

(C.J. Act, 1967 s.9; M.C. Act 1980, s.102, M.C. Rules, 1981, r.70)

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, ss 2,9/M.C. Rules, 1968, r.58)

Statement of : Jennifer Robinson

Age of witness (if over 18 enter 'over 18') : Over 18

Occupation of witness : Barrister

Address : Doughty Street Chambers, 54 Doughty Street, London WC1N2LS

This statement, consisting of 4 pages signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 14 February 2019

Signed [Signature]

Signature witnessed by [Signature]

- 1. I am a barrister at Doughty Street Chambers in London. I first represented Julian Assange as a solicitor in relation to WikiLeaks publications in 2010 and in the Swedish extradition proceedings. I have advised Mr. Assange and WikiLeaks on various legal issues since 2010, but do not address any matters which are subject to legal privilege. I have been asked to make this statement in relation to a particular meeting I observed in 2017.
2. On 15 August 2017, I was asked by Mr. Assange to meet with him at the Embassy of Ecuador in London. When I arrived, Mr. Assange informed me that

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a US Congressman had requested the meeting with Mr. Assange and he asked that I attend the meeting to observe. I am informed by Mr. Assange that he understood that the purpose of the Congressman's request for a meeting was to convey an offer that he wished to make in person.

3. As is now clear from the indictment, Mr. Assange had not yet been indicted in the US. At the time, we were not in a position to know this because any indictment would have been sealed. However, there was an ongoing criminal investigation and there had been reports of a sealed indictment. Mr. Assange had been granted asylum by Ecuador because of this and he remained in the embassy to protect himself from US extradition.
4. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher attended the embassy accompanied by Charles Johnson. Prior to the meeting, I had no notice that Mr. Johnson would attend the meeting and I didn't know who he was. Mr. Johnson explained that he was assisting the Congressman.
5. During the course of the meeting, Congressman Rohrabacher and Mr. Johnson made clear that they wanted us to believe they were acting on behalf of the President. They stated that President Trump was aware of and had approved of them coming to meet with Mr. Assange to discuss a proposal – and that they would have an audience with the President to discuss the matter on their return to Washington DC.
6. Congressman Rohrabacher explained that he wanted to resolve the ongoing speculation about Russian involvement in the Democratic National Committee (DNC) leaks to WikiLeaks, which were published by WikiLeaks and other media organisations in 2016. He said that he regarded the ongoing speculation as damaging to US-Russian relations, that it was reviving old Cold War politics, and that it would be in the best interests of the US if the matter could be resolved. He and Mr. Johnson also explained that information from Mr. Assange about the source of the DNC leaks would be of interest, value and assistance to President Trump.


Signed 

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- 7. For context, consistent with WikiLeaks' stated editorial policy, Mr. Assange had not disclosed the identity of his source for those publications. At the time of the meeting, the investigation by US Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, into Russian interference in the 2016 election was underway and the alleged connections between Russia and President Trump and his election campaign team were the subject of the investigation.
- 8. Congressman Rohrabacher and Mr. Assange talked about Mr. Assange's situation and the fact he had to remain in the embassy to protect himself from US indictment and extradition for his publishing work with WikiLeaks.
- 9. We discussed the clear free speech implications of any US indictment and extradition request for Mr. Assange for his publishing work with WikiLeaks. We also discussed the fact that the alleged source for the publications, Chelsea Manning, had already had her sentence commuted by President Obama. Mr Assange and I both attempted to make the case for them to raise this with President Trump to persuade him that Mr. Assange should not face prosecution on First Amendment grounds.
- 10. Congressman Rohrabacher raised and acknowledged the risk of Mr. Assange's exposure to US prosecution and explained that he had come to London to meet with Mr. Assange to talk about "*what might be necessary to get him out*". Congressman Rohrabacher presented what he described as a "win-win" solution, which could allow Mr. Assange to leave the embassy and "*get on with his life*" without fear of a US indictment and extradition request. The proposal put forward by Congressman Rohrabacher was that Mr. Assange identify the source for the 2016 election publications in return for some form of pardon, assurance or agreement which would both benefit President Trump politically and prevent US indictment and extradition.
- 11. The meeting was concluded on the basis that Congressman Rohrabacher would return to have a direct conversation with President Trump about exactly what would be done to prevent Mr Assange's indictment and extradition.

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- 12. Mr. Assange did not provide any source information to the Congressman.
- 13. After the meeting, both Congressman Rohrabacher and Mr. Johnson spoke to the media. Their reported statements to the media confirmed the specific proposal was that Mr. Assange would not face US criminal prosecution if he provided information about the source of the DNC publications to allow President Trump to put a stop to the Mueller investigation. I exhibit to this statement a collection of those media interviews.

Signed 

Signature witnessed by 