

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 4th, 2018

**#Unity4J Announces Weekly Online Vigils In Response To Escalating Threats To Julian Assange**



The long suspected indictment against WikiLeaks publisher Julian Assange by the United States for his journalistic activities has finally come to light and now many mainstream journalists are waking up to the inherent dangers to press freedom that accompany his ongoing persecution.

Despite this, state-level pressure on the Ecuadorian government to drive him out of its embassy in London continues. Thus the #Unity4J movement is increasing the frequency of its online vigils with Consortium News in support of the arbitrarily detained publisher, from monthly to weekly.

Vigils will now take place every Friday from 8:00pm to 11:00pm EST, hosted by Joe Lauria, Editor-in-Chief of Consortium News, commencing this Friday December 7th.

In recent weeks, a major wave of support for Julian has sprung up after an urgent message from Julian's mother, Christine Assange, was broadcast at a special #Unity4J Emergency Meeting. High profile supporters such as Pamela Anderson, Glenn Greenwald, Chris Hedges and Roger Waters have stepped up their efforts to educate others about the ongoing human rights abuses against the founder of WikiLeaks.

Julian Assange has been arbitrarily detained in the UK for eight years, six of which he has spent as a political refugee in Ecuador's embassy in London. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has ruled Mr Assange should be immediately freed and compensated. The Inter-American Court

of Human Rights has ruled that the UK must facilitate safe passage for him.

Unity4J organiser, activist and journalist Suzie Dawson said "The Unity4J movement filled a critical vacuum in 2018, demonstrating that significant, unified support for Julian Assange existed at a time when the mainstream wanted the public to think otherwise. Recently, editorials, litigation, events and actions in support of Julian are increasing around the globe. With rumours swirling of a pre-Christmas expulsion from the Ecuadorian Embassy, it is more important than ever to defend Julian and WikiLeaks with our voices, our keyboards, our pens and if necessary, our bodies."

#Unity4J is a global mass movement in solidarity with Julian Assange, created in response to Ecuador's gagging of the publisher. Unity4J has been endorsed by more than fifty high profile activists, journalists, celebrities, academics and former US intelligence officials including Chris Hedges, Jimmy Dore, Ray McGovern, Bill Binney and Daniel Ellsberg.

### **Spread the word:**

See the event live at: <http://unity4j.com/stream>

Movement hashtag: #Unity4J

Official website: <http://unity4j.com/>

Official Twitter: @Unity4J

WikiLeaks Legal Defence Fund: <https://iamwikileaks.org/donate>

WikiLeaks support website: <https://justice4assange.com/donate.html>

Courage Foundation: <https://couragefound.org/>

Other credible accounts for Julian Assange updates: <https://twitter.com/suzi3d/lists/assange-updates>

MEDIA INQUIRIES: Media inquiries and interview requests should be made to Suzie Dawson, via DM on Twitter: @Suzi3D, or by emailing [info@unity4j.com](mailto:info@unity4j.com)

For more background on the recent escalation of grave threats to Julian Assange's life and liberty, we recommend reading the following articles:

Courage Foundation: Assange's protection from US extradition "in jeopardy" <https://www.iamwikileaks.org/2018/05/25/assanges-protection-from-us-extradition-in-jeopardy/>

Did Rep. Adam Schiff Just Admit the US Has a Secret Indictment of Julian Assange? <https://grayzoneproject.com/2018/05/26/did-rep-adam-schiff-just-admit-the-us-has-a-secret-indictment-of-julian-assange/>

The UK's Hidden Role in Assange's Detention <https://original.antiwar.com/cook/2018/02/12/uks-hidden-role-assanges-detention/>

Treatment of Assange is unjust, says former Ecuador minister <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/16/julian-assange-treatment-irresponsible-ecuador-foreign-minister-guillaume-long>

Ecuador's Ex-President Rafael Correa Denounces Treatment of Julian Assange as "Torture" <https://theintercept.com/2018/05/16/ecuadors-ex-president-rafael-correa-denounces-treatment-of-julian-assange-as-torture/>

Opinion: Ecuador's Solitary Confinement Of Assange Is Torture <https://disobedientmedia.com/2018/04/opinion-ecuadors-solitary-confinement-of-assange-is-torture/>

Being Julian Assange: <https://contraspin.co.nz/beingjulianassange>