

Institute for **Cultural Relations Policy**



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## PRESSURE ON PAPERS

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### Introduction

Media is said to be the fourth estate. A journalist cannot say whatever he wants because it has a connotation, it gives point of views to people, and it creates vision. The moral question is whether they can handle the power of their activity or not.

This type of questions turned up in connection with the WikiLeaks era most recently. Julian Assange were said to be raped two Swedish women, no one could prove what really happened, and press had to have their say about it, just like in every WikiLeaks case. The most interesting part is how the press took their position in this issue, how the website and media cooperated.

### The case

Assange always were the soldier of truth. In 2006, he established a portal, which was about leaking confidential documents around the world, emphases on US materials. As time passed, dozens of American politicians, journalists, moreover the wealthy stood against the mission of Assange. These leaked cables caused loads of very uncomfortable situations to the West Wing, Central Intelligence and every institute, which was affected by WikiLeaks. Dirty things was born about the politics of the United States in the late 2000's, Assange took the role of an uninvited guest in the world of civil journalism. In the West, he became a national threat, more than a leader of a business, which creates the amount of nameless heroes around the world.

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In the case of WikiLeaks, it is an important factor to have some thoughts about the site's "PR steps". Considering the facts, media processed a lot of cables, but the interesting thing is they paid attention to the tabloid case of Assange, which was more like a show trial than a real case, we all feel that. Articles and TV shows were full of the Australian's rape-story than any cables, which could have been a bit more weight material to politics. It is easy to put the pieces together: press did not pay attention to the real files; they assisted to the US government to slide Assange away.

### **We were blind**

We have to ask ourselves that are we really that blind? Well, we did not asked that when Assange fulfilled the news with his trial. It is a consequence. The consequence of a successful media operation. Everyone was busy with the case, everyone missed the irony, which was in front of our eyes. Assange took his life to saving truth, and let the guilty political steps revealed. Is not that strange that the biggest warrior of moral truth became the victim of a same built trial, which is based on a morally wrong thing? The whole world was brainwashed by mass media, nobody saw the evidence, which Assange would have never been commit such thing like that.

### **Basically determined**

The saddest part of this whole case is Assange lost a lot of supporters, even from his own side. Not just those turned against him who were basically insulted by his cables, even the outsiders and own members of his management at the site. Assange started to think that he is the victim of a personalized hating-campaign.

In 2010, the case reached its final form, when Interpol gave red lights to all police forces to get Assange. According to a 2010 Guardian article, new cables came out. WikiLeaks were about to publish secret documents about President Nicolas Sarkozy, Hillary Clinton's spy activity and Eastern war conditions

Media did not show any listening ears about what is happening between the cultures, they just had to help the American interests, making Assange's reputation equal with the ground. Every media has a cultural mission, every newspaper, every TV and Radio programmes want to

guide human ways of thinking. It is obvious that media was forced by the US government to maintain their status in the eyes of other states. Media had nothing to choose, they cooperated.

### **Exitus acta probat**

Considering the facts, we cannot confirm that the media is fully guilty about Assange's case. If we think deeply and take a look at the moral questions of the activity of WikiLeaks and try to make evidence between the basic method of the site and America's operation against Assange, we can find a parallel constellation. Basically the system of leaking classified documents is based on illegal activity. The cables are classified with reason; these were not made for public. It is another thing, that all the leaked information are meant to be leaked for a higher truth, but the process of achieving them, is against the law, not to mention revealing it. Leaks can easily be mentioned as sort of a spying activity, so it is not obvious that WikiLeaks has clear hands, media has its alibi because of it. The only difference is United States protected the fatherland and pride; WikiLeaks protected the free waving of information. The main goal was protecting something they believe in, but somehow, even in these conditions, conflicts were turned up between WikiLeaks and the culture of the United States.

### **Personal voices**

Conflicts between WikiLeaks and American politicians reached a radical level by the end of 2010. Many republican members, such as Mike Huckabee did not afraid to avoid the possibility of banning a death penalty to Julian Assange. Researches showed that the site lost about forty percent of its supporters, WikiLeaks never been as much down as in the end of the year. The people of Western interests went too right winged. Sarah Palin and even Tom Flanagan agreed with Huckabee's final solution. The main goal of WikiLeaks was always putting the world to a little bit more liberal way, the whole management had to keep their back and suffer a lot because of the Swedish confessions.

Main difference between the thinking of the participants is WikiLeaks used papers to make the world a better place; the government of the United States of America would have used lethal injection.

## **We do not have a winner**

Looking backwards, we can realize the main conclusions. Assange was arrested; his penalty was a home custody with electric clamps on his ankles. Finally, Ecuador gave Assange a political shelter, but his show did not stopped

However he was banned, Julian Assange announced new cables in the July of 2013 about Henry Kissinger's operations, in connection with the dark side of the politics of the 70's of the United States.

We can consider this as a win-win situation, where everyone is happy at the end. In my point of view, it's a lose-lose situation. Media had to give its moral theorems up, no one really can blame them, it was a scenario where they found themselves against the power of the United States. On the other hand, WikiLeaks had to stop publishing, not just because of the Banking Blockade, led by Visa, MasterCard and Bank of America against the site, Assange's trial put a bad shadow to the back of WikiLeaks. Economic institutes made a mission against the site; they froze all the pay-pal windows of WikiLeaks, the site were not able to collect the money which they were given from supporters. It looked like WikiLeaks was over, the site was fed up with basic problems that would keep them silent forever but as it turned out, it was on until the summer of 2013. The case told Media is clearly the fourth estate, perhaps WikiLeaks is the fifth. Politics can take control of media, media can take control of people. It will not change soon.

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