



Jeremy Corbyn & Richard Burgon speak out in support of Julian Assange in the UK Parliament

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Jeremy Corbyn: And I just ask for a sense of understanding of what Julian Assange has contributed to the world in trying to bring truth to power about what has actually happened. And I would hope that this house would recognise that those that expose injustices and abuse eventually get remembered and recognised. I'll give you a parallel. An unknown shipping clerk in Liverpool, J.D. Morell, observed things that were going back and forth from what was then the Belgian Congo in the late 19th early 20th century. He was a shipping clerk and he started to investigate the appalling abuses of human rights in the Congo. He got vilified for doing so. He got attacked for doing so. But he persevered and prevailed- eventually came to this house [UK Parliament], became a member, minister and so on. He exposed the truth, which eventually saved lives in the Congo. I think that tradition of people speaking out against abuses of human rights and injustice when they find it, whatever the consequences for themselves, should be something we should revere, welcome and support and not allow Julian Assange to be confined to prison in this country, possibly removed to the United States, where he would face a lifetime sentence or several lifetime sentences in the ridiculousness of some of the legal decisions and never see the light of day again or be ever be able to write again. I think we need to think very, very carefully about what freedom of speech is. And if we don't defend those that defend the right to know and ensure we get the right to know, then we demean ourselves in the process. I just hope over Easter people reflect on this, and our ministers in the Home Office and other departments will think for a moment about the consequences of denying the freedom to somebody that has ensured there is at least an understanding of how some of these atrocious wars and abuses of human rights came about.

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