

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7 DECEMBER 2016, 10:00 AM LONDON TIME

COVER LETTER BY JULIAN ASSANGE

Six years ago today, on 7 December 2010, I was handcuffed and locked into Wandsworth prison by order of a Swedish prosecutor, Marianne Ny. I had not and still have not been charged with an offence. The claimed grounds for my arrest and extradition without charge were so that Ny could question me. But it was not until six years later - three weeks ago - that I was questioned for the first time. I have decided to release my responses. But first, some background:

I am Australian. I am not Swedish. I do not speak Swedish. I have never resided in Sweden.

I am entirely innocent. I was already cleared of exactly this allegation in 2010 by the Chief Prosecutor of Stockholm, Eva Finne, who closed the case.

During the height of the Pentagon's conflict with me the following month, the allegation was resurrected by the current prosecutor, Marianne Ny. It was immediately seized on to extinguish my freedom of movement and harm my reputation.

Without even bothering to take my statement, the Swedish Prosecution Authority broke its own rules and released my name to a tabloid newspaper. Prosecutor Ny went on to produce more than 40 press releases and press conferences about me. As a result, to this day more than half a million webpages falsely conflate my name with the word "rape".

For six years I called for my statement to be taken so that the 'preliminary investigation' might again be swiftly closed.

In February this year the United Nations found that Prosecutor Ny has caused Sweden and the UK to breach their international human rights obligations. The UN found that her actions are subjecting me to "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment" and an unlawful deprivation of liberty which must immediately cease.

Finally, as a result, last month Marianne Ny sent a deputy and a policewoman to London to question me over two days, but – true to form – my Swedish lawyer was excluded from the room in yet another breach of my basic rights.

On 30 November the United Nations re-affirmed its decision in relation to my case.

I am now releasing my statement to the public. The reason is simple. I want people to know the truth about how abusive this process has been. Furthermore, in the past the prosecution has fed partial information to tabloids that politically oppose me. It is better that my statement, which I am happy with, and which makes it obvious to all that I am innocent, sees the light in full.

Attached: statement