

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WIKILEAKS

Whereas WikiLeaks is a non-profit organization that publishes on its websites submissions of secret documents from anonymous sources and news leaks;

Whereas WikiLeaks has recently made available thousands of important documents concerning United States foreign and military policy;

Whereas WikiLeaks is performing a vital watchdog role comparable to the courageous publication of the Pentagon Papers by Daniel Ellsberg;

Whereas support for WikiLeaks should be a concern for all those who believe in the right to know, government transparency, intellectual freedom, and most especially librarians;

Whereas WikiLeaks and its founder and volunteers are under tremendous pressure to stop publishing leaked documents by many governments, elected officials, and prominent personalities;

Whereas the American Library Association has signed a joint letter with many other organizations asking the United States government to reverse its order to US government agencies blocking access to WikiLeaks, in support of publishers' and citizens' first amendment rights, and against the possible application of the Espionage Act against WikiLeaks, now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA)

- (1) Supports the rights of WikiLeaks to publish leaked government documents;
- (2) Commends the efforts of WikiLeaks to expunge from documents names and other material deemed potentially harmful to innocent people;
- (3) Commends WikiLeaks for performing a public service by making available important documents related to foreign and military policy;
- (4) urges libraries to link their websites to the WikiLeaks websites; and
- (5) condemns the harassment of WikiLeaks volunteers.

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Supporting documents (CD #38 - RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WIKILEAKS)

1. ALA Policy Manual 53.1 Library Bill of Rights:
 - a. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
 - b. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
 - c. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
 - d. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
2. Daniel Ellsberg's Website
 - a. "EVERY attack now made on WikiLeaks and Julian Assange was made against me and the release of the Pentagon Papers at the time" by Michael Ellsberg (Dec. 8, 2010), Retrieved from <http://www.ellsberg.net/archive/public-accuracy-press-release>
3. Democracy: Now. (2010, December 31). Pentagon Whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg: Julian Assange is Not a Terrorist, Retrieved from http://www.democracynow.org/2010/12/31/pentagon_whistleblower_daniel_ellsberg_julian_assange
4. Burns, John F., & Somaiya, Ravi (2010, Oct. 23). WikiLeaks Founder Gets Support in Rebuking U.S. on Whistle-Blowers. New York Times Online Edition. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/24/world/24london.html?_r=1