

## *The debacle in Afghanistan shows that Assange should have been listened to, not criminalized.*

The debacle in Afghanistan shows, among many other things, that Julian Assange should have been listened to, not criminalized.

We Americans have spent twenty years alienating Afghans and making us hated by most of them. While our mainstream TV news kept showing us just the minuscule enlightened elite in Kabul who cheered us on. They're the pro-Westerners who are now desperately trying to escape. Whereas, everywhere else in the country, people spit on the ground where US/NATO troops pass as they withdraw.

Julian Assange tried to tell us all that, believing that "If wars can be started by lies, they can be stopped by truth." Well, the truth on the ground has finally stopped our illegal war in Afghanistan. The message has finally got through. But the messenger is still in prison, waiting to be extradited.

Last Wednesday a British judge ruled that the U.S. could ask for the case to be reopened in October and the key testimony of a psychologist, in favor of Assange, called into question.

U.S. Citizens for Peace & Justice – Rome calls on fellow Americans everywhere, as well as their Italian friends and the entire international community, to organize sit-ins, in September and October, calling on British judges to drop the case against Assange. Telling them, in effect: "Don't shoot the messenger. Indict the politicians and the generals who ordered an illegal war in Afghanistan – and elsewhere."