

## PROPOSAL: Statement of support for Julian Assange

The Greek NC unanimously proposes that DiEM25 issues a statement of support for Julian Assange during the current crucial stage of his legal battle to escape what the UN has deemed, officially, 'arbitrary detention'.

The Greek NC notes that:

- The continuing persecution of Julian Assange has one purpose: to undermine Wikileaks and to impede its work in exposing abuses of power perpetrated by governments against their citizens and even crimes against humanity
- The extradition order by the Swedish authorities, that was the original basis for Julian's persecution, has proven baseless in that no charges were ever laid against him by the prosecution, even after Julian was questioned extensively by the prosecutor last Fall
- When the extradition order was in the end rescinded, the warrant for his arrest by British authorities remained in force. The reason? To facilitate his extradition to the US where both sides of politics are committed to treating Julian in the manner Chelsea Manning was treated: To be denied access to proper legal defence against spying charges and to be locked up in the white cells of the supermax prison system. (Nb. Manning was essentially tortured for 18 months in order to 'confess' that Julian Assange had encouraged her to leak the damning tapes depicting war crimes in Iraq)
- Recently, Julian's lawyers petitioned a British court to drop the arrest warrant on the basis that the Swedish authorities' extradition order, that had underpinned it, was no longer live and its only purpose was to facilitate Julian's extradition to the US on spying charges. The sitting judge rejected their petition. It now transpires that the said judge was subject to [an enormous conflict of interest](#): She is the wife of a former UK minister of defence with pecuniary links to arms dealers and contractors exposed by Wikileaks
- In view of the above, DiEM25 expresses its solidarity with Julian Assange and Wikileaks and calls upon all progressives to support his bid for life and liberty. Whatever differences of opinion some of us may have with Julian on particular issues (e.g. his support for Brexit which DiEM25 opposed vehemently), we are proud to have one of the greatest champions of transparency on our Advisory Panel. Wikileaks has played a magnificent role in turning the spotlight onto Big Brother and allowing all of us to understand abuses and crimes perpetrated in our name. We shall not sit idly by while Julian Assange is persecuted for this.