

## **Presentation in English for the Brussels Gathering September 23, 2023**

I conceived this book to be a weapon in the battle to free Julian Assange using, as ammunition, his own words, the most powerful ammunition. As Julian had been silenced for the last four-and-a half years, I wanted to give him back his voice .

The book consists of 200 quotations that I selected from books, articles, films, videos, interviews. It includes links for all the information, as Julian always insisted upon.

At one point I thought the book could be used a bit like The Little Red Book of Mao Tse Tung. During a discussion, you could whip the book out of your pocket and say, “Here, look what Julian had to say about this.”

The quotations reveal, among so many things, Julian’s phenomenal intelligence, his humanism, his prescience, his passion.

### **The deeper I got into Julian’s writings, his talks, the more astounded I was by**

- His vast knowledge in so many different areas—literature, philosophy, history, for example
- And by his extraordinary ability to assimilate, synthesize, and explain clearly even complex ideas

### **I was amazed by his passion to give us information so that we might act upon it**

- “It’s not about saving the whales,” he said. “It’s about giving people the information they need to support whaling or not support whaling.”
- During 10 years WikiLeaks published more than 10 million documents, several thousand individual publications, several thousand different sources
- Even during those years when Julian was confined in the Ecuadorian Embassy, he helped to publish 5 million documents, produced 3 books, launched more than 30 publications, gave 100 talks
- And I must add—no error has ever been found in anything he has published

## **The more research I did, the more overwhelmed I was by Julian's astonishing prescience**

- Concerning Afghanistan, he said early on, "The goal is a war without end, not a war that is won." And that has been the case
- He envisioned, for example, how far surveillance and censorship were going to go

## **Julian revolutionized journalism**

- He invented a method for whistleblowers to deliver their findings in complete safety and anonymity
- He talks about "scientific journalism", which is to say providing the original sources, the most information possible, so that one can examine it to see if the conclusion is in line with the data, that everything can be verified
- "We are not in this to make money," he said. "We are not in this for political reasons." "We are in this for the cause and pursuit of justice, and we are using a tried and true technique of getting justice, which is to expose injustice."

## **For all this, Julian has been silenced, incarcerated in Britain's Guantanamo**

- To give a lesson to other publishers and journalists—this is what you can expect if you dare to publish the truth
- He has also been silenced out of fear of what he *could* reveal about what is happening in the world today.

I invite you to share Julian's words with everyone, speak out loudly that this extraordinary man must not be extradited to a Super Max prison in the United States, where we will never hear from him again.

Julian must be freed. He has much more to say—and the world needs to listen.

## **And now I turn to Julian's words**

### **Take my place**

"I am unbroken, albeit literally surrounded by murderers, but the days when I could read and speak and organize to defend myself, my ideals, and my people are over until I am free! Everyone else must take my place." 54

## **Courage is contagious**

“This is why Tiananmen Square is so heavily policed in China, because it’s a congregation point where courage can spread like a contagion.”<sup>69</sup> [Like here, in the place d’Albertine]

### **True Democracy the sum of resistance**

“True democracy is not the White House. True democracy is not Canberra. True democracy is the resistance of people, armed with the truth, against lies, from Tahrir to right here in London. ... For true democracy is the sum—is the sum—of our resistance.”<sup>72</sup>

### **Threatened by a wild colonial boy**

“They must feel that they are weak. How could this very establishment in the United Kingdom, which has been in power for hundreds of years, feel threatened? ... It has many different components: the intelligence services, the banks, the landed gentry, the oligarchs from Russia who have come here and invested, the commercial media, it has the BBC which is the big propaganda organism that helps keep the country cohesive. It is quite a sophisticated power structure with these interplaying parts. How could they feel threatened by a wild colonial boy from Australia who has arrived from overseas?”<sup>116</sup>

### **Using the time we have**

“We all only live once. So we are obligated to make good use of the time that we have and to do something that is meaningful and satisfying. This is something that I find meaningful and satisfying. That is my temperament. I enjoy creating systems on a grand scale, and I enjoy helping people who are vulnerable. And I enjoy crushing bastards. So it is enjoyable work.”<sup>212</sup>

### **Like having a tank in your bedroom**

“I see that there is now a militarization of cyberspace, in the sense of a military occupation. When you communicate over the internet, when you communicate using mobile phones, which are now meshed to the internet, your communications are being intercepted by military intelligence organizations. It’s like having a tank in your bedroom. It’s a soldier between you and your wife as you’re SMSing. We’re all living under martial law as far as our communications are concerned, we just can’t see the tanks—but they are there. ... It is like having a soldier under the bed. This is a militarization of civilian life.”<sup>217</sup>

### **Rebel library of Alexandria**

“WikiLeaks has become the rebel library of Alexandria. It is the single most significant collection of information that doesn’t exist elsewhere, in a searchable, accessible, citable form, about how modern institutions actually behave. And it’s gone on to set people free from prison, where documents have been used in their court cases; hold the CIA accountable for renditions programs. . . . Our civilization can only be as good as our knowledge of what our civilization is. We can’t possibly hope to reform that which we do not understand.”<sup>236</sup>

### **Act now**

“People often ask, ‘What can I do?’ The answer is not so difficult. Learn how the world works. Challenge the statements, actions, and intentions of those who seek to control us behind the facades of democracy and monarchy. Unite in common purpose and common principle to design, build, document, finance, and defend. Learn. Challenge. Act. Now.”<sup>66</sup>