

# THE LANCET

## Supplementary appendix

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# The ongoing torture and medical neglect of Julian Assange

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†This letter has 216 signatories, representing 33 countries (TABLE 1).

Doctors for Assange, USA (WH, TGS); Doctors for Assange, UK (SF, WF); Doctors for Assange, Australia (LJ); Doctors for Assange, Germany (TGS); Doctors for Assange, Hong Kong (EASN); and Doctors for Assange, Sweden (SF, WF)

## Background

On Feb 17, 2020, *Doctors for Assange*, a group of now over 200 doctors, wrote in *The Lancet* demanding an end to the torture and medical neglect of Julian Assange (1). Since that time, no responsible authority has acted to end, or even investigate, Mr Assange's torture and medical neglect. Instead, the ongoing actions of the United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK), and the inaction of Australia, have perpetuated and escalated the campaign of collective persecution and judicial harassment responsible for Mr Assange's torture, as identified by Professor Nils Melzer, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2).

It is now over a year since two medical experts specialised in the assessment and documentation of torture accompanied Professor Melzer to visit Mr Assange at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Belmarsh, London. This team reported in May 2019 that Mr Assange exhibited all symptoms typical of a person subjected to prolonged psychological torture. Professor Melzer further emphasises that psychological torture is not "torture light" and that it aims directly at destroying the personality of an individual (2). In his reports and statements, Professor Melzer has been definitive about the source of that torture: the combined actions of the governments of the US, the UK, Sweden, and Ecuador. He issued a further warning that the inhumane conditions of Mr Assange's detention in Belmarsh may soon end up costing him his life (2).

From a medical standpoint, the risks to Mr Assange's life and health have only grown more acute since Professor Melzer's warnings, for two main reasons. One involves the continued abuses of Mr Assange's fundamental human and legal rights at the hands of judicial, prison, and contracted security authorities, during his extradition proceedings. The second concerns the grave medical risks posed to vulnerable prisoners during the COVID-19 global health emergency, and the exacerbation of Mr Assange's psychological torture under COVID-19 prison lockdown measures.

***Pattern of abuses contributing to torture.*** Since our previous letter, Mr Assange has been the subject of six legal hearings (24-27 February, 25 March, 7 April, 27 April, 4 May, and 1 June), which form part of our detailed timeline of events provided (TABLE 2).

Mr Assange's treatment during the first phase of his extradition proceedings in February was described as "shocking and excessive" by the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI), which likened the abuses to those of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal (3).

Throughout these and subsequent hearings, Mr Assange has been unable to engage in his own defence. He was held in a bulletproof glass enclosure at the back of the courtroom (4;5) during the four days of extradition proceedings, and objected repeatedly that, consequently, he could not hear the proceedings nor communicate with and instruct his lawyers. Responding to a formal application by Mr Assange's lawyers, the judge denied Mr Assange permission to leave the enclosure to sit with them, despite the prosecuting lawyers' assent to the application (6).

When he returned to Belmarsh after the first day of the extradition hearing, prison authorities strip-searched Mr Assange twice, handcuffed him 11 times, and moved him successively to five different holding cells (4;7;8). Mr Assange's court documents were also seized, including legally privileged, client-lawyer communications.

Subsequently, Mr Assange attended only one of the five following hearings, and did so by videolink. The videolink was terminated early, before the hearing had concluded. Mr Assange has since missed four following hearings because of COVID-19-related restrictions and medical risks and has not been seen in court either in person or by

videolink since March 25, 2020. Moreover, with the second phase of his extradition proceedings imminent, UK prison lockdowns due to COVID-19 have eliminated prison visits (9;10), preventing Mr Assange from meeting with his lawyers to prepare for future proceedings.

In a further stripping of self-protection, during an emergency bail hearing in light of COVID-19, the judge lifted an anonymity order, despite the objections of Mr Assange's lawyers, which was in place to protect the privacy of Mr Assange's fiancée, Stella Morris, and their two children (11;12). Shortly before the protection afforded by the court order was due to lift, Ms Morris made the family's story public.

These events and others have intensified the pattern of irregularities and excesses documented by Professor Melzer, causing escalations in imposed helplessness, arbitrariness, threat and isolation, all key components of Mr Assange's psychological torture.

**COVID-19 pandemic.** Given the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the UK, with prisons acting as a "breeding ground" for infectious diseases, Mr Assange is at grave risk of contracting, and succumbing to, coronavirus. Medically, the risk must be assumed to be elevated significantly beyond that of the general prison population, due both to his chronic respiratory condition and to his history of psychological torture and medical neglect, resulting in high likelihood of his immune system being severely compromised. Further, Mr Assange is non-violent, he is being held on remand, he is not serving a sentence for a crime, and he is being arbitrarily detained according to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (13). Thus, he meets the criteria for prisoner release recommended internationally by human rights and lawyers' associations to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the vulnerable (14-16). Accordingly, a bail plan was presented to the court involving monitored home detention for Mr Assange, with his fiancée and their children.

Nevertheless, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser denied Mr Assange bail. This decision, as we stated following the bail hearing (17), has meant that under prison lockdown Mr Assange is held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day (18). He was also denied a radio for several months. Having first ordered a radio from a prison catalogue six months ago, and after a friend of Mr Assange had tried to send one to him, only for it to

be returned, Mr Assange received a radio on 16 June 2020 (19). Isolation and understimulation are key psychological torture tactics, capable of inducing severe despair, disorientation, destabilisation and disintegration of crucial mental and psychological functions (20).

As a person incarcerated solely for publishing activity, continuing to hold Mr Assange under these conditions represents the torture of a publisher and journalist. In the context of attacks against and arrests of journalists at the recent global protests, his treatment and the precedent it sets are of international concern.

**Call to action.** We have witnessed these unfolding developments with alarm. Since our February letter, several human rights organisations have added their voices to the international calls for Mr Assange's release, and condemnation (21-25) of the extradition proceedings. Amnesty International, having previously demanded the US drop its Espionage Act charges entirely (14), advocated for Mr Assange's release on bail ahead of his emergency bail hearing (26). Further, on March 20, the Council of Europe raised its "threat level" on Mr Assange's case, which it deems as detention and imprisonment of a journalist, to level 1 (27), reserved for "... the most severe and damaging violations of media freedom" (28).

We therefore reiterate our demand for an end to the torture and medical neglect of Julian Assange. We join the world's leading authorities on human rights and international law calling for his immediate release from prison. It is not possible to treat torture victims without first removing them from the circumstances of their torture. We note that IBAHRI has stated that, in view of Mr Assange being a victim of psychological torture, his extradition to the US would be illegal under international human rights law.

A World Psychiatric Association (WPA) position statement emphasises the fact that withholding appropriate medical treatment can itself amount to torture (29). Thus, the ongoing failure to properly treat Mr Assange may amount to an act of torture in which state officials, from parliament to court to prison, risk being judged complicit. Under the Convention Against Torture those acting in official capacities can be held complicit and accountable not only for perpetration of torture, but for their silent acquiescence and consent (30). In the UK, such complicity is prohibited not only under the Convention Against Torture but also under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights

(ECHR) and section 134 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Under the latter, it is an offence for any public official to “intentionally inflict severe pain or suffering on another in the performance or purported performance of his official duties (31).”

As IBAHRI Co-Chair, the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, commented on March 10, 2020:

*“The IBAHRI is concerned that the mistreatment of Julian Assange constitutes breaches of his right to a fair trial and protections enshrined in the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the UK is party. It is deeply shocking that as a mature democracy in which the rule of law and the rights of individuals are preserved, the UK Government has been silent and has taken no action to terminate such gross and disproportionate conduct by Crown officials. As well, we are surprised that the presiding judge has reportedly said and done nothing to rebuke the officials and their superiors for such conduct in the case of an accused whose offence is not one of personal violence. Many countries in the world look to Britain as an example in such matters.”*

Dr Allen Keller, Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, has said that “*As physicians, we have a crucial role to play in promoting human rights (32),*” and Professor Leonard Rubenstein, of the John Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics, stresses that “*the medical community as a whole needs to speak out far more forcefully against torture (33).*” We have a professional and ethical duty to speak out against torture, report past torture, to stop present torture and to prevent future torture. Psychiatrists and clinical psychologists have recently warned that silence on Mr Assange’s torture may well facilitate his death (34). The silence must be broken. If not now, then when? Please [join us](#), before it is too late (35).

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## **TABLE 1: Signatories for Doctors for Assange**

(n=216) as of 22 June 2020

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## Signatories from 33 countries across 6 continents

Argentina	Finland	Japan	Spain
Australia	France	Netherlands	Sri Lanka
Austria	Germany	New Zealand	Sweden
Belgium	Greece	Norway	Switzerland
Canada	Hong Kong (China)	Poland	Tanzania
Chile	India	Portugal	Tunisia
Costa Rica	Ireland	Serbia	United Kingdom
Cuba	Italy	South Africa	United States
Czech Republic			

## TABLE 2: Timeline of Events

### in relation to Julian Assange’s Case Beginning with Phase 1 of the Extradition Hearing

By Doctors for Assange

Created: 2020-05-02

Last updated: 2020-06-23

<b>Dates:</b> <b>24-27 Feb</b>	<b>Assange Extradition Hearing, phase 1</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The day before the hearing began, Assange was visited by his father John Shipton and former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Shipton reported that Assange’s prison cell was searched immediately prior to their visit</li> <li>b. Varoufakis reported that prison authorities would not permit Assange to exercise in the prison gymnasium with other inmates</li> <li>c. <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/media/2020/feb/23/julian-assange-was-harassed-by-cell-search-claims-father">https://www.theguardian.com/media/2020/feb/23/julian-assange-was-harassed-by-cell-search-claims-father</a></li> <li>d. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_Dj0nLI9Xw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_Dj0nLI9Xw</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>2. On Assange’s return to HMP Belmarsh after day 1, authorities:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Strip searched Assange twice, moved him between 5 holding cells, and handcuffed him 11 times</li> <li>b. Seized his legal papers including privileged communications</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. When Assange’s lawyers objected to this treatment, the judge claimed no authority to ensure humane treatment of prisoners, despite both Assange’s and the US’ lawyers noting that such practice is commonplace and urging her to “send a message” to prison authorities that his treatment was unacceptable  <a href="https://assangecourt.report/day-2-morning">https://assangecourt.report/day-2-morning</a> </li> <li>4. Assange, as a defendant in a US extradition request relating to his work as a journalist, was forced to sit in an armoured glass enclosure, which inhibited his ability to hear the proceedings and communicate with his lawyers               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assange made appeals regarding his inability to participate in his own defence on days 1 and 2</li> <li>b. On day 2, his lawyers requested that Assange be permitted to leave the enclosure to sit with them</li> <li>c. The judge refused, inviting Assange’s lawyers to make a</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>formal application, which she would hear on day 3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. On day 3, following Assange’s lawyers’ submissions, which were reportedly not contested by the opposing lawyers, the judge, reportedly reading from a pre-prepared ruling, denied the application for Assange to leave the enclosure and sit with his lawyers</li> <li>e. The judge further ruled that Assange would remain in the glass enclosure for the duration of the extradition hearing, including phase 2</li> <li>f. <a href="https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/02/28/assa-f28.html">https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/02/28/assa-f28.html</a></li> <li>g. <a href="https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2020/03/the-armoured-glass-box-is-an-instrument-of-torture/">https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2020/03/the-armoured-glass-box-is-an-instrument-of-torture/</a></li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. On day 2 of the hearing, one of Assange’s lawyers left the courtroom and moved to “shake hands” with Assange through a slot in the glass enclosure       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As Assange stood to meet the gesture, the security guards in the enclosure physically forced him back into his seat, preventing any contact with his lawyer</li> <li>b. <a href="https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2020/02/your-man-in-the-public-gallery-assange-hearing-day-2/">https://www.craigmurray.org.uk/archives/2020/02/your-man-in-the-public-gallery-assange-hearing-day-2/</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>6. The extradition treaty between the UK and the US proscribes extradition on the basis of political offenses, and the domestic UK Extradition Act was passed into law on the basis of this Treaty. Nevertheless, the judge asserted that:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The domestic UK Extradition Act does not mention political offenses as an exemption</li> <li>b. The court was not bound by the US-UK Treaty under which extradition is being sought, only the UK Extradition Act</li> <li>c. Therefore, she appeared to indicate that she would extradite defendants to the US for purely political offences</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. The court heard that the US will place Assange under “Special Administrative Measures” in the US if extradited       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="https://21stcenturywire.com/2020/02/19/pilger-julian-assange-must-be-freed-not-betrayed/">https://21stcenturywire.com/2020/02/19/pilger-julian-assange-must-be-freed-not-betrayed/</a></li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>52. Special Administrative Measures (SAMs) are among the most extreme forms of solitary confinement and isolation known, described by the Centre for Constitutional Rights as “far more restrictive than even the most severe conditions found in most established legal systems”</p> <p><a href="https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/09/SAMs%20Report.Final_.pdf">https://ccrjustice.org/sites/default/files/attach/2017/09/SAMs%20Report.Final_.pdf</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. A Yale Law School report from 2017 details SAMs’ violations of both US and international law:       <p><a href="https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/center/schell/document/sams_report.final.pdf">https://law.yale.edu/sites/default/files/area/center/schell/document/sams_report.final.pdf</a></p> </li> </ol>
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<i>Results</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Phase 2 of extradition hearing set to begin 18 May 2020</li> <li>2. Assange will be confined to the glass enclosure for future phases of extradition hearing</li> </ol>
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<b>Dates:</b> <b>25 March</b>	<b>Bail Hearing</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assange’s lawyers requested bail on the basis that Assange is non-violent, he is being held only on remand, he is not convicted of a crime, he is not awaiting sentencing, and he is at increased risk for contracting COVID-19 and suffering severe sequelae and/or death</li> <li>2. His lawyers also presented a bail release plan to live with his partner, their children, and his own father (Mr Shipton)</li> <li>3. Assange himself appeared by videolink, which was terminated after about an hour, rendering him unable to follow the remainder of his own hearing</li> <li>4. The judge denied reason to question existing prison procedures regarding COVID-19, despite widespread concern about poor management of coronavirus in prisons at the time; <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/25/release-prisoners-or-face-jail-pandemic-says-chief">https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/25/release-prisoners-or-face-jail-pandemic-says-chief</a></li> <li>5. The judge ignored Assange’s increased risk for COVID-19</li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assange to remain in HMP Belmarsh, his bail request being denied despite all the arguments in favour</li> <li>2. First UK prisoner death due to COVID-19 announced the next day</li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>4 April</b>	<b>UK Announces Prisoner Release Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. UK Bureau of Prisons (BOP) announces policy for the release of up to 4,000 prisoners</li> <li>2. The policy requires that a prisoner is serving a custodial sentence</li> <li>3. Prisoners on remand awaiting sentencing will have their sentencing expedited</li> <li>4. The policy thereby excludes Assange, because he is neither serving a custodial sentence nor is he awaiting sentencing</li> <li>5. A reporter asked the BOP specifically about Assange, and received an official statement that Assange is not eligible as he is not serving a custodial sentence and therefore will not be released <a href="https://www.sbs.com.au/news/despite-prisoner-coronavirus-fears-uk-government-won-t-release-julian-assange">https://www.sbs.com.au/news/despite-prisoner-coronavirus-fears-uk-government-won-t-release-julian-assange</a></li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	Assange not released from HMP Belmarsh as COVID19 cases and deaths within and without UK prisons rapidly mount

<b>Dates:</b> <b>5 April</b>	<b>Ten Year Anniversary of WikiLeaks' Release of <i>Collateral Murder</i> video</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A number of vigils, panels, commemorations</li> <li>2. Story here: <a href="https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/04/06/coll-a06.html">https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/04/06/coll-a06.html</a></li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>7 April</b>	<b>Case management hearing and UK announces first death of HMP Belmarsh prisoner</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assange did not appear via video link as scheduled. He was reportedly unwell</li> <li>2. Assange's lawyers filed a motion to delay the start of phase 2 of extradition hearing, as COVID-19 pandemic was inhibiting ability both for witnesses to travel to the UK and for lawyers to meet with Assange to prepare</li> <li>3. The judge denied the motion</li> <li>4. The judge offered the rationale that Assange could meet with his attorneys on April 22 in court</li> <li>5. The judge lifted her previous order—made during the bail hearing—to keep Assange's partner and children's names secret, in the interest of "open justice"</li> <li>6. The judge stayed her order for 3 days to enable Assange's attorneys to appeal, despite his attorneys requesting a stay of two weeks</li> <li>7. Dept of Justice announced first death of HMP Belmarsh prisoner, and total UK prison deaths climb to nine</li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Start date of phase 2 of extradition hearing remains 18 May</li> <li>2. WikiLeaks and Stella Morris reveal her identity and relationship and children with Assange to pre-empt the court's lifting of the stay of the order to protect their identities</li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>9 April</b>	<b>Assange Call to Vaughan Smith</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assange called friend and photojournalist Vaughan Smith, founder of London's Frontline Club</li> <li>2. Assange said HMP Belmarsh is "barely functioning" and that "the virus is ripping through the prison"</li> <li>3. Assange said his inability to meet with his lawyers is harming his ability to prepare for the next part of his extradition hearing</li> <li>4. Mr Smith reported knowledge of a second death of HMP Belmarsh prisoner from coronavirus, despite the Department of Justice acknowledging only one</li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	Assange risk for COVID-19 intensifies in HMP Belmarsh

<b>Dates:</b> <b>11 April</b>	<b>Assange call with Kristinn Hrafnsson, Daily Mail exposé on Stella, and Stella YouTube interview</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This date is the first anniversary of Assange's illegal seizure by British police in the Ecuadorian Embassy</li> <li>2. Assange called Kristinn Hrafnsson, who currently is editor in chief of WikiLeaks</li> <li>3. Assange reported feeling "trapped", and noted that HMP Belmarsh staff coming and going represents a constant threat</li> <li>4. Assange's fiancée Stella Morris and their children Gabriel, and Max are interviewed and featured in the Daily Mail</li> <li>5. It is revealed that US-hired company UC Global were targeting the infant Gabriel, in order to obtain his DNA--from a diaper/nappy or a pacifier--to prove Assange's paternity</li> <li>6. As a result, Ms Morris no longer brought Gabriel to the Ecuadorian Embassy</li> <li>7. It is also revealed that Assange met their second son, Max, for the first time in HMP Belmarsh in May 2019</li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>27 April</b>	<b>Administrative hearing of defence request to delay phase 2 of extradition hearing</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There was confusion for reporters and other observers who dialled in to listen to the proceedings remotely <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Persons in court were inaudible</li> <li>b. Phone lines were not muted, and many attendees talked over and through the proceeding</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Assange was not present, either physically or virtually</li> <li>3. The planned meeting with Assange and his attorneys on April 22nd did not take place. The judge noted that "...on 9 April, this Court informed the parties that attending Woolwich Crown Court on 22 April to visit Mr Assange in the cells as directed ... will not be possible."</li> <li>4. The judge reportedly read from pre-written ruling brought into court, ruling to delay phase 2 of the extradition hearing</li> <li>5. The judge declared the only reason to postpone was that Assange's own presence would be frustrated. Issues regarding lawyer access to Assange, witnesses travelling, etc. were rejected as reasons</li> <li>6. The judge set the date of 4 May to meet with lawyers representing Assange and the US to set a new hearing date</li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judge vacates date of 18 May as start of phase 2 of extradition hearing</li> <li>2. Judge sets 4 May as date of upcoming administrative hearing to set date for resumption of extradition hearing</li> </ol>



<b>Dates:</b> <b>3 May</b>	<b>World Press Freedom Day</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amnesty International renews its call not to extradite Assange to US: <a href="https://twitter.com/StefSimanowitz/status/1256948930358771712">https://twitter.com/StefSimanowitz/status/1256948930358771712</a></li> <li>2. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture highlights UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab making pronouncements on press freedoms despite torturing Assange: <a href="https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1256994914627457024">https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1256994914627457024</a></li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>4 May</b>	<b>Administrative hearing to set new dates for phase 2 of extradition hearing</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hearing postponed from 10a to 11:45a BST due to a “backlog of cases”</li> <li>2. Venue: Westminster Magistrates Court</li> <li>3. Present in person: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. District Judge Baraitser</li> <li>b. QC Summers present for Assange</li> <li>c. QC Claire Dobbins present for US</li> <li>d. Six journalists, at least one of whom is Marty Silk</li> <li>e. Six members of the public</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Present virtually: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. QC Fitzgerald for Assange</li> <li>b. QC Lewis for US</li> <li>c. More issues with open justice: during the postponement, the court placed on hold seven journalists and observers participating by phone. Court clerk reportedly failed to unmute the call after the delay and the journalists and observers missed the proceedings entirely</li> <li>d. The six journalists and members of the public above includes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Reporters without Borders (RSF) UK Bureau Director Rebecca Vincent</li> <li>ii) Stefania Maurizi</li> <li>iii) Doctors for Assange observers</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Assange was reported to be too unwell to appear in person or by videolink</li> <li>6. Lewis said July was not good for prosecution <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dobbins for prosecution assisting w/child abuse inquiry</li> <li>b. American prosecutors need to fly over and flights doubtful</li> <li>c. Lewis has some “public duties” at end of July</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Fitzgerald said November too late and July “perhaps unworkable” <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mr Summers and a key witness not available in July</li> <li>b. A further date in August is a problem too</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. The judge acknowledged July will not work; noted good availability</li> </ol>

	<p>in August</p> <p>9. Fitzgerald said first three weeks of August unworkable</p> <p>10. Lewis said prosecution prefers September</p> <p>11. Hearing date set for “approximately” September</p> <p>12. Hearing will be moved to another Crown Court</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibly outside London</li> <li>Judge said it will “take some negotiation” to find another court that is willing and available in September because of “current climate”</li> </ol> <p>13. Assange protest outside Westminster Magistrates Court was broken up by UK special operations officers and Metropolitan Police within 30 minutes after the hearing ended</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The police deemed the protest “unlawful” under COVID-19 legislation</li> <li>Documentation of special operations involvement in addition to the metropolitan police: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://twitter.com/Tareq_Haddad/status/1257651449468723201">https://twitter.com/Tareq_Haddad/status/1257651449468723201</a></li> <li><a href="https://thewatchdog.net/2020/05/04/special-operations-officers-disperse-assange-supporters-as-u-s-extradition-case-delayed-for-months/">https://thewatchdog.net/2020/05/04/special-operations-officers-disperse-assange-supporters-as-u-s-extradition-case-delayed-for-months/</a></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<i>Results</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search on for a court for the hearing in September <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judge said she would have a new date/location by Friday 8 May 2020, and communicate that information by email to the two parties then</li> <li>Likely it will be a court outside London</li> </ol> </li> <li>It is likely that the new restart date is 7 September 2020</li> <li>Next “callover” for Assange will take place on June 1</li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>7 May</b>	<b>New date and court venue will not be confirmed on Friday, 8 May 2020</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journalist Marty Silk tweeted that in communication with the court, it is clear that the new court venue and date in September will not in fact be announced tomorrow, Friday 8 May 2020 as planned <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1258393817163669505">https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1258393817163669505</a></li> <li>It will likely be a “few weeks” before a new venue is found</li> </ol> </li> <li>Confirmed by journalist Mohamed El Mazi. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://twitter.com/MElmaazi/status/1258420636273332225">https://twitter.com/MElmaazi/status/1258420636273332225</a></li> <li>“...court clerk from Westminster Magistrates' Court told us this. They said they'd let us and the parties know once they have secured an appropriate location for part 2 of #JulianAssange's hearings”</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uncertainty surrounding Assange extradition proceedings is prolonged</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. This uncertainty contributes to Assange torture</li> <li>3. Next “callover” hearing for Assange still scheduled for 1 June</li> </ol>
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<b>Dates:</b> <b>9 May</b>	<b>One year anniversary of Nils Melzer’s visit to Assange in HMP Belmarsh</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Melzer Tweet reflecting on this visit:  <a href="https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1258955598659452928">https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1258955598659452928</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. He showed clear signs of prolonged psychological #Torture.</li> <li>b. First I was shocked that mature democracies could produce such an accident.</li> <li>c. Then I found out it was no accident.</li> <li>d. Now, I am scared to find out about our democracies...</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Melzer Tweets of video describing the importance of Assange case:  <a href="https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1259037617796124672">https://twitter.com/NilsMelzer/status/1259037617796124672</a> </li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>13 May</b>	<b>Announcement of date--but not venue--of resumption of Assange extradition hearing</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marty Silk and WikiLeaks tweet about a court announcement of the date on which Assange extradition hearing will resume</li> <li>2. The date is 7 September 2020</li> <li>3. WikiLeaks tweet:  <a href="https://twitter.com/wikileaks/status/1260503746376806402">https://twitter.com/wikileaks/status/1260503746376806402</a> </li> <li>4. Marty Silk tweet:  <a href="https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1260482807530434561">https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1260482807530434561</a> </li> <li>5. Both announcements note that the court venue for the resumption of the hearing is still not yet set</li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	Date--but not venue--of resumption of Assange extradition hearing is set: 7 September 2020

<b>Dates:</b> <b>1 June</b>	<b>Case Management Hearing</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On the Friday prior to the hearing (29 May), the time was changed to 10a BST from 11a BST</li> <li>2. Assange lawyers notified court on Friday prior (29 May) that Assange will not appear in person because his doctors advised him not to attend due to COVID-19 risk <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <a href="https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1267412185883557890">https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1267412185883557890</a></li> <li>ii) <a href="https://twitter.com/StellaMoris1/status/1267413067488530432">https://twitter.com/StellaMoris1/status/1267413067488530432</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Hearing itself: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. “Prosecution barrister James Lewis said new evidence which is not in response to prosecution evidence has been served by the defence. He said they will have to work out if they</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>think it's admissible.”  <a href="https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1267384848030871552">https://twitter.com/MartySilkHack/status/1267384848030871552</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Yet again, difficult for journalists and observers dialling in and listening remotely to hear the proceedings <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The court did not put on mute anyone who dialled in, and many of them talked over the entire proceeding</li> <li>b. Judge was inaudible even when no caller was talking, due to inadequate set-up and use of microphone</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Judge was again unable to set a venue for phase 2 of extradition hearing, despite reaffirming a “date certain” of September 7 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <a href="https://twitter.com/wikileaks/status/1267387223957274625">https://twitter.com/wikileaks/status/1267387223957274625</a></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<i>Result</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No venue set for phase 2 of extradition hearing</li> <li>2. Date of phase 2 still set of 7 September 2020</li> <li>3. Next call over hearing for Assange set for 29 June:  <a href="https://au.news.yahoo.com/assange-too-unwell-attend-uk-hearing-091612656--spt.html">https://au.news.yahoo.com/assange-too-unwell-attend-uk-hearing-091612656--spt.html</a></li> <li>4. Lawyers’ deadlines in advance of resumption of hearing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Both psychiatric reports on Assange - prosecution and defence - will be due on July 31.</li> <li>b. New defence skeleton argument due on August 25</li> <li>c. New prosecution skeleton argument due on September 1</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Assange remains at extreme risk for COVID-19</li> <li>6. Assange remains unable to participate in his own case proceedings</li> </ol>

<b>Dates:</b> <b>15 June</b>	<b>Guardian article on WikiLeaks 2010 Collateral Murder Video</b>
<i>Key events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guardian publishes article detailing the impact of the 2010 Collateral Murder video</li> <li>2. The event depicted in the video was a US Apache helicopter gunning down Iraqi civilians and two Reuters journalists</li> <li>3. The helicopter also shot up a van that came to rescue the victims who were still alive after the first round of gunfire</li> <li>4. That van had two children as passengers who were both severely wounded</li> <li>5. The article describes the Reuters station chief in Baghdad--Dean Yates--seeking answers from the US military about the killings</li> <li>6. Two US Army generals lied about the event and denied him the video</li> <li>7. Yates filed Freedom of Information Act requests for the video, which were turned down</li> <li>8. Yates recounts how the WikiLeaks release of the video exposed the US military’s lies and cover up of the events depicted in the video</li> </ol>