

Dear friends and colleagues,

We're sure you've been busy since our last update and as have we.

First of all, we must apologise as our week four update from the September hearings never made it to you. There was a lapse on our part, but we're glad to report you'll now be able to find a public archive of the available witness statements from the case [here](#).

Additionally, in the last couple of weeks, both the defence and the prosecution have served their closing submissions to the court and those of you who are interested in accessing these documents will be able to do so below:

- [For the defence, on behalf of Julian Assange](#)
- [For the prosecution, on behalf of the United States](#)

As you'll be aware, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser's ruling will be delivered at the Old Bailey in central London on January 4th and Tareq will aim to be in the court room again to provide a written update.

Furthermore, there have been a number of other developments worth noting since we last wrote to you.

First, the civil suit between the Rich family, CNN, Ed Butowsky and a number of others has reportedly been settled out of court. The majority of the relevant court filings are available at [CourtListener](#), including a recent [deposition of Seymour Hersh](#) who gave evidence after a motion to compel was filed.

Second, the Audiencia Nacional, a special High Court in Madrid, Spain, has continued its judge-led investigation into the bugging carried out by UC Global, suspected to be on behalf of the CIA. You'll find a recent summary of some recent proceedings by ComputerWeekly [here](#).

No doubt many of you have also read that Assange's cell-block has reverted to total lockdown after a number of prisoners and wardens in his wing tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, meaning Julian is back in solitary confinement for 24 hours a day. Doctors for Assange have since issued a statement stating that "[the torture and medical neglect of Mr Assange not only continues unabated but has intensified](#)," and have re-issued their call for his immediate release.

Lastly, we have a small favour to ask of you.

We have been continuing our own lines of investigation in hopes of shedding further light on this case. To assist us however, we wondered if you knew of any hopeful funding sources we could pursue in order to support our work on a long-term basis.

We have prepared a funding proposal that details what we plan to investigate and how. We hoped you could help introduce us to a suitable individual or organisation. If this is the case, or you simply know who would be good to contact, we would be very grateful to hear from you. You can send the respective details to contact@speak-up-for-assange.org.

Thank you and warmest regards,
Serena, Nicky, Blaž and Tareq

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International journalists' statement in defence of Julian Assange:
<https://speak-up-for-assange.org/>

Signatory list:
<https://speak-up-for-assange.org/signatures/>

Facebook group:
<https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUpForAssange/>

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