

Government That Tortures Journalists [Assange] Bans RT From 'Media Freedom' Conference

by Caitlin Johnstone via stella - ICH Sunday, Jul 14 2019, 10:19pm

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This blatantly HYPOCRITICAL act by the British Foreign Office is staggering to say the very least but as we know it's par for the course today, where shadowy powers are now openly attempting to control the free flow of information in the western world. Censorship and shaped information, commonly known as PROPAGANDA, disseminated by the western mainstream media is clearly under threat from numerous independent and opposing media voices/sources -- the solution for mainstream media is simple, eliminate ALL dissenting, questioning and opposing voices in order to misinform the population and maintain what has proven to be a LYING mainstream media discourse that serves elite only interests, pure and simple. The fact that it's now in the open and unchallenged is disconcerting for freedom loving people everywhere, as without Truth society is lost to those (elites) that control available information.

The British Foreign Office has [banned](#) Russian outlets RT and Sputnik from attending the upcoming Global Conference on [Media Freedom](#) in London, citing their predilection for "disinformation".

"We have not accredited RT or Sputnik because of their active role in spreading disinformation," said a Foreign Office spokeswoman.

"It takes a particular brand of hypocrisy to advocate for freedom of press while banning inconvenient voices and slandering alternative media; sadly, the world has learned to expect just that from the UK Foreign Office," RT said in a <https://southfront.org/uk-marks-media-freedom-conference-by-banning-rt-sputnik-from-it/> statement in response.

"It amounts to direct politically motivated discrimination of the Russian channel," [said](#) the Russian embassy in London. "The refusal of accreditation comes on top of the months-long smear campaign against RT by British political figures, governmental bodies, including media regulator Ofcom, and even fellow journalists."

"Now a leading Russian international TV channel is denied access to the forum, despite being officially registered and working in the UK, on legal grounds," the embassy added. "What better illustration of the real situation with media freedom in the UK does one need? Yet the organizers of the Conference, as far as we understand, wish to discuss the situation with media freedom anywhere in the world, but not in this country."

UK govt organises international conference on 'media freedom', bans @RT_com (and Syria & Venezuela) from attending <https://t.co/jT5LSFNORN>

'It takes a particular brand of hypocrisy to advocate for media freedom, while banning inconvenient voices and slandering alternative media'

— Charles Shoebridge (@ShoebridgeC) July 9, 2019

The BBC's [report](#) on this story hilariously contains a brazenly propagandistic video titled "What's so different about Russia Today?" which carefully explains why it's very important for the BBC's audience to understand that RT is propaganda.

"They want to be an alternative view, which in fact is the propaganda machine of, and is paid for by, the Kremlin," says the video by the BBC, a government-funded news station with an [established history](#) of collaboration with British intelligence to deplatform dissenting voices.

"The BBC tries to cover all the angles of the story, including those that wouldn't be pleasant to the UK government," the BBC video claims. "RT always picks up pundits, questions, issues, angles that show the Kremlin and the Russian government in a positive way."

In reality, the BBC is very much guilty of enforcing what British journalist Jonathan Cook recently [described](#) as the "narrow manufactured consensus of supposedly rational policy - neoliberal orthodoxy at home, and neoconservative warmongering abroad." Like all other mainstream British media, the BBC works to shrink the Overton window of acceptable debate and propagandize British citizens into arguing over how existing power structures should be aided and maintained instead of whether those power structures should exist at all. For the BBC to pretend that it is in any way superior to RT on any level is laughable.

But the BBC will certainly be in attendance at the Global Conference on Media Freedom, welcomed with open arms by the British government it only half-pretends to have an oppositional relationship with.

This would be the same British government that is currently holding journalist Julian Assange behind bars pending a US extradition hearing for exposing American war crimes. The same British government who UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Nils Melzer found guilty of participating in the psychological torture of that same journalist. The same Foreign Office whose head, Jeremy Hunt, told Face the Nation last month that he will allow Assange to be extradited to the US if he succeeds in his bid to become the next Prime Minister, after explicitly and repeatedly condemning the persecution of dissident journalists in other nations.

You won't see any of this ridiculous, jaw-dropping hypocrisy called out by the BBC, nor by any other mainstream outlet in the uniquely spineless and sycophantic British media. Do you know where you will see this hypocrisy being criticized? RT.

The only reason RT and Sputnik exist with any degree of popularity in the west is because, contrary to what the BBC claims, people are unable to hear any voices that are critical of real power from western mainstream media. If the BBC or any other British outlet were to begin platforming actual anti-war, leftist and anti-establishment voices with any degree of regularity, I can guarantee you with 100 percent certainty that RT and Sputnik would immediately lose their UK audiences.

But that never happens, because British mass media does not "cover all the angles of the story, including those that wouldn't be pleasant to the UK government" as the BBC claims, it publishes propaganda which directly benefits the underlying power structures of the UK government. Their job isn't to tell the truth and hold power to account, their job is to normalize the status quo, manufacture consent for endless war, and tell you day in and day out that Jeremy Corbyn is a cross between Adolf Hitler and a werewolf.

The UK and Canada have launched a global campaign to [#DefendMediaFreedom](#) and shine a spotlight on media abuses.

Today @Jeremy_Hunt, @cafreeland and Special Envoy on Media Freedom Amal Clooney discussed how we can reverse the trend of violence against journalists. pic.twitter.com/daK3a6hYr7

— Foreign Office (@foreignoffice) April 5, 2019

Jeremy Hunt longs for the days when a country could peacefully propagandize its citizens without this pesky problem of propaganda from other countries seeping into the mix and forcing everyone to think for themselves. We have been experiencing a brief but wonderful period where the internet has opened up rivers of information from all sorts of perspectives, but we will need to fight to keep those rivers flowing. Invisible censorship has already begun in earnest, and it's at these conferences where they dream up even more insidious ways to throttle dissident voices.

Be vigilant. Fight them. *[But unfortunately we already know from previous passive and acquiescing behaviours from a paralysed public (due to designed dis/misinformation (propaganda) and applied subliminal methods) by criminal and fearful authorities, FAT CHANCE! Nevertheless, we thank Caitlin and others for their gallant attempts to disseminate TRUTH in a world run on LIES.]*

Some words of real wisdom on the issue follow:

“Part of what is wrong with our society, and hence with ourselves, is that we consume images, we don't produce them. We need to produce, not consume, media.”

“We have to create culture, don't watch TV, don't read magazines, don't even listen to NPR. Create your own roadshow. The nexus of space and time where you are now is the most immediate sector of your universe, and if you're worrying about Michael Jackson or Bill Clinton or somebody else, then you are disempowered, you're giving it all away to icons, icons which are maintained by an electronic media so that you want to dress like X or have lips like Y. This is shit-brained, this kind of thinking. That is all cultural diversion, and what is real is you and your friends and your associations, your highs, your orgasms, your hopes, your plans, your fears. And we are told 'no', we're unimportant, we're peripheral. 'Get a degree, get a job, get a this, get a that.' And then you're a player, you don't want to even play in that game. You want to reclaim your mind and get it out of the hands of the cultural engineers who want to turn you into a half-baked moron consuming all this trash that's being manufactured out of the bones of a dying world.” -- Terence McKenna

[Watch.](#)

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/51916.htm>

Inverse Times Open Publishing. <http://inversetimes.lingama.net/news/story-727.html>