

Slow-Motion US/UK Killing of Julian Assange

By Stephen Lendman

Global Research, October 22, 2019

Region: Europe, USA

Theme: Law and Justice, Media

Disinformation

Establishment media are in cahoots with US/UK ruling regimes against Assange for the "crime" of truth-telling journalism abhorred in the West — totalitarian rule where these societies are heading.

In mid-October, UN special rapporteur on torture Nils Melzer denounced Assange's judicial lynching and egregious mistreatment, saying the following:

"What has the man done? He has disclosed an enormous amount of information that governments want to remain secret, most infamously the 'Collateral Murder' video, which, in my view, is evidence for war crimes."

"What is the scandal in this case is that everyone focuses on Julian Assange. Here is someone who exposes evidence for war crimes, including torture and murder, and he is under this constant pressure."

"I am absolutely convinced he will not receive a fair trial in Virginia, and he will remain in prison under inhumane conditions for the rest of his life."

Tulsi Gabbard is the only US presidential aspirant expressing support for journalist Assange, as well as whistleblowers Chelsea Manning, Edward Snowden, and others like them, opposing their "prosecution like criminals."

If elected president, she'd drop charges against them, she said, calling for greater "protect(ion) (of) our civil liberties," adding:

Assange's arrest in Britain "poses a great threat to our freedom of the press and to our freedom of speech" — the same true about how Chelsea Manning, Snowden, and other whistleblowers are mistreated.

What happened to them "could happen to you. It could happen to any of us," she stressed.

Bipartisan politicians in the US and UK, along with establishment media, refuse to support Assange's struggle for justice.

On Monday, he appeared in London's Westminster Magistrates Court. Showing the effects of egregious mistreatment since unlawfully dragged from the city's Ecuadorian embassy and imprisoned under harsh conditions, he was too physically and emotionally shattered to participate in his defense.

He's an investigative journalist/whistleblower, publishing material supplied by sources believed to be credible, unidentified for their protection.

WikiLeaks is not an intelligence operation. Nor it it connected to Russia or any other country. Claims otherwise are fabricated.

Assange earlier explained that WikiLeaks has the right "to publish newsworthy content. Consistent with the US Constitution, we publish material that we can confirm to be true," he stressed.

US charges against him are fabricated and malicious, what no legitimate tribunal would accept.

Justice Department lawyer James Lewis falsely accused him of "spying," lied saying he's "not a journalist," turned truth on its head claiming his actions were "criminal in both the US and UK" — the above Big Lies how all fascist police states operate.

Assange attorney Mark Summers called for dismissal of Washington's illegitimate extradition request, saying:

According to the 2003 UK/US extradition treaty, it "shall not be granted if the offense for which extradition is requested is a political offense," adding:

The unjustifiable persecution of Assange and Chelsea Manning is "part of an avowed war on whistleblowers to include investigative journalists and publishers."

Summers requested a three-month delay of Assange's February 25 extradition hearing because "we need more time" to prepare a proper defense, given the "enormity" of issues involved, requiring "evidence gathering that would test most lawyers."

Operating as an imperial tool, judge Vanessa Baraitser denied the request, saying the extradition hearing will proceed as schedule on February 25 at Woolwich Magistrates Court near Belmarsh Prison.

Its public gallery has three seats, assuring Assange's judicial lynching will be virtually closed to public scrutiny.

Barely able to stand and speak after months of barbaric mistreatment, when asked if there's "anything (he) would like to say, he replied barely audibly that he doesn't "understand how this is equitable," adding:

Imperial USA "had 10 years to prepare (its judicial lynching). I can't remember anything. I can't access any of my written work."

"It's very difficult to do anything with such limited resources against a superpower intent on" an illegitimate crucifixion. "I can't think properly" from the barbaric ordeal he's endured.

Baraitser dismissively replied that "conditions of your detainment are not the subject of this court."

Following the hearing, WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson called for the case against Assange to "be thrown out immediately," adding:

"Not only is it illegal on the face of the (extradition) treaty, the US has

conducted illegal operations against Assange and his lawyers which are the subject of a major investigation in Spain."

John Pilger witnessed Monday's spectacle, saying

"(t)he whole thing is a grotesque absurdity. There is an extradition law between this country and the United States."

"It states specifically that someone cannot be extradited if the offenses are political."

"The source of this is a rogue (US) state — a state that ignores its own laws and international laws and the laws of this country."

Summers called Assange's crucifixion "a political attempt to signal to journalists the consequences of publishing information" ruling regimes want suppressed.

"It's legally unprecedented...part of an avowed war on (truth-telling) whistleblowers to include investigative journalists and publishers."

In cahoots with the Trump regime, police state Britain is killing Assange slowly, wanting him, whistleblowers like Chelsea Manning, and other truth-tellers silenced.

What's going on is the hallmark of totalitarian rule – controlling the message, eliminating what conflicts with it, notably on major geopolitical issues.

Losing the right of free expression endangers all others. When truth-telling and dissent are considered threats to national security, free and open societies no longer exist – the slippery slope America and other Western societies are heading on.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at <u>lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net</u>. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at <u>silendman.blogspot.com</u>.

The original source of this article is Global Research Copyright © Stephen Lendman, Global Research, 2019

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Stephen Lendman

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cuttingedge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca