

<http://www.johnpilger.com/videos/julian-assange-in-conversation-with-john-pilger>
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'The Goal is Justice, The Method is Transparency'

Julian Assange in conversation with John Pilger

John Pilger: You've described WikiLeaks as 'untraceable' and 'uncensorable.' What do you mean by that?

Julian Assange: Well, nothing in this world is guaranteed for sure. But within that we have put together an infrastructure using technical and legal techniques to really make it hard to trace people, and to make it hard to take down our material once it's published. To date, we've had a hundred per cent success rate. So that basic idea and intention is comprised of a number of specific ways of doing things. For untraceability, this means people send us material in the post in a particular way, engaging in particular procedures which makes it effectively impossible to trace. Or it means they submit material to us online and bounce the information through dozens of computers around the world, each computer encrypting its transmissions before it connects to another computer, so in this way discarding identities as the information flows around the world. As it flows through different countries, we make sure it flows through Sweden and Belgium, [as] these two countries have specific source protection laws: in Sweden as part of the Swedish constitution, the Press Freedom Act, and in Belgium a specific law dealing with the communications

protections between a source and a journalist using any means whatsoever, including electronic transmissions.

For publication, this means housing our servers in many different jurisdictions such that any sort of interim attack on us -- interim injunction -- is not going to take the information down entirely. It may knock it out here, it may knock it out there, but we can put up servers and gain support and respond legally fast enough such that the information is not going to be removed from the public, and that has been what has happened to date.

We have never lost a court case in any jurisdiction -- an important thing to remember -- but there have been interim attempts to injunct us, and while those interim attempts have gone on, we have managed to keep publishing.

JP: How many documents of real value have you been able to accept and publish?

JA: It's hard to know how many [have] real value -- I mean, this is in the eyes of the beholder. To us, all information that is true has value eventually. It might only be a very small value to someone somewhere, but getting that information into the historical record, padding out the historical record, provides a sort of richness to every other bit of information in the historical record. Though, if you're talking about things which have clearly changed outcomes of elections, or clearly introduced some law reform, or clearly brought perpetrators to trial, then this is in the hundreds. Somewhere in the hundreds. [As for] clearly changing governments or elections or having ministers deposed, this is maybe half a dozen to ten, something like that.

That's the power of information, that's an old truism isn't it? And this is such a modern -- ultra-modern -- form of getting it out, it must frighten a lot of establishments in authority, and especially governments. What governments have been successful in