

Forget the Man focus on the PLAN

by Jessica Corbett via jess - CommonDreams *Thursday, May 23 2019, 10:24pm*
international / prose / post

Assange Hit With New Multiple Espionage Charges

Do you imagine that your inalienable rights, liberties and freedoms have been lost by accident? If so, please return to your television sets and social media accounts, as this piece is for thinking people. There is purpose behind a planned and pursued strategy by criminal, elite rulers to COMPLETELY enslave/capture the masses and society. The Assange case exemplifies this nefarious plan in all its sordid detail if we focus on it rather than the person. Do not be DISTRACTED by the person upon which the privately owned mass media is at pains to shift focus.

"This is no longer about Julian Assange: This case will decide the future of media." -- Edward Snowden.

In an unprecedented move that journalists and press freedom defenders [denounced](#) as "the most significant and terrifying threat to the First Amendment in the 21st century," the Trump Justice Department [announced](#) Thursday that a federal grand jury charged WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange with 17 new counts of violating the Espionage Act.

"This is about attacking journalism and the public's right to information about war crimes done in their name with their dollars," The Intercept's Jeremy Scahill said in a series of tweets. "This is about retaliation for publishing evidence of U.S. war crimes and other crimes by the most powerful nation on Earth. It's a threat to press freedom. That's why you should care."

Ben Wizner, director of the ACLU's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, <https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2019/05/23/aclu-comment-julian-assange-indictment> explained in a statement what sets these charges apart from past U.S. government legal actions targeting journalists and publishers.

"For the first time in the history of our country, the government has brought criminal charges against a publisher for the publication of truthful information," Wizner said. "This is an extraordinary escalation of the Trump administration's attacks on journalism, and a direct assault on the First Amendment."

Journalist Chris Hayes concurred, tweeting: "The Espionage indictment of Assange for publishing is an extremely dangerous, frontal attack on the free press. Bad, bad, bad."

Whistleblower Edward Snowden, in a tweet, warned of the broader implications: "The Department of Justice just declared war—not on WikiLeaks, but on journalism itself. This is no longer about Julian Assange: This case will decide the future of media."

In response to the charges, Trevor Timm, executive director of the U.S.-based Freedom of the Press Foundation, warned in a statement that "the Trump administration is moving to explicitly criminalize national security journalism, and if this prosecution proceeds, dozens of reporters at the New York Times, Washington Post, and elsewhere would also be in danger."

"The ability of the press to publish facts the government would prefer remain secret is both critical to an informed public and a fundamental right," Timm added. "This decision by the Justice Department is a massive and unprecedented escalation in Trump's war on journalism."

According to the ACLU's Wizner, "It establishes a dangerous precedent that can be used to target all news organizations that hold the government accountable by publishing its secrets. And it is equally dangerous for U.S. journalists who uncover the secrets of other nations. If the U.S. can prosecute a foreign publisher for violating our secrecy laws, there's nothing preventing China, or Russia, from doing the same."

The Trump DOJ on Thursday detailed some of the new charges against the 47-year-old journalist and publisher in a lengthy statement, which said in part:

The superseding indictment alleges that Assange was complicit with Chelsea Manning, a former intelligence analyst in the U.S. Army, in unlawfully obtaining and disclosing classified documents related to the national defense... After agreeing to receive classified documents from Manning and aiding, abetting, and causing Manning to provide classified documents, the superseding indictment charges that Assange then published on WikiLeaks classified documents that contained the unredacted names of human sources who provided information to United States forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to U.S. State Department diplomats around the world.

Though Manning's 35-year prison sentence for espionage was commuted two years ago by former President Barack Obama, as Common Dreams reported last week, a federal judge ordered Manning "back to jail for refusing to testify before a secretive grand jury and imposed a \$500 fine for every day she is in custody after 30 days."

The superseding indictment comes as Australia-born Assange is already fighting extradition to the United States from the United Kingdom over a previous hacking-related charge. He is also currently serving a 50-week sentence in a U.K. prison for violating bail when he took refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London seven years ago to avoid extradition to Sweden over sexual assault allegations—expressing concern that Swedish authorities would ultimately turn him over to the United States.

Sweden dropped its extradition request in early 2018, but Swedish authorities reopened the investigation earlier this month. That followed the U.K. police forcibly removing Assange from the Ecuadorian Embassy last month, after the country's government revoked his asylum protections—which critics also called an assault on journalism.

Creative Commons attribution applies.

[The first phase of this nefarious plan to silence any and all narrative voices of protest and dissent is in effect as I write, alternative media sites have been censored through the floor by compliant IT and plutocrat owned media companies, with reads/hits reduced by an average of 70%. If we fail to protect our lives and society by allowing this clearly criminal design/PLAN to succeed, then the future would be stark and grim, as the ONLY way to hold our governments and other powerful entities to account is by public awareness and exposure of State and powerful private sector criminal interests. A free and uncensored media is our only vehicle/means to preserve our hard won FREEDOMS -- abandon media freedom at Y/OUR great cost.]

Please follow link below for additional embedded and Tweet information:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3k983yt>

Inverse Times Open Publishing. <http://inversetimes.lingama.net/news/story-636.html>