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## [WikiLeaks And The Mainstream Media – Who Is Using Whom?](#)

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Has the Freedom of Information revolution truly arrived with WikiLeaks? Or is this becoming yet another elitist feast where only the mainstream media need apply as the WikiLeaks organisation delivers major information to selected media organs alone for review such as the [Collateral Murder](#) video, the [Afghan War Diary](#), the [Iraq War Logs](#) and now the [US Embassy Cables](#)?

An extraordinarily courageous man, WikiLeaks Editor-In-Chief Julian Assange has been given a spectacularly bad time since the latest wikileaks were revealed. Specifically those US Embassy Cables that have definitively ripped the rags of deception previously cladding our ruling 'emperors' to shreds, leaving them with nothing but naked embarrassment in front of the very electorate that have put them in power and are paying their salaries. From threats of assassination by politicians, extradition to the USA on spy charges and so on, Julian Assange has had a great deal more to put up with than most.

Good as the information coming out of WikiLeaks is, the way that the organisation is choosing selected of the mainstream media as the delivery mechanism for its leaks is starting to raise concerns even amongst its greatest supporters.

### **The Mainstream Media – Corporate Architects Of Disinformation**

For many years the mainstream media have been the purposeful corporate architect dealers of vast tranches of misinformation and disinformation, the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars being but two of the many recent examples.

Persuading the mainstream media to break with the disinformation habit of a lifetime when it comes to WikiLeaks must have stuck in quite a few proprietors' craws, so much so that many of them have been unable to stomach it.

Who will ever forget Julian Assange being voted as TIME magazine's Person of the Year 2010 by an overwhelmingly massive majority of its readers only to have TIME 's editors decide that WikiLeaks support was too hot a political potato to handle and appoint Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg to get the award instead? This is a classic example of a media organisation requesting interaction with its readers and when it gets it from multiple hundreds of thousands of people, choosing to slap their collective faces rather than abide by their wishes on a 'don't you worry your pretty little heads basis, we know political best'.

Over the recent wikileaks, mainstream media organs such as the Guardian, The New York Times, Le Monde, Der Spiegel and El Pais have been given exclusive access to the embargoed US Embassy Cables material in advance by WikiLeaks for the newspapers to cover and interpret the contents as they will. *"This collaboration between Wikileaks and selected mainstream media is not fortuitous,"* writes Michael Chossudovsky in his article entitled [Who is Behind WikiLeaks?](#) He continues: *"Wikileaks has enlisted architects of media disinformation to fight media disinformation: An incongruous and self-defeating procedure. How can this battle against media disinformation be waged with the participation and collaboration of the corporate architects of media disinformation?"* Although One Click by no means concurs with all that Chossudovsky has written in his article, he makes very valid points indeed with those words.

The Guardian newspaper in Britain, for example, has obtained a deadly reputation over a period of protracted years due to its slavish editorial adherence to dicta issued by the UK government's sinister lobby groups, Sense About Science and the Science Media Centre funded by the pharmaceutical industry. If there's a pharmaceutical line to be absorbed from a press release and then regurgitated in print, the Guardian is first choice pharma organ. Equally The New York Times has enjoyed a long misinformation dissemination relationship with the Pentagon, US Intelligence and the Department of Homeland Security.

It is completely understandable that WikiLeaks elected to use the mainstream media to get its recent sensational leaks out into the international public domain in many countries simultaneously fast in different languages and obviously, hands on deck assistance was required for redaction purposes. But now would seem a good time to widen horizons as this is the internet age. This is especially pertinent since the WikiLeaks/Guardian relationship may have now reached fracture point thanks to reporter Nick Davies's having badly bitten the WikiLeaks hand that has been feeding the Guardian over his entirely flawed recent coverage of the Swedish sex legal circus swirling around Julian Assange.

Of course once the daily release US Embassy Cables are in the mainstream media public domain, one can peruse them through the [Cable Viewer](#) provided by WikiLeaks. But very few have the time to go through each one individually and search for the relevant material. And this is by no means the same as having the information delivered on an embargoed silver salver as has recently been enjoyed by the Guardian and The New York Times et al.

Currently, the WikiLeaks data that is being media fed to the public is analysed, filtered, edited, redacted and promoted by the very same mainstream media organisations that have consistently failed to deliver transparency and truth for decades. By anyone's calculations, this is not right.

WikiLeaks itself recognised this difficulty when it tweeted the following on 28 November 2010:



Tomorrow we will provide information on how other media groups can apply to for embargo access to [#cablegate](#) info.

28 Nov via web ☆ Favorite ↺ Undo Retweet ↻ Reply

Although this offer did not immediately occur, WikiLeaks has recently added a Contact Form for Medias on its website [here](#), offering a facility *"for the most reliable and trustworthy organisations to collaborate with on our upcoming releases."* As we go to internet press, the link for registering and applying to get the information is not working.

A recently launched enterprise that might help to bring success to independent reporting is the [Operation Leakspin](#) crowdjournalism project founded with the purpose of sorting through recent WikiLeaks releases and raising awareness of potentially important and previously overlooked information in the US Cables. However, this project will take time to develop and come to proper fruition.

WikiLeaks is proving itself to be the greatest freedom of information organisation in our history that deserves our support. This equally applies to its founder, Julian Assange, whose brainchild WikiLeaks is.

We hope that WikiLeaks manages to level the playing field in the future so that the information the organisation is releasing does not continue to be delivered exclusively through the fractured mainstream media prism that so many have grown to rightly distrust.

And as for those maintaining that Julian Assange is the next best thing to a CIA agent or the like, do please get a grip. In the internet age, one needs to research and pick ones conspiracy theories most carefully in order to prevent being perceived as unhinged.

A Merry Christmas tradition to all our readers.

**The One Click Group**  
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