

MAIREAD MAGUIRE, NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE, 224 LISBURN ROAD, BELFAST.BT9

Berit Reiss-Andersen, Chair,
Norwegian Nobel Peace Institute, Henrik Ibsens Gate 51, N-055,
Oslo, Norway

7th January, 2019

Re: Nomination of Mr. Julian Assange, and WikiLeaks for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

Dear Ms. Reiss-Andersen,

I write to nominate, Mr. Julian Assange, editor-in-Chief, Wikileaks, and Wikileaks, for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize. Julian Assange is founder of Wikileaks which is a legally-constituted online news publisher, which is funded by voluntary donations and has been recognized for quality investigative journalism, and awarded many prestigious international journalism and human rights awards. Because of WikiLeaks reporting of acts during US/Nato's illegal wars against Afghanistan, Iraq, etc., and its highlighting of corruption by USA/CIA and Corporate power, and continuing their fight in disclosing the links between the great private corporations and government agencies, Julian Assange has been threatened by high profile USA citizens, and a Grand Jury has been set up in America to try Julian Assange and WikiLeaks for their publications. For this, he is being persecuted and deprived of his right to liberty, human rights, etc., six years ago Julian Assange, aware of these extradition plans of America, sought asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy, in London, where he remains today. (He is now in his 8th year of Arbitrary Detention in the U.K.) Although Mr. Assange's conditions were already harsh, having no sunlight or outdoor exercise since June 2012, his situation has gotten worse since March 2018 when the Ecuadorian Government (after a visit by UK/USA officials to Ecuador) imposed conditions that are like indefinite confinement. He is prevented from having visitors, receiving telephone calls, no internet, emails, or other electronic communications. He is restricted from saying anything about politics, foreign policy, human rights abuses, in fact anything critical about any country in the world. He is unable to speak to his lawyers except in person and his physical health, according to Doctors, continues to deteriorate. Julian Assange is unable to walk outside the Ecuadorian embassy, as he has been told by UK Government, he will be arrested by the British Metropolitan Police. He has asked UK Government to give assurances he will not be handed over to American Security for extradition to America, to face a grand jury, where he could be tortured and face life imprisonment, but the UK Government refuse to give him assurance of this. A UN working group on Arbitrary detention has deemed this an arbitrary deprivation of his liberty and a grave human rights abuse which should be ended immediately, and for which according to this UN Group on Arbitrary detention, he ought to be compensated by Britain and Sweden.

Many journalists and editors around the world are concerned about the attacks on Julian Assange and for his health and safety. They also recognize this is an issue of freedom of the press and freedom of information. Julian Assange through WikiLeaks has told the truth and tried to hold Governments accountable, and for this he is being silenced and persecuted. Many lawyers,

academics, and journalists believe WikiLeaks is a legitimate, ethical and courageous media organization, and that Julian is an innocent man, a political prisoner persecuted for exposing the US Government and its big corporations for their complicity in war crimes, fraud and corruption.

When Julian Assange published to the world the crimes being committed by the US military he did so as an act of obedience to the high moral duty of every citizen to make known war crimes and crimes against humanity and to try to end war, and it is for this I have the honour in nominating WikiLeaks and Julian Assange for the Nobel Peace Prize 2019 which I feel would not only acknowledge his courage, but help to save his life and gain his freedom.

Máiread Maguire

Mairead Corrigan Maguire Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1976)