's own sovereignty, international prestige, and national security.

## Assange and Snowden are clearly entitled to political asylum according to UN Convention

*This section analyses the definition of Political Refugee in the currently applied UN Convention of 1951, and against the backdrop of the increasing migrant influx into Europe during the last months. It concludes partly that the general ascribing of political asylum to migrations on the cause of war – but without the presence of the criteria “being persecuted” – is not contained in the prevalent Refugee Convention; and that these concepts should be further enhanced. Partly it states that the definitions of political asylum clearly includes publishers and whistle-blowers under governmental persecution on the basis of their exposures of war crimes, human rights violations and breaches of civil liberties.*

*This text was originally published in [a Swedish version at the newspaper Västernorrlands Kuriren, VK](#).*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has recently called Europe's asylum norms "obsolete" [1] and the ensuing High-level Conference on the Eastern Mediterranean – Western Balkans Route of 8/10 observes that the increasing flows of refugees and migrants “poses significant challenges to border management and asylum systems”. [2] Although some countries, among them Germany, have temporarily abandoned the Schengen Agreement, there are no official requests for the annulment or transitory abandonment of the asylum right whose origins are found in the 1951 Refugee Convention. In our view,

the imperative task ahead is to revise the 65 years old definition of refugee and the update the asylum eligibility criteria within the context of human rights.

The current endemic migration towards Europe is characterized by:

- a) a mistaken view of a uniform and selective origin of the migrants – wrongly ascribed as being primarily Syrian [see below];
- b) a selective targeting of certain EU countries as immigration destiny;
- c) a high mobility and/or uncertainty in regards to numerous refugees' intention on whether or where they would petition asylum.

For example, the Swedish police authority estimates that during the last month approximately 40,000 refugees have requesting asylum in Sweden while another 40,000 refugees may have come to Sweden without asking for asylum. [3]

A common misconception regarding the current “refugee crisis” is that it is mainly caused by the war situation in Syria. Correspondingly, it is assumed that: i) the outright mainstream of the migrant flow is of Syrian origin; ii) hence, migrants are war-refugees; iii) ergo war-related refugees are entitled to asylum “according to the Genève Convention.”

The media spread of dramatic images – i.e. the corpse of a Syrian child lying on a beach – served as the catalyst for the notions above, which resulted in sectors of the public driving their political representatives, or vice versa, to act for the betterment of the Syrian refugees. And this in turn exacerbated the migrant flow.

However, the Finish MP, Mr Peter Östman (Chairman of the Christian Democratic Parliamentary Group), declared recently that migrants from Syria constitute less than a third of the 350,000 to 400,000 migrants that have come to Europe so far this year. The

remainder, says MP Östman, constitute a mixture of people from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. [4] Further – as reviewed below – the idea that migrants displaced by own choice (war-related or not) are to be equated with “refugees” according to international covenants is mistaken.

## **Imprecise definitions of political asylum**

Given this current flood of immigrants to Europe, we wish to call attention to the problem of the existing imprecise definitions of political asylum. Such indefinite classifications may prove seriously damaging to active human rights defenders or politically engaged individuals taking real risks in pursuing resistance to oppression. In order to secure the applicability of true political-asylum criteria in the selection of applicants, we recommend a redefinition of the concept of “political refugee” in Sweden and in generally by the EU countries.

The 1951 Refugee Convention is often confused with the Genève Convention of 1949, which has tangled the debate process. Another confusion is the use of the term “refugee” (such as in “refugee crisis” or “refugees on the way to Europe”) when actually referring to migrants – whatever their reasons – in transit to the country of their choice.

These confusions are highly relevant not only to those tasked with developing standards, but also in societal terms, because it may lead the public to project prejudiced or misunderstood notions about generic migrants onto the residing population of refugees. Further, subsuming the categories of “alien citizens,” “foreign-born,” “refugees,” and “asylum applicants” in the same generic category of “immigrants” is an oversimplification that confounds the debate to the detriment of finding correct solutions for the different situations.

The definition of *refugee* in the 1951 Convention Article 1, A-2, points to a person who,

“owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.” [5]

It should be noticed that the above definition of *refugee* (Article 1, A-2) does not refer to individuals migrating for solely for reasons of war. Although it is often said that the Refugee Convention was inspired in Article 14 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (“Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”), [6] there is no mention of an asylum right based on displacements caused by war or similar disasters.

On the other hand, the above cite Article 1, A-2, does not specify an asylum right based on gender identity, despite its incorporation in more recent or updated documents by the United Nations. Such an asylum right may be a vital addition to the current asylum definitions.

## Julian Assange and Edward Snowden should be granted political asylum in any EU country

*Further, it is clear that Article 1, A-2 does include those individuals facing persecution and personal risk for defending civil liberties and human rights in the international context, including whistle-blowers, journalists, and publishers such as Julian Assange*

*and Edward Snowden. Such true political refugees should be granted asylum in any EU country and the definition of “political refugee” must make this distinction unequivocal.*

Regarding the main assessment criteria, “*Well-founded fear of being persecuted,*” our opinion is that the phrase “well-founded fear” should either be deleted or be further specified. In the simplest terms, it should read, “*being persecuted for reasons of, etc.*” The fundamental basis of a case for asylum is the fact of being persecuted much as what constitute a disease is the objective symptom-constellation and not the “idea” of being ill.

A fear of being persecuted, even if deeply experienced, is a subjective perception that is not necessarily equivalent with an actual experience of political persecution. Data from a psychotherapy facility for Chilean refugees at Sollentuna, Stockholm, in the 1980's, showed that only a lesser proportion among those who have been granted political asylum have actually experienced combat for political aims, participation in political struggles, or even had a political engagement.

Trauma-related psychological injuries have been a frequent reason for political asylum. Our view, however, is that these cases belong to the category of asylum on humanitarian grounds. Certainly, experiences of imprisonment and particularly torture can lead to posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) [7] and even increased suicidal behaviour, [8] [9] but in general, PTSD alone is not a self-evident proof of the individual's participation in political activities that entails persecution. In addition, not all experiences affect individuals uniformly and not all potentially traumatic events result in traumatic experiences or, further, in trauma-related diagnoses.

Paradoxically, the hazards of the migrants' traveling can represent a potent source for traumatic experiences, and the presentation of symptoms in some cases of declared PTSD could confound the identification of their actual origin (the traumatic event). Further,



traumatic experiences followed by other traumatic experiences of the same perceived level can exacerbate the illness status.

In reference to the common practice of giving temporary political asylum to individuals who fail to produce identification documents, it is important to recognize that dramatic developments in electronic communications have taken place in the 65 years since the Refugee Convention was conceived. Modern methods of communication enable both public and officials to rapidly and securely obtain documentation of identity, native country of birth, and the status of risk for political persecution.

Finally, no democratic country in the European Union should be involved in giving asylum to any individual who is responsible for the commission of war crimes. We must also consider whether this restriction should apply to individuals belonging to organisations that advocate the establishment of political systems or ideologies that deny the principle of human rights for all, regardless of gender and ethnicity.

## Conclusion

We propose that:

The European Council should work for the modernization of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Conditions for the granting of refugee status should be strengthened and become more detailed. The reasons given in the Refugee Convention Article 1, A-2, (individuals persecuted on the reasons of "race, religion, nationality, and membership in a particular social group or political opinion") should be enhanced and better defined. Addition of such categories as gender identity and whistle-blowing activities is vital. The latter should be specifically defined to include individuals persecuted on the reason of have denounced war crimes and/or breaches against human rights and civil liberties in an international context.

- A clear and detailed categorization should be established for humanitarian asylum, as distinct from political asylum.
- EU countries should consider as political refugees those individuals who have fought for the national or international betterment of the human rights and the pursuit of democratic aims and are, for that reason: a) under persecution, or b) detained or imprisoned, or c) at risk of being deported to a third state where they may face imprisonment or capital punishment due to the political content of their activities.
- The system of temporary asylum based on unknown identity (“lost pass”) should be dropped or restricted to a more specific, limited time period.

Please recognize that our organization does not oppose the right of any person to emigrate to any point in the world for social, economic or personal motivation. Nonetheless, EU countries must distinguish such immigrants from refugees, most specifically true political refugees. We aim to create a more precise normative distinction between these categories, solely in order to secure a fairer selection process on behalf of the truly persecuted.

## Notes and References

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[3] Swedish Television, SvT, [Många flyktingar försvinner utan att söka asyl](#), 10 Oct 2015.

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[5] United Nations High Commission for Refugees. (2012). [Convention relating to the Status of Refugees](#).

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## The political and pseudo-legal hunt of Julian Assange in Sweden

## The powers behind, the plot, and the actors implementing the political case against Assange.

*Summary.* Mr Assange has never been charged of any crime in Sweden. In the vertiginous development of the ‘affair Assange’, important episodes in the genesis of the case had fallen nearly forgotten. This article presents a brief review on the real geopolitical context of this political case. Needless to say, the case has never been a truly ‘legal case’, but a political case all through. I here detail in which way a variety of political actors and ideological forces have converged to first create the ‘affair Assange’, and then made it stay to serve Sweden’s ‘national’ or financial interests, and the interests of its geopolitical mentor, the U.S.

### Marianne Ny

Swedish prosecutor Marianne Ny, on behalf of the Swedish state, clearly admitted in her recent press conference of August 7, 2016, that the ‘complainant’ women have not accused Mr Julian Assange of any rape [see transcription of her answer down below]. One woman has already declared that they were “railroaded” by the Swedish police. Already in March 2011 the [Washington Post reported](#) that the police officer taking the first statement of the women, Ms Irmeli Krans, “had personal and political links to one of the two women”; namely the woman apparently taking the initiative for the visit to the police station.

Police officer Irmeli Krans was member of the social democratic party, like the woman complainant.

## Thomas Bodström

The ex-minister of justice Thomas Bodström was also at the time of the events senior member of a political group within the Social Democratic Party called “The Brotherhood”, a group linked by religious believes; the political secretary of this association was precisely the complainant woman Anna Ardin, who was quite central in the ‘case Assange’. Further, this ex minister of Justice Bodström was the co-owner of the law firm Bodström & Borgström.

The other partner being Mr Claes Borgström, who acted as counsellor of the complainant women. Claes Borgström –then also a social democrat– is also the former Swedish ombudsman for gender issues and recognized ‘radical feminist’. He, and his partner (then Justice Tomas Bodström) participated in the formation of the new legislation aimed to radicalize the sexual offenses penal code. After the case was dismissed by prosecutor Eva Finné, Borgström contacted Marianne Ny, a prosecutor already known for her radical stance in the prosecution of *suspects* of sexual offenses (see below).

For his part, Thomas Bodström –who even described in his [post “Thanksgiving”](#), which he published from Virginia, U.S.A, in his site *Bostromsamhället*– how proud he was that his own law firm represented the complainant against Julian Assange– made his entrance in the history of Sweden for his direct participation in the deals between the Swedish government and the CIA in the extraordinary-rendition cases. Namely, persons that had been accepted as refugees in Sweden, and then transported in secret to torture centres elsewhere. For this deeds Sweden was sanctioned by the UN, due to a severe violation of the absolute ban of torture – which Sweden had signed.

Whether Borgström, Bodström and Marianne Ny had or not at the time a *political* association is not so relevant to this analysis. The most important factor is that they did have a clear-cut *ideological association*. Namely, they were –in fact paid by the Swedish government– all of them participating in working committees at government or parliament level, and where they put forward similar ideological positions in a radical agenda, for instance, aimed “to punish the suspect” at an early state. Marianne Ny was known for having published a piece in which she advocated for the preventive detention of suspects.

The same aim had manifestly the ‘radical feminism’ movement of Sweden, whose representatives are known feminist-extremists from both the ‘left-wing’ and ‘right-wing’ political spectra of Sweden – a country otherwise politically characterized rather for its consensual, chauvinist, and Russo-phobic stance. Which lead us to this other actor in the play against WikiLeaks: the Swedish armed forces.

## ‘Radical feminists’

While for the ‘radical feminist’ movement of Sweden the case Assange constituted, as they declared, a “symbolic issue”, for the Swedish armed forces the Assange issue was instrumental for their own geopolitical and financial purposes.

[Considering myself a supporter of genuine social-oriented, or of left-liberal, social-libertarian, and humanist radical feminists, may I clarify my stance about State feminism and also on some pseudo ‘radical’ feminists in Sweden and elsewhere with help of [this post](#) I wrote in 2011 –also related to the Assange case].

By public demonizing Assange some ‘radical feminists’ intended to discredit WikiLeaks and presented this organization as an enemy of Sweden; in fact, the Swedish armed forces representative accused Assange of being “blackmailing” Sweden. This accusation was made

in the most important news program of the Swedish TV, Rapport. All this happened in a context in which a huge arms deal with Saudi Arabia –a cover operation by the arms industry together with an institution of the armed forces- and which WikiLeaks exposed.

Being Sweden a principal weapon-export country, the revelations of WikiLeaks are considered highly damaging the economy of Sweden. The establishment will not say that, of course; but it would be enough to examine the amount represented by the Swedish-Saudi deal which was blown by the exposures. A more detailed description of the pseudo ‘radical feminist’ movement’s initiatives, designed to manipulate the Assange case for benefit of their own political agenda, is given in my article “[Assange case, a symbol for Swedish right-wing ‘radical-feminism’](#)”.

## The plot

Evidence [published in 2014](#) show that the Swedish case would have been put forward in August 2010, after the US government asked the countries participating in the NATO-led military occupation of Afghanistan to initiate prosecutions against the WikiLeaks founder. There is no legal case whatsoever, but a purely political case intended to silence or obstruct the exposures of WikiLeaks about the corrupted/secret or antidemocratic deeds of governments including the one of Sweden. At that time, WikiLeaks had exposed the secret collaboration – done behind the back of the Swedish Parliament – between the Swedish government and the military and intelligence services of the US for the transferring of personal information of Swedish citizens.

It has been reported that the characterization on “rape” – as was presented in the arresting warrant against Julian Assange– was not made by the women but instead it was [a creation from the part of the police](#). Now, according the [transcription of the press conference](#) of prosecutor Marianne Ny, she herself confirmed that so was the case,



meaning: it is the Swedish state which is after to prosecute Julian Assange, regardless that 'women complainants' had never reported to have experienced the perpetration of a crime in those terms as it comes from purely from the prosecutor's will. This is the transcription in regards to that item:

*“Question:* Who actually has made this accusation? Because the alleged victim said the police had railroaded her, didn't sign the police statement and in fact the first prosecutor on the case dropped it saying that no crime had been committed? That was the prosecutor of Stockholm, and then you took it up again.

*Marianne Ny:* But I am her superior, in fact, I am the Senior Prosecutor. I can in fact reverse the decision of one of my subordinates. I came to the conclusion that her decision in fact was erroneous. When it comes to the question of who made the accusation, I have already said this, rape is subject to obligatory prosecution in Sweden. You don't need a complainant to sign a complaint or make a charge. If rape comes to the knowledge of the police authorities in Sweden, they are obliged to prosecute, that means they are obliged to refer the case to a prosecutor, a prosecutor has to look into it, and then it follows the normal course of law.”

Needless to say, prosecutor Ny wouldn't give any guarantee whatsoever on that Julian Assange would not be extradited to the US if he would come to Sweden.

*“Question:* Can you make any assurances that if he did come here to expedite the process for this question that he would not in fact be extradited to the US?

*Marianne Ny:* No, this is an issue for the Swedish government if this would happen.”

## The accusers

Actualizado 9:00 P.M. (hora local) La Habana, martes 7 de diciembre de 2010. Año 14 / Número 342

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**INTERNACIONALES**

**WikiLeaks: detrás del “escándalo sexual” contra Assange, una “colaboradora” cubana de la CIA**

JEAN-GUY ALLARD

Detrás del pretendido escándalo sexual con el cual se intenta desacreditar al dueño del sitio web WikiLeaks, cuyas revelaciones siguen asustando el Departamento de Estado, se encuentra una “colaboradora” cubana de la CIA, vinculada a Carlos Alberto Montaner, que se hizo conocer en el pasado por su activismo “anticastroista”.

**ARDIN SE HIZO CONOCER POR SU LITERATURA VITRIÓLICA EN SITIOS WEB FINANCIADOS POR LA USAID.**

Según los cables que reportan el asunto ocurrido en Suecia, Anna Ardin sería la “demandante oficial” de Assange con su amiga Sofia Wilden, quien fue supuestamente la primera en quejarse del “abuso” ante la policía.



**Sumario**

- Niños marginados, blanco favorito del crimen organizado en México
- Preocupado Ban Ki-moon por insuficientes acciones ambientales
- Aumenta la desigualdad social en Costa Rica
- Visita Chávez terreno donde son construidas decenas de viviendas
- Funes se reunirá con subsecretario de Estado de EE.UU.
- Llama Calderón a buscar acuerdos en Cumbre Climática
- Recibe Correa al periodista español Ignacio Ramonet
- Senado chileno habilita criticado proyecto salarial
- Presidente surcoreano visitará Malasia esta semana
- Policía italiana arremete contra manifestantes

Anna Ardin, one of the two accusers of Assange in Sweden has been single out by official [Cuban sources](#) as “CIA collaborator”, with activities in Cuba. An Italian think-tank plainly refer her to as “[Una spia degli Stati Uniti](#)”, and adds that –as “US spy”– she would be at short step of accusing Assange.

Furthermore, [RAI News](#), as well as the site [servizisegreti.com](#) [report](#) about her publications in sites financed by USAID. I comeback to these reports further below in this text.

Notably, Anna Ardin voluntarily offered her services as “liaison” to Julian Assange during the visit he had in Sweden (August 2010) invited precisely by the “Brotherhood” –the organization within the

Social Democratic Party referred above. Let me remind that Anna Ardin was at the time the *political secretary* of that organization. Ardin was subsequently been assigned –or practically, self-assigned– the role of “press officer” of the Assange visit.

‘Press officer’ Ardin, aka political secretary of the small organization The Brotherhood (whose most prominent member, the ex-Justice Minister Thomas Bodstrom, was singled out as the main responsible in the collaboration to the CIA in the renditions of refugees from Sweden); aka ex financial courier for the transfer of money from Sweden to the anti-Castro opposition in Cuba –at the time of exacerbated activities there by the CIA, aka etc. and etc., invited then Julian Assange to occupy her own apartment during his staying in Sweden.

The details of the story that followed – what has been referred in the literature of the case as “the honey trap”– has never been the interest of my own analyses. For the case has been and it continue being political. The setup, the plot, the motivation and the consequences have fundamentally a political meaning. And the Assange case should have always been treated as such.

Anyhow, for those interested in explore details of those episodes, may I refer this major analysis published in *The Indicter*, [New Analysis of Swedish Police Report Confirms Julian Assange's Version in Sweden's case](#), and whose author is the investigative journalist and author Celia Fabre.

May I also remind that, apparently, WikiLeaks circles were never interested in exploring the alleged connections of Anna Ardin regarding CIA's Cuba operations.

In Sweden, of course, the few circulating reports in social media were simply considered as “conspiracy theories”. I say *of course*, because at least two among prominent Swedish political parties were

involved in the financing of the Anti-Castro opposition –alongside with the CIA.

According to [this report](#) from a Cuban social democratic leader (Manuel Cuesta Morua, spokesman of *Arco Progresista*) the political organizations from Sweden in contact with the referred Cuban opposition were the Social Democratic Party, and with the Liberal Party.



Even the BBC confirmed that information regarding Anna Ardin. A [BBC dispatch from Cuba](#) 10 February 2011 [image above], states:

*“...Manuel Cuesta, leader of Arco Progresista, and added that the contact [with Anna Ardin] ensued from 2004 until 2006”.*

*“The activities of the Swedish woman were not those of a normal tourist. The oppositional political leader emphasizes that she ‘advised on how to organize a political party’”*

An Italian publication states that Anna Ardin was [connected in Cuba](#) to the anti-Castro lobby, particularly Carlos Montaner, participating thereafter with her “literatura vitriólica” in CIA-financed sites such as *Misceláneas de Cuba*.

The owner of “Misceláneas de Cuba, Alexis Gainza Solenzal –a Cuban born resident in Sweden “with known [links to the U.S. and German Intelligence](#)”– is also reported by the Cuban official site *Gramma* of being [Ardin's mentor](#).

It should be added that *Misceláneas de Cuba* has [links with lots of dissidents on the island](#), many of whom have reportedly “served as the publication's correspondents”.

Anna Ardin made at least four tours in Cuba. She was the carrier of the finance support given to the Cuban opposition by Swedish institutions politically associated with the government.

Eventually she was expelled from Cuba by action of the Cuban government.

For further background on this interesting issue of the political associations of the above mentioned ex Minister Thomas Bodström, Anna Ardin, and also Imeli Krans (the police officer who ‘received’ the report of the complainants against Julian Assange), see:

– [Sweden Vs. Assange. Human Rigts Issues](#), pages 12-13, as well pages 183 and 298].

– My article [The affair Irmeli Krans in the case of Sweden against Assange](#) .

The aggravating reports on Anna Ardin that emerged in December 2010 were not further investigated in-depth in Sweden. However, they are summarized in a text which I prepared while I was at that

time in Italy –where I had a wider flow of public information about this subject in comparison with Sweden.

It can be read in the section “*Is There a CIA Connection in The CIA Assange Plot?*”, at pages 316 - 319 in my [previous book](#) on the Assange case.

## ‘Affair Assange’ – Malicious handling of a political case

### *Summary*

This section deals with prosecutor Marianne Ny’s last assaying to influence the court –who was conveyed to rule on Assange’s freedom, alternatively in favour of prosecutor Ny.

I question Ny’s statement, made during her press conference, on Swedish prosecutors fairness, and that “all [people] should be treated equal” in the legal system of Sweden; I base my query on factual cases, i.e. allegations against a right-wing Swedish politician that were similar to the one against Assange, and that were quickly dropped by the prosecutors at the time Assange was under arrest in London by orders of Ny.

This section also refers to the Swedish media reactions after the revelations in the recent TV program *Uppdraggranskning*, which dealt with the extradition of Assange to the US. This program – aired the same day of Ny’s press conference –partly failed to comment, or even mention, the resolution of the UNGWAD ruling for the immediate freedom of Mr Assange; and partly omitted for the Swedish viewers crucial facts which ascertain the absolute existence of a ‘criminal investigation’ against Assange in the US, based among other on the new laws on terrorism. All that makes the extradition of Assange to the US not only ‘probably’ – as publicly acknowledged for the first time in the Swedish state-owned media (or for that part in all mainstream media of Sweden)– but also its request by the US highly inexorable. The program also hinted innuendos on the “paranoid Assange” as it is standard in the disinformation generally

given by the Swedish state and stream media on the Wikileaks' founder personality.

*The only serious in the 'case Assange': "A serious exploitation of the good sentiment that people have to protect women rights."*

## The Swedish mainstream media

After six years of a blunt-biased reporting of the Assange case, [1] the Swedish media at large is finally acknowledging in these days that Sweden would extradite Assange to the U.S. [2] They were forced to this spectacular change only after the investigative TV program *Uppdraggranskning* made public their 'research' on the case and concluded that a Swedish extradition of Mr Julian Assange to the U.S. is not only feasible or probable, but most certain in view of the argumentation exposed in the program. The program, which included an interview with Assange in London, is commented further below.

Now in *Expressen* –a main Swedish tabloid– in a remarkable article titled "[Come to Sweden Assange, for the sake of free speech](#)" [3] Julian Assange is been asked to surrender himself to Sweden, and face *in Swedish territory* the high odds of being extradited to the US. Although the *Expressen's* piece fully recognizes that Assange would, or could, be extradited to the US, it argues that he should face this incumbent risk of extradition to the US *in Swedish territory*, and for the sake of the 'freedom-of-speech cause'. The argument is put forward after the above mentioned *Uppdraggranskning*TV-program investigated [sic] that all extraditions requested by the US for persons based in Swedish territory have been granted by the Swedish authorities in the last decades.

In other words, knowing the certain odds of the Assange-extradition request, *Expressen* is advocating not only the surrender of Assange to the Swedish authorities, but his further imprisonment



in the US. A surrender of Assange would remind the world that he is a champion of free speech, argues *Expressen*. But what would actually happen is that Assange will be in incommunicado detention both in Sweden and later in the USA therefore curtailing Assange's free speech. Furthermore, WikiLeaks' publishing mission to reinforce democracy and free speech through exposing secret machinations of the political establishment will be restricted. I am referring to the very international and Swedish political, financial and military establishment that otherwise right-wing *Expressen* represents, and so vividly defends.

## Swedish prosecutors and the Assange case

It should be noted that the Swedish prosecutors held a press conference on 7th of September 2016, exactly the same day that the Swedish TV aired its main program on the Assange case, also a biased program as we will show below. [4] There are various indications that within the cultural groupthink framework of 'consensus Sweden', there exist a status of 'communicating vessels' between the Swedish prosecution authority, the Swedish state TV – as well as mainstream media.

Take for instance the communication between the prosecutor and the tabloid *Expressen* in 2010 which revealed – contrary to Swedish press ethical code and against Swedish prosecutors own legal procedures– the name of Julian Assange as "hunted for rape in Sweden". Another example of this communication relating to the Assange case was when in the summer of 2015 a photo reporter of the same Swedish tabloid *Expressen* was outside the Ecuadorian embassy waiting for the prosecutor to enter the building "to interrogate Assange", the only photo journalist to do so. As is known, this 'interrogation' was 'recalled' at last minute by the prosecutor. It was all a Public Relations stunt, a farce. [5]

During the latest prosecutors' press conference Marianne Ny attributed the nature of the case and its characteristics resulting from the fact that the Swedish "treat everybody equal". [6] This is far from the truth.

### *Do Swedish prosecutors treat everybody equal?*

In [Does Swedish justice depend on who stands accused?](#) I describe the biased management of accusations regarding purported sexual misconduct on Swedish women. Similarly, in the 'Assange case', Swedish prosecutors do decide differently:

On 17 November 2013 the Swedish prosecutors acquitted in record time a Swedish top right-wing politician of "the suspicion of having committed a crime". He was pro-US *Moderater*, Mr Gunnar Axen, a member of the Parliament since 1998. The case was regarding allegations of sexual misconduct against a 21 year-old woman. The chief-prosecutor that dropped the case, Mr Mats Ericsson (same prosecutor-rank as Ms Marianne Ny, the prosecutor in the Assange case), based his conclusion on "word stands against word", and "evidence was not sufficient". [7] At the same time, the Swedish prosecutors denied WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange – known for exposing wrongdoings of the Swedish government, an interrogation in London. In order that, the dropping of his case could continue to being protracted. In the main, the difference between these two cases was not in regard to the 'accusations', but rather on the political stances of the accused. [8]

In another case, Mr Tito Beltrán, a leftist refugee from Chile, also an internationally acclaimed opera singer which shadowed local artists, was sentenced to years in prison in a similar case where "word stood against word", when the court recognised that the word of the woman is tenable as sufficient for a conviction. [10] The accuser's

counsel, the one favoured by the verdict of that court, was the former minister of Justice Thomas Bodström – of the same law firm Bordström and Borgström which reopened the case against Julian Assange which originally had been dropped.

## The various manipulations of the Swedish court by Prosecutor Ny

Marianne Ny's timely effort to influence the court that will soon rule in the Assange case has been a trade mark of hers. I have previously described what happened just days before the previous ruling on the Assange Supreme court in Sweden. Then, Marianne Ny spectacularly announced that she was planning to interrogate Assange in London. She did that – as time did prove- not because she really intended to do so, but in order to neutralise the incumbent verdict of the court – which was bound to apply article 9 on the UN International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights.

The above mentioned article 9, which I referred to in my [article of 30 April 2015 in NewsVoice](#), advocating for the release of Julian Assange, [11] stipulates that all individuals under the investigation of a prosecutor – even if they are only “detained”, and thus, are not being charged with any crime “shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time *or to release*. This is in fact the same main argument deployed by the UNGWAD on their 4 November 2015 ruling on the Assange case. [12]

Dr Armando Popa reported the following in “[Case Assange – Deutsche Welle interviews SWEDHR chairman Prof. Marcello Ferrada de Noli](#)”: [13]

“The general comment halted around the fact that the Swedish prosecutor had made a 180 degrees turn on her position. But why? The SWEDHR chairman had assayed this rationale already on the

13th of March 2015: ‘...prosecutor Marianne Ny, has now [this spring] announced she is ready to interrogate Assange in London, it is because the Swedish Supreme Court has recently decided [on request of Assange’s lawyers] to take up the case in view of ‘the conduct of the investigation and the proportionality principle’. This is unequivocally referred to the prosecutors’ conduct in carrying/not-carrying the investigation. And this in its turn anticipated the dismissed of the case by the Supreme Court.”

The passage above quoted in the report by Dr Popa is from the article in *The Professors’ Blog* “[The scandalous political case of the Swedish prosecutor vs Julian Assange](#)”. [14]

## The scandalous political case of the Swedish prosecutor vs Julian Assange

The news refer to a refusal by the Swedish prosecutor to interrogate Mr Julian Assange lasting “almost 3 years” – and that now she decided to interrogate him in London. But this is not completely accurate, because she also refused to interrogate Assange while he made himself available *in Sweden* 2010.[1] Why the Swedish prosecutor authority never really intended to “finish” the pre-investigation around the “case”?

In the first place this has never been a “legal case”; only a political case. And it has not been only a political case by proxy – as the Snowden documents indicated – requested by the U.S. government [See [Snowden document reveals Swedish prosecution of Assange was requested by the U.S.](#)].[2] This is also a political case serving the ideological stances of the prosecutor and of some of the lawyers instigating the “accusations” against the WikiLeaks founder. For a brief background, see [Who are behind the “Swedish prosecution” of](#)

[Assange, and Why?](#) For an extended fact-background I refer to my book [Sweden VS. Assange. Human Rights Issues.](#)



*Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny*

The stalemate of the case Assange decided by the Swedish authorities – meaning the refusal of the prosecutor to interrogate him in London – has had one and only aim: to inhibit the publicist endeavour of WikiLeaks.

According to a dispatch from Stockholm by Daily News, the prosecutor Marianne Ny “[dismissed claims of any U.S. involvement in the Swedish investigation.](#)” Her declarations are thou contradicted by facts:

The Snowden documents revealed in 2013 that the U.S. asked the prosecution of Assange in August 2010 to the handful of governments participating under US command in the military occupation of Afghanistan. Only Sweden complied – at a time with a foreign policy under the subservient rule of Carl Bildt, in its turn exposed by WikiLeaks of [being secret information officer for the US.](#)

The true *tactical* reason why the Prosecutor authority, through chief prosecutor Marianne Ny, has now announced she is ready to interrogate Assange in London, it is because the Swedish Supreme Court has recently decided to take up the case in view of “the conduct of the investigation and the proportionality principle”. This is unequivocally referred to the prosecutors’ conduct in carrying/not-carrying the investigation. And this in its turn anticipated the dismissed of the case by the Supreme Court.

## Marianne Ny’s new arguments?

All the “new” reasons adduced now by Marianne Ny to explain “changing her mind” appears as nonsense, for in *the main*, the situations she refers have existed unchanged in exactly the same legal and/or practical fashion year after year. Her “changing her mind” does not bring about an essential changing in the case.

The new move by prosecutor Ny and the recent declarations by lawyers of the firm Bodström and Borgström (Bodström has been linked as main actor in the secret collaboration of Sweden with the CIA in the extraordinary renditions of refugees in Sweden, to be transported to torture camps elsewhere) only show that the U.S. government will not give up its Plan A: The “Swedish” case against the WikiLeaks founder.

Plan B is to get Assange arrested in the UK on charges of abandon the house arrest at the opportunity he sought political asylum at the Embassy of Ecuador.

My contention is also that the “Assange case” in Sweden has served the ideological stances of several of the actors from the part of the “prosecution” and the lawyers of the “accusers” [3] (More in [Duckpond in Swedish legal system](#)), “the [police investigation](#)“, and the forum of extremist right-wing “feminists”. [4] For more details

on this I refer to the following chapters in the above cited book [\*Sweden VS. Assange\*](#):

- Was The Reopening Of The Sweden Case, Part Of The US Request To Prosecute Assange By Any Means? Page 19.
- Prestige Of Sweden's Rulers Deadlocks Case Assange. Page 67.
- “Operation Stalling”. Explaining Sweden's Reluctance To Conduct Assange's Interrogation In London. Page 99.

## Notes and References

[1] The US government approached Sweden's authorities on the situation around Julian Assange and the WikiLeaks exposures of 2010, in August that year. The Swedish press reported on the meetings in Stockholm. Secondly, as reported in both the Phillip Shenon and NSA documents (the report by Greenwald & Gallagher in *Intercept*), the US contacted all countries with forces in Afghanistan with the request to initiate prosecution against the WikiLeaks founder. As being Sweden a principal country participating with military troops in Afghanistan, it is beyond discussion as to whether Sweden was also among the nations contacted by the US for that purpose. My conclusion being that it is highly likely that the reopening of the “case Assange” by Swedish authorities on the 20 of August 2010 was part of the US request of the 10 of August to prosecute Julian Assange by any means.

But it is not only a design to simply “prosecute Assange”. The meaning of the strategic design in the context of the referred US request was not Assange as person, but the concept was (is) to immobilize WikiLeaks. For this a long protracted process had to be brought in place.

The EAW immobilized Assange and, to a greater extent, WikiLeaks' activities. In previous analyses, I have demonstrated that it is beyond doubt that this case is political motivated. There isn't a genuine legal case behind the charade of the Swedish Prosecutor Authority and the plaintiff's prejudiced lawyers. This is not the first time that this sort of behaviour has been seen in Sweden.

The EAW ultimately made possible the protracted detention of Assange in the frame of the US extradition strategy. See my "stalling hypothesis" described elsewhere in these materials.

[2]. Firstly, the Snowden document says "*including Australia, United Kingdom and Germany*". Nevertheless, the document also provided the *inclusion criteria*: "*nations with forces in Afghanistan*". One amongst these was (is) Sweden, conspicuously; one of the few nations, and longest lasting, participating in the U.S. led military occupation of Afghanistan.

Secondly, This request was put forward on the 10 of August 2010. In the document "[Affidavit of Julian Paul Assange](#)", we read that it was around that date when Sweden took decisive steps to "consider filing criminal charges against Julian Assange" – as requested by the U.S. government.

[3] Thomas Bodström is the senior partner, together with the above-mentioned Claes Borgström, of the law firm that represents one of the *supposedly* accusers in the Swedish case VS. Assange. Mr. Claes Borgström have made no secret on that it was he who took the initiative of reopening the case! In this constellation of "radical-feminists" politicians and collaborators with the disgraceful events mentioned earlier, is worth to mention that Claes Bodström was the Swedish ombudsman for genders issues, while Marianne Ny the chief prosecutor for an special unit dealing with issues associate with women abuse. She was already known in Sweden for advocating "preventive detention" of suspected men



accused (not charged) of abusive behaviour. Both offices, Ny's and respectively Bodström & Borgstrom's, are stationed in the City of Gothenburg.

Further, Thomas Bodström was also in the same organised ideological faction within the Social Democratic Party called the "Brotherhood", another member of this faction was one of the so-called accusers. The faction consists of Christian believers and other religions' disciples. While Thomas Bodström was one of the highest-ranking politicians within the faction, the nominal woman-accuser held the position of secretary.

For his part, Thomas Bodström's colleague, Mr. Claes Borgström, sat together with prosecutor Marianne Ny in the same governmental committee planning to extend the sexual-crimes legislation of Sweden.

Thomas Bodström and Claes Borgström are in the same ideological line with that of Chief Prosecutor Marianne Ny. Ms. Marianne Ny, at the time of reviewing the case presented to her by Claes Borgström, still held a government assignment as a special committee member of a new expert-group –a legislation body aimed to study legislative reforms regarding exactly the same type of offences described in the "accusations" against Mr. Assange.

[4] Some Swedish "Radical Feminists" Declared Julian Assange A Symbolic Issue. Page 202 of the book Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues.

## Trial by Sweden's media against Assange continued unabated

## Human rights of Julian Assange continuously infringed by Swedish institutions and media

One main endeavour of [Swedish Doctors for Human Rights \(SWEDHR\)](#) is the reporting and advocacy against “institutional assaults on the human rights of individuals who have denounced war crimes, or exposed serious infringements to the civil liberties of the population”. [1] SWEDHR’s Board did in February 2015 an exhaustively review of the case of Sweden VS. Julian Assange, upon denounces of transgressions on his human rights. We found the case to match the aforementioned inclusion criteria, based on the following:

- a) The various exposures on war atrocities that Mr Assange has done through his organization WikiLeaks;[2]
- b) The investigation initiated by the U.S. government on WikiLeaks in regards to unveiling of war-outrages events in Iraq and Afghanistan, [3];
- c) The breaches on the principle of impartiality towards procedures in the legal system, done by the interferences of members of the Swedish government on the legal case, [4] and in detrimental of Mr Assange’s rights; and
- d) The smear campaigns ad-hominem against Mr Assange performed by journalists employed by the two corporative monopolies governing Sweden’s main stream media – situation that has been called ‘Trial by media’ [5] [6] – and which have included the State-owned ‘public service’ outlets. [7]

## Previous Research

One investigation I conducted already 2011, and that formed part of the documents presented to the London Court by lawyer Jennifer Robinson (of the defence team of Mr Assange), concluded that in a sample of media articles published by the four main Swedish newspapers (DN, SvD, *Expressen* and *Aftonbladet*; statistical analysis based in a consecutive sample of 103 articles corresponding to the total reports published in the month-period ending 17 February 2011), it was found an overrepresentation of media articles with a non-objective reporting (56 percent) on issues around the accusations or the Court proceedings in London and particularly with a negative content towards Julian Assange as a person.

A breakdown of this group showed that articles containing information mainly erroneous in content or deceiving in its formulation were 20 of the total articles in the sample. The articles omitting relevant information in the context of the article's subject or with regard to the article's heading – although such information was available or published by other media – was 36 percent of all articles.

Among the articles which referred Julian Assange's personal character or clearly implied features of his personality (forty percent of total articles), far more articles (72 percent) did so by using hostile, detrimental or aggressive terms in contrast with articles using positive terms (28 percent). When comparing these variables, the statistical analysis showed a ratio of 0.38, pointing to a significant overrepresentation of negative assessments.[8]

This trial by the media, and also the unfortunate declarations of members of the government intervening in the legal case, [4] were mentioned by Judge Riddle in his verdict at the London Court. [9]

In the years supervened, these media attacks on Mr Assange have persisted. The examples are copious and I forward instead to the list in *Reference and Notes* down below. [10]

## The anti-Assange Aftonbladet panel

A group of journalists of one main Swedish daily, *Aftonbladet*, discussed in a panel at *Aftonbladet-TV* around current legal situations of the Assange case, amid a series of xenophobic or even racist formulations. [11] The program shows *Aftonbladet's* journalists Oisín Cantwell, Karin Magnusson, Lena Mellin, and Fredrik Virtanen. They laughed at Lena Melin's racist comparison of Julian Assange's "future" with that of miserable migrants from Romania, forced beggars at the streets of Sweden's cities.

In the sending, journalist Oisín Cantwell opened by characterizing Assange's legal defence from London as "so weird, that it is not comparable with anything. In the first place, not all the lawyers are Swedish, but he has also a Spanish lawyer too [Baltazar Garzón]. Remember that [Garzón] tried to indict Pinochet and became world-famous for it. He has his fingers on this too, and it shown that he is a populist of a never-seen sorts". [12]

What Cantwell fails to mention in this particular context: The Swedish authorities in their case VS. Assange appointed precisely the lawyer that instead defended the murderous dictator Pinochet in the London trial, Ms Claire Montgomery. Montgomery had received a world reputation of her own when she declared publicly that "Torture is not international crime". [13]

Neither recalls Cantwell that Garzón's justified efforts in trying to indict fascist Pinochet was also echoed by *private* initiatives in Sweden, (See my article in SvD "[Pinochet måste ställas inför rätta](#)"), [14] but neglected by the government.

The *Aftonbladet* panel goes on advertising that the risk for an extradition of Assange to the U.S. practically does not exist. The chances for it being "microscopic", says Lena Mellin. And Cantwell adds that an extradition from Sweden to the U.S: would require such strong reasons, "I don't believe that Sweden does it". The journalist also added that in Sweden it is the Supreme Court that decides those matters.

But Oisín Cantwell is utterly wrong about those items.

- For the first, he seems to ignore in the context the secret extraordinary renditions conducted by the Swedish secret services, in collaboration with the CIA, and authorized by the Swedish government. Most notably, the wide-known case of the refugees transported from Bromma airport in Stockholm to be tortured in Egypt. [15]

- Secondly, it is not the Supreme Court that has the ultimate word on issues of extradition; it is the government. Hence, the decision is conclusively political and not purely juridical. [16]

- Finally, data regarding the praxis of extraditions by Sweden to the U.S. reveal that during the last decenniums all of these requests for extradition has been granted by the Swedish government, in cases in which the individual in question has been localized in Swedish territory. [17]

In the same journalist-panel, Lena Mellin utters, and "how shall [Assange] earn his living after he gets out from there"?

Oisín Cantwell replies: "It's over with him. Gone from Internet-generation, Jagger [?], rebel, exposes war crimes, *whatever*. He is just ridiculous".

Lena Mellin rebuts: "Believable, he shall go to schooling himself by the Swedish migrants [beggars] from Romania".

– “That’s a good advice”, says finally the moderator of the panel, Karin Magnusson, and everybody in the panel end laughing mildly. [18]

In an article authored by journalist Torbjörn Sassersson in *VoiceNews*, are found further transcriptions from the referred *Aftonbladet* sending. For instance, Sassersson captured a sentenced uttered by Osín Catwell where he referred Julian Assange as to, “Criminals of this sort” (*”brottslingar av det här slaget”*). In another utterance, this time by journalist Fredrik Virtanen, he is reported saying, “He [Julian Assange], seems becoming more and more cracked” [*Han verkar ju bli mer och mer havererad*”]. [19]

The newest outbreak in this series of media flaws on Mr Assange, occurred on the 17 of April 2015, when the main Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter (DN) published the article by journalist Stefan Lisinski, “Assange: Yes to interrogation in London”. In Lisinski’s text reads the following statement:

“In Sweden, Julian Assange is charged for rape and other sexual crimes on two women” (*“Julian Assange är i Sverige anklagad för våldtäkt och andra sexualbrott mot två kvinnor”*). [20]

In Swedish, *anklagad för brott* is synonym of *åtalad*, whose meaning in English is *charged*. As evidenced in the table “Context sentences for ‘anklagad för brott’ in English” (image reproduced in my article [here](#)), the proper translation into English of *anklagad för brott*, is *charged with a crime*. [21]

Besides the juridical meanings, in common Swedish language, “anklagad” is used as also used as synonym of “åtalad”, which means *indicted*. (See image below). [22]

A proper fashion in referring the juridical situation of Mr Julian Assange would have been instead using the terms *misstänkt för* (“suspected of”) instead of *anklagad för*. The juridical distinction between being *misstänkt* and being *anklagad* is also explained in

multiple layman sites [23]. But as it was pointed out in a twitter by @SWEDHR, the distinction is done by the Swedish Penal Code and referred accordingly in a variety of documents published by the Swedish Prosecution Authority. We have reviewed, for instance, “Article 6 of the European Convention. The right to a fair trial, viewed from the prosecutor’s perspective”. [24]

Conclusion: The using of “anklagad” instead of “misstänkt” (*charged* instead of *suspected*) in the case of Mr Assange is in my view not only juridical inaccurate. By ascribing him a legal status which would correspond to subjects *after* being interrogated by a prosecutor, *and only if* reasons to impeach are found, this entails a breach of Mr Assange human rights, for it means that his right to a fair legal procedure is not being respected. In fact, Julian Assange has never been charged of any crime, either in Sweden or elsewhere.

## Reasons for this apparently hostile behaviour?

The bearing of some Swedish journalists against Assange can be only partly explained by their political views, or the assignments of their employers. It has also to do with unambiguous ideological stances, such as motivated by a “pro-West” political culture, or even in some cases it would correspond to a straightforward behaviour of submissiveness towards power – as I developed in “*The ‘Duck Pond’ Theses. Explaining Swedish journalism and the anti-Assange smear campaign*”. [6.4]

But it also may have to do with concepts of loyalty to Sweden as motherland, and the all Assange/WikiLeaks affair in Sweden, as commented internationally, it could be equivocally seen by these journalists as one cause of the deterioration of the Sweden’s international prestige. Thus, Assange becomes “the enemy”, or furthermore, as mentioned in the international press, “Sweden’s N° One Public Enemy”. Not that estrange as social phenomenon, considering that Prime Minister Reinfeldt publicly declared in 2011,



“Assange has been damaging Sweden”. [25] I have discussed this issue of “loyalty” in some length at the chapter “The Swedish Media Paradox”, in my book *Sweden VS: Assange. Human Rights Issues*. [26].

A discrete number of Swedish journalists serving in main media outlets are also connected with Swedish military intelligence agencies. [27] In its turn, it is widely known that Swedish intelligence services are, according to dispatches from Swedish media, under intense collaboration with U.S. agencies. [28] Also in this regards, the Swedish military establishment has put forward the thesis that the Wikileaks endeavours are damaging the interests of Western powers, including those of Sweden, and to the point to publicly declare that Assange is threaten Sweden by means of blackmail. [29] Mike Winnerstig, a high-ranked official (Deputy Director of Research) at the Swedish Defence Research Agency – institution under the Swedish Ministry of Defence – declared in the Swedish Television’s news program *Aktuellt*:

“WikiLeaks had from the beginning an agenda to nail principally the U.S. and its allies in different scenarios”. And he also said that Julian Assange “ägnar sig till utpressning, helt enkelt” (“simply, Assange is doing blackmail”). These sentences must however be understood in the context of the full interview at the program, which transcription is linked here. [29]

Another aspect that might fell into the anti-Assange animosity among publicist circles is precisely the independent publicist character of WikiLeaks, outlet viewed as uncontrolled and effective concurrent. [30] In the context of the nowadays importance of social media channels for news distribution, is worth to mention that while WikiLeaks on Twitter (@wikileaks) has over two and a half million followers (2,55 M), the main Swedish media outlets do not reach more than, respectively, Dagens Nyheter (@dn) 96,9 K followers; Svenska Dagbladet (@svd) 101 K; Swedish State Television (@svt)

26,8 K; *Aftonbladet* (@Aftonbladet) 53 K; *Expressen* (@Expressen) 83,9 K; and State-owned *Radio Sweden* (@radiosweden) 10,2 K followers.

In the view of *Swedish Doctors for Human Rights*, the case has had a markedly political content, being this factor prominent behind the breaches by Sweden of Julian Assange's human rights all along this process. The disregard Mr Assange's right to political asylum, or the reasons Sweden had for immobilizing WikiLeaks by stalling the case in London are some illustrations.

## Notes and References

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[2.1] Wikipedia, "[The Iraq War documents leak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War_documents_leak)". Retrieved April 3 2015 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq\\_War\\_documents\\_leak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War_documents_leak)

[2.2] Wikipedia, "[The Afghan War documents leak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War_documents_leak)". Retrieved April 3 2015 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq\\_War\\_documents\\_leak](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War_documents_leak)

[3] Wikipedia, "[Information published by WikiLeaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_published_by_WikiLeaks)". Retrieved April 17 2015 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information\\_published\\_by\\_WikiLeaks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_published_by_WikiLeaks)

[4.1.] Marcello ferrada de Noli, "Open Letter To The Prosecutor-General Of Sweden" of 4 February 2014. Published in *Sweden VS Assange – Human Rights Issues*. Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014. Pages 106-108. Excerpts:

“On 11 February 2011, Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt stated in the DN and *Aftonbladet* newspapers, that Julian Assange had been indicted. He then went on to take a position that was biased in favour of the complainants in the case. Not only was this political interference in an ongoing case, but also it was based on untruths; Julian Assange has not been charged. The statement by the Prime Minister was:

*“We have an independent judiciary which also in this case acted according to Swedish law. One has even public-indicted Julian Assange on allegations of rape”. And, “I can only regret that the rights and position of women weigh so lightly when it comes to this type of questions compared to other types of theories brought forward.”*

[4.2] On 15 August 2012, Göran Haglund, Swedish Minister of Social Affairs, told the *Expressen* newspaper: “Assange is a very coward person that does not dare to confront the charges against him”. And he added, “If he did the things he is accused of, I think one can call him a lowlife. He seems to be a miserable wretch.”

(Source, “[\*Hägglund om asyl för Assange: “Fegis”\*](#)”. *Expressen*, 15 August 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2015. (<http://www.expressen.se/nyheter/hagglund-om-asyl-for-assange-fegis/> )

[4.3] M. Ferrada de Noli, “[Swedish government using media to interfere in the legal process against Julian Assange](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 27 January 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2012/01/27/swedish-government-using-media-to-interfere-in-the-legal-process-against-julian-assange/>

[5] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, [Does Sweden Inflict Trial by Media against Assange?](#) The Professors’ Blogg, 20 February 2011. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

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[6.1] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, [Trial by Media fortsätter](#). The Professors' Blogg, 4 February 2013. Retrieved 17 April 2015

[6.2] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, "[Journalister till tjänst i krigföringen mot Assange, och mot hederlig journalistik](#)". The Professors' Blogg, 17 February 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

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[6.3] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, "[Om de upprepade anklagelserna mot Assange av svenska journalister](#)". The Professors' Blogg, 17 February 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://ferrada-noli.blogspot.se/2012/02/om-de-upprepade-anklagelserna-mot.html>

[6.4] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, "[The 'Duck Pond' Theses. Explaining Swedish journalism and the anti-Assange smear campaign](#)". The Professors' Blogg, 1 December 2011. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2011/12/01/the-duck-pond-theses-explaining-swedish-journalism-and-the-anti-assange-smear-campaign/>

[7.1] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, "[Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. PART 1: The Political Agenda](#)". The Professors' Blogg, 15 April 2011. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://ferrada-noli.blogspot.se/2011/04/rigged-documentary-on-julian-assange-in.html>

[7.2] [Rigged documentary on Julian Assange in the Swedish National Television. Contents & Links to Parts I – V](#). The Professors' Blogg, 14 April 2011. Retrieved 4 April 2011.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2011/04/14/rigged-documentary-on-julian-assange-in-the-swedish-national-television-contents-links-to-parts-i-v/>

[8] Rixstep News, [“Assange & Sweden: Witness Statement of Professor Ferrada-Noli”](#). 2 February 2011. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://rixstep.com/1/20110224.00.shtml>

[9] In the chapter “Summary of the facts found” of the Court verdict of 24 February 2011, Judge Howard Riddle concludes unequivocally in item 19 (page 10), among other: “There has been considerable adverse publicity in Sweden for Mr Assange, in the popular press.” This corresponds to a conclusion contained in my witness statement that Assange’s lawyers presented at the court. I had written concretely that my analysis pointed “to a significant over-representation of negative assessments” about Assange in Swedish media articles.

See [“Court Veredict, City of Westminster Magistrates’ Court \(Sitting at Belmarsh Magistrates’ Court\). The judicial authority in Sweden -v-Julian Paul Assange. Findings of facts and reasons”](#). Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://www.infotorgjuridik.se/premium/incoming/article159944.ece/BINARY/Det+brittiska+domstolsbeslutet.pdf?fromType=branchartikel>

Even the Swedish main newspaper Svenska Dagbladet, in an article authored by journalist Karin Thurfjell 24 February 2011 acknowledges that Judge Riddle concluded on the verdict issued 24 February 2011 that [“there is a significant negative publicity about Assange in Sweden”](#). In: Marcello Ferrada de Noli, [“Assange fallet visar att Karl Marx hade rätt”](#). Newsmill, 28 February 2011.

Republished in The Professors' Blogg, 28 February 2011.  
Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2011/02/27/assange-vs-pinochet/>

[10] Examples of media attacks on Assange:

Svenska dagbladet, a main Swedish newspaper, illustrated its 17 Feb 2011 article “[Idyllic picture of Sweden is darkened](#)” with a montage showing the notorious criminal [Göran Lindberg](#) – a world-reviled, convicted [serial rapist](#) (including the rape of a 14-year old child) – portrayed together with Julian Assange and his lawyer Mark Stephens.

A conspicuous columnist of the newspaper Aftonbladet refers 13 Feb 2011 to Julian Assange as “[a paranoid idiot who refuses come to Sweden to confront trial](#)”.

The competitor newspaper, *Expressen*, describes 13 Feb 2011 in its cultural page “[the sexual pleasure of Mr Assange is just an inescapable element for his severe compulsive needs that are beyond..](#)”

[11] *Aftonbladet-TV*. “[Vägrar att förutse hemska attacken.](#)” *Aftonbladet Morgon* Säsong 9, avsnitt 11 publicerat: 27 mars 2015 12:11. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://tv.aftonbladet.se/webbtv/nyheter/morgon/article72040.ab/>

[12] “Det är så konstigt, så at det liknar inte till [något]. För det första det är inte alls svenska advokater, utan han har en spansk advokat också [Baltazar Garzón], och vi minns at han försökt att åtala Pinochet och blev världsberömd för det. Han [Garzon] är insyltad I det här också, och det visat sig at han är en populist av inget skådats slag”. Oisín Cantwel in the above-referred *Aftonbladet* journalist panel.

[13] AP, “[Pinochet lawyers say torture isn't international crime](#)”. 26 January 1999. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/678268/Pinochet-lawyers-say-torture-isnt-international-crime.html>

[14] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[Pinochet måste ställas inför rätta](#)”. SvD-Brännpunkt, 6 November 2008.

<https://ferradanoli.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/ferrada-noli-bring-pinochet-to-justice2.pdf>

[15] Torbjörn Sassersson, “[Lena Mellin, Oisín Cantwell, Fredrik Virtanen mobbar Assange och romer – Och förlorar all respekt](#)”. NewsVoice.se, 29 March 2015.

<http://newsvoice.se/2015/03/29/lena-mellin-oisin-cantwell-fredrik-virtanen-mobbar-assange-och-romer/>

[16] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[It is up to the Swedish Government, Not to the “Swedish Legal System”, to comply on pressures to extradite Assange. Part II of the series The Seven Pillars of Deception](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 22 January 2013. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2013/01/22/rendition-of-swedens-sovereignty-to-the-us/>

[17] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[AP journalist report from Sweden misleading on Assange extradition case](#)”. Second-Opinion, 7 February 2011. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://www.second-opinion.se/energi/view/1677>

[18] Swedish transcription:

Lena Mellin – ”*Hur skall han försörja sig när han ska komma ut därifrån*”

Oisín Catwell – ”*Han är kört, gått från internetsgenerationen, Jagger, rebell, avslöjar krigsförbrytelser, whatever- Så är han är bara löjeväckande.*”

Lena Mellin – ”*Tror han ska gå till skolan hos svenska romerna*”.

Karin Magnusson – “*Bra tips*”

[Alla skrattar].

[19] Torbjörn Sassersson, “[Lena Mellin, Oisín Cantwell, Fredrik Virtanen mobbar Assange och romer – Och förlorar all respekt](http://newsvoice.se/2015/03/29/lena-mellin-oisin-cantwell-fredrik-virtanen-mobbar-assange-och-romer-och-forlorar-all-respekt)”. NewsVoice.se, 29 March 2015.

<http://newsvoice.se/2015/03/29/lena-mellin-oisin-cantwell-fredrik-virtanen-mobbar-assange-och-romer/>

[20] Stefan Lisinski, “Ja från Assange till Londonförhör” (“Assange: Yes to interrogation in London”). DN, 18 April 2015. Page

[21] Table “Context sentences for ‘anklagad för brott’ in English”. In Bab.la Dictionary, online. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://en.bab.la/dictionary/swedish-english/anklagad-f%C3%B6r-brott>

[22] Image based on a screenshot from typkanske.se/ Retrieved 17 April 2017.

Typkanske.se/synonym/anklagad

[23] For instance, we may find a more simple or pedagogical explanation on the difference made by the Swedish legal system between *misstänkt* (suspected), and *anklagad* (charged), in the article “What is a suspect” (*Vad är en misstänkt?*). There it is summarized: “If a suspect is formally (taken) to court, he or she becomes charged” (“*Om en misstänkt formellt inför rätta, han*



eller hon blir anklagad”). In “Vad är en misstänkt?” Published by Kunskap. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<http://www.difonzo.net/vad-ar-en-misstankt/>

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[27] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[MSM Journalists Trained by Swedish Military Intelligence](#)”. The Professors’ Blog, 11 June 2012. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

<https://professorsblogg.com/2012/06/11/the-media-the-man-the-misinformation-swedish-media-war-against-assange-intensifies/>

[28.1] Mike Ölander. “CIA demanded that Sweden would expand cooperation” [[“CIA krävde att Sverige skulle utöka samarbetet](#)”]. *Expressen*, 6 December 2010. Retrieved 17 April 2015.

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[30] Marcello Ferrada de Noli, “[Journalistic Jealousy’ Or Politics, Or Both?](#)” In *Sweden VS: Assange. Human Rights Issues*. Ed. Libertarian Books, Sweden, 2014. Chapter, pages 88-98.

## Olof Palme and Julian Assange subjected in Sweden to same hate campaign by the same political forces and with the same purpose: to defend U.S. geopolitical interests

Every 28 of February, the world mourns the anniversary of the assassination of Olof Palme, the honourable PM of Sweden.

The Swedish media and a variety of early authorities and representatives of Sweden's power and cultural elites have been unanimous on this: The assassination took place in the frame of a hate campaign against him, and where Olof Palme was constantly subjected to libellous personal attacks.

However, what that media and politicians who professed frank animosity against Palme's anti-imperialist stances do not say, is that it was they who promoted and/or echoed such a hate campaign.

Just some months ago a politician of name Jörgen Olsen and belonging of the same organization as [Carl Bildt and Ulf Adelsohn](#) wrote in Facebook, "[Palme was a repulsive person](#)". Which is a copycat of the terms used by former Social Minister Göran Haglund when referring to Mr Assange.

Martin Klepke, a reporter formerly working at the Swedish newspaper *Expressen*, [told in 2014](#) that he did hear colleagues at his working place in *Expressen*, discussing in serious terms whether Olof Palme "should go voluntarily or forced out by means of military power". [1]



*Photo above. Placard used by the right-wing Moderate Party. The text besides the demonising caricature of Olof Palme reads: “Against parasites use DDT”. Next image: A wide preferred caricature of Olof Palme by the media and pro U.S. political elites of the time was to presented him as the Nazis did when demonizing the Jews under slogans such as “exterminate the rats”: a man with a big crook nose and sinister look. A similar image was endlessly published by main newspaper DN.*

That was the times when Olof Palme had in unambiguous terms denounced the bombing of Hanoi civilian population by the U.S. and criticized the occupation war in Vietnam.

Nevertheless, the Swedish police disregarded eyewitness reports from the very same evening of the murder of PM Olof Palme which identified a U.S. agent at the time working for Pinochet's infamous DINA – the secret security agency set up to assassinate opposition leaders abroad. Olof Palme was the only foreign dignitary who was listed in the death list of Operation Condor.

## The participation of Swedish mainstream in libellous hate campaigns ad hominem on behalf of USA geopolitical interests, is rather a rule than an exception.

After the organization WikiLeaks, founded by Julian Assange, criticized U.S. occupation wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and denounced its wars crimes, [the US requested](#) the few governments participating in the military occupation of Afghanistan under US-command to initiate prosecution against Assange. Facts show that Sweden was the only country that complied.

To start with, it was the same abovementioned *Expressen* that, in contravention with media-ethical norms, published the name of Julian Assange as “accused of rape”, even if the chief prosecutor Eva Finné dismissed the case days after.

Of course, prosecutor Finné’s decision did not have the voracity of *Expressen*’s cable synchronized with worldwide Western media distribution. Even today many Swedes and people abroad ignorantly repeat the falsehood that Assange has been accused by two women of rape, and even charged for it!

And of course the hate campaign. Nowadays, while important political voices in the U.S. political establishment are asking for the assassination of Julian Assange (e.g. the top right-win politician Sarah Palin), the same abovementioned actors – now added to by the often fascist-inspired “radical feminist” movement – wage a similar hate campaign in Sweden against Julian Assange and the anti-imperialist stances of the organization he founded, WikiLeaks.

At the times of the multiple calls for Assange’s assassination by prominent U.S. figures, *Expressen*’s culture section wrote by 2011, [“Mr Assange...inescapable element for his severe compulsive needs](#)

[that are beyond...](#)” About five years later, *Expressen*’s culture editor Karin Ohlson is heading her article of 7 February 2016, “Snowden’s defence of Assange [stinks](#)“. The competitor *Aftonbladet* wrote 13 Feb 2011 on Julian Assange, “[a paranoid idiot who refuses come to Sweden to face a trial](#)”.

Still in 2015, *Aftonbladet*’s journalists Oisín Cantwell, Karin Magnusson and Fredrik Virtanen laughed on a TV broadcast at Lena Melin’s racist comparison of [Julian Assange’s “future”](#) with that of miserable migrants from Romania, forced beggars at the streets of Sweden’s cities (*Aftonbladet* TV 27 March 2015).

Svenska Dagbladet (SvD), a main Swedish newspaper, illustrated its 17 Feb 2011 article “[Idyllic picture of Sweden is darkened](#)” with a montage showing the notorious criminal [Göran Lindberg](#) — a world-reviled, convicted [serial rapist](#) (including the rape of a 14-year old child) — portrayed together with Julian Assange and his lawyer Mark Stephens.



Swedish Armed Forces "Research Institute"'s boss, when Wikileaks exposed Sweden's illegal arms deal with Saudi Arabia

The Swedish military also drove a hate campaign against Palme and in which [Navy commander Hans Von Hofsten](#) was a prominent actor. In order to stir national or nationalist sentiment, the psy op main PR resource was to portray, imply or even accuse Olof Palme of being a “Russian ally”.

Likewise, Julian Assange and his organization WikiLeaks are publicly demonized by the Swedish military. The second in command at the Swedish Military Research Institute, Mike Winnerstig [photo above], speaking officially at the Swedish TV, presented Assange as waging a leaks-denouncing campaign directed against Sweden and the Western countries, while at the same time he accused Assange's organization WikiLeaks of protecting Russian interests.

The state-owned Swedish Television (SvT), in its turn, [named Julian Assange “Sweden's Number One Enemy”](#).

### *Translation note*

[1] [Original] “Det var en tid på jag själv som reporter på Expressen på min arbetsplats kunde höra journalister på tidningen Expressen med allvarlig röst diskutera om Olof Palme var på väg att sälja Sverige till Sovjetunionen. Och om han skulle avgå frivilligt eller om han skulle behöva tvingas bort med vapenmakt.”







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