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زبانهای اروپایی

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Legal murder



Sources: Counterpunch [Photo: Markus Spiske]

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They really want to kill him. Perhaps it is high time that his detractors and skeptics, who have proven wrong essentially from the start, admitted that the American empire, along with its client states, is eager to see Julian Assange perish in prison. The locality and place are not relevant to its purpose. As with the Inquisition, the Catholic Church was

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never in favor of getting its hands dirty, preferring to employ non-ecclesiastical figures to torture its victims.

In Assange's case, Britain has been a willful jailer from the beginning, guided by Washington's good offices, and not too keen to see this secret broadcaster free. The British government repeatedly and inexcusably refused bail, despite threats of COVID-19, deteriorating editor's own health, and restrictions on access, at regular intervals, to his team's legal advice. Just as some banks are considered too big to fail, Assange is considered too big a target to allow him to escape. If he were released again, he could do what he does best: reveal the government's corruptions in war and peace and prove that the social contract is a gross deception and a mockery of our sensibilities.

The UK legal system has been the ideal forum for executing Washington's wishes. Each legal branch that has examined the extradition case has diligently avoided addressing the substance of the matter: the attack on press freedom, the exposure of war crimes, the illegal surveillance of a political refugee in the compound of an embassy, violations of privacy and legal secrecy, intrusions into family life, the evidence on the proposed kidnapping and murder, the questionable conflicts of interest of some judicial members, the collusion of the State authorities...

Instead, the courts have used a blade to slice the strongest arguments, focusing on a slice that, in time, would be defeated. The only decision that favored Assange was to consider him an individual whose mental fragility would endanger him in an American penitentiary. In such a case, it would be virtually impossible to avoid suicide. U.S. District Judge Vanessa Baraitser, who handed down the sentence, took little account of the editor's credentials, heartily agreeing with the accusation that no journalist would have exposed the names of the informants. (This farce of interpretation was convincingly refuted in the Old Bailey trial.)

The rest has been a grotesque spectacle of colossal proportions, in which the High Court and the Supreme Court have proven to be political zopencos or, what is not much better, unwary. Believing in the diplomatic assurances of US prosecutors about Assange's fate after extradition, offered a posteriori, was terribly reminiscent of the practice of rigging a match for one of the teams to win. We all know that court cases and the law can be

compared to gambling and risk-taking: the result is never clear until it occurs, but in this case it was extremely ridiculous.

Para cualquiera que haya seguido el juicio y conozca la debilidad de las garantías ofrecidas por una potencia estatal, especialmente si tiene el peso de los Estados Unidos, las promesas de un encierro más cómodo, no sujeto a brutales medidas administrativas especiales y de poder solicitar el regreso a Australia para cumplir allí el resto de la condena, eran pura y apestosa palabrería.

Amnistía Internacional es inequívoca en este punto: los gobiernos utilizan las garantías diplomáticas para «eludir» diversos convenios de derechos humanos, y el simple hecho de que se soliciten crea sus propios peligros. «El mero hecho de que los estados necesiten pedir garantías diplomáticas contra la tortura y otros tratos o penas crueles, inhumanos o degradantes es indicativo de que existe riesgo de tortura».

Las autoridades fiscales estadounidenses han llegado incluso a debilitar su propia posición, condicionando sus compromisos. Como de costumbre, vuelven a centrar la atención en Assange, sugiriendo que podría influir en ciertos asuntos por su propia conducta maliciosa. En definitiva, nada de lo que se dijo era vinculante, y el pegamento que mantenía las promesas podría, en cualquier momento, disolverse.

Admirablemente, Assange sigue teniendo algunos seguidores muy dedicados que le desean lo mejor y quieren verle libre. El diputado australiano independiente Andrew Wilkie posee el tipo de certeza que puede pulverizar las actitudes de los escépticos sombríos, aunque incluso él deba alimentar algunas dudas. En su discurso a los partidarios de Assange en Canberra, pronunciado en los jardines del Parlamento australiano, se mostró confiado en que si se mantiene «la presión» se acabará haciendo justicia con el editor.

En un escueto resumen, Wilkie sintetizó el caso: «Estados Unidos quiere vengarse y, durante mucho tiempo, el Reino Unido y Australia se han contentado con seguir el juego porque han antepuesto las relaciones bilaterales con Washington a los derechos de un hombre decente». Es preciso mantener la rabia, instó a su audiencia.

El asunto se considera tan urgente que los médicos australianos de Assange han advertido de que la muerte puede estar asomada a la vuelta de la esquina. «Los exámenes médicos realizados a Julian Assange en la prisión de Belmarsh, en el Reino Unido», declaró el portavoz Robert Marr, «han revelado que padece graves afecciones cardiovasculares y relacionadas con el estrés que ponen en peligro su vida, y que incluso ha sufrido un pequeño accidente cerebrovascular como consecuencia de su encarcelamiento y de la tortura psicológica.»

The organization has written to the US ambassador to Australia, Carolyn Kenney, "asking her to urgently request President Biden to end the US persecution of Australian citizen Julian Assange for the mere publication of information that has been provided to him and to put an end to the US attempt to extradite him from the UK."

From the Australian perspective, we see that it is intended to approach Assange's fate without any haste and with all caution, which is also consistent with the lethal agenda pursued by US prosecutors. Despite the changing of the guard in Canberra*, the *status quo* of power relations between the two countries remains unchanged. Everyone except Assange seems to have time to wait. But in terms of life and health, time is running out.

* N. de T.: In May of this year the Australian government changed hands and the Social Democrats retook power after nine years of conservative rule.

Source: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/08/01/penal-assassination-the-gradual-effort-to-kill-assange/>

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