

Comment by Michael C H Jones

The Julian Assange saga has slowly descended into farce - but farce in so many ways.

The principle issue is the significance of WikiLeaks and the publication of thousands of highly classified US diplomatic and other cables. Was this an act in support of Freedom of Information and the democratic Right to Know for the citizens of the world, or a gross betrayal of Western Civilization and the norms of international relations as proclaimed by the USA and other current national governments concerning the Privacy of Communications?

It is not about the sexual proclivities of a man on "heat" in Sweden and bedroom explorations gone too way. As usual everyone and their dogs want to bark loudly in the newspapers.

As for the Australian government, and indeed the Opposition, but excluding the Greens, there has been little if any attempt to address the broader issues - and WikiLeaks via Julian Assange raises so many of them which will become central to policy debate over future decades when considering issues of global governance. There is an out of control and rampant rogue elephant called the USA with a drones policy threatening/intimidating the peoples of the world. The bottom line is that power ensures that the USA presently determines international law. Thus the rapid return, not the rise, of China and India to global prominence if not ultimately dominance puts the USA and their fellow travellers everywhere in a real bind - time is definitely running out.

Julian Assange no matter where he ends up - stay in England, asylum in Ecuador, extradition to Sweden, re-extradition to the USA, or many places in between, will be persecuted for the rest of his life - Rome chased Hannibal down to the ends of civilization. However his place in history is growing by the day, almost a reverse of the farce. The man is vilified by the best PR agents the Pentagon can buy, yet the principle of resistance and challenge to outrageous power is itself irresistible. Politicians mouthing democracy, human rights and civil liberties has never been enough. The Chinese variant in the CPC are watching absolutely bemused !!