

Assange's release

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I admit that I have never been Julian Assange's greatest fan. I met him once, and decided that I could not deal with him. Something made me uneasy, and on occasion, you have to act on instinct.

That said, his treatment by governments in the UK, US and maybe elsewhere, has been utterly inappropriate. So, [I welcome his effective release today.](#)

But I would still not handle the materials he leaked because I am not convinced he helped his cause by doing what he did.

We need a free press. We need the right to question. Most of all, we need an effective fourth estate. Democracy cannot exist without that.

But I am not sure by how much he advanced that cause and that is why I have never been persuaded that his judgement was worth trusting.