

Press releases in the Assange Matter before the year 2015

Press releases in chronological order from Swedish Prosecution Authority

Request for detention of Mr. Assange

2010-11-18

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, has requested the District Court of Stockholm to detain Mr Assange in his absence.

– I request the District Court of Stockholm to detain Mr. Assange in his absence, suspected of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion. The reason for my request is that we need to interrogate him. So far, we have not been able to meet with him to accomplish the interrogations.

Due to the ongoing investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor cannot at the moment give more information concerning the suspicions or which investigation matters have been conducted.

After the hearing on the detention issue, which starts at 2 pm, more information will be published concerning the outcome of the hearing and its consequences.

Mr. Assange detained in his absence

2010-11-18

As a result of the court's decision to detain Mr. Assange in his absence, an international arrest warrant will be issued.

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, today requested the District Court of Stockholm to detain Mr Assange in his absence.

At the hearing on the detention issue, the District Court decided to detain Mr Assange in his absence, on probable cause suspected of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion. To execute the court's decision, the next step is to issue an international arrest warrant.

Due to the ongoing investigation and the parties involved, the prosecutor cannot at the moment give more information concerning the suspicions or which investigation matters have been conducted.

An european arrest warrant for Mr. Assange has been issued

2010-12-01

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, can confirm that an european arrest warrant for Mr. Assange has been issued.

For secrecy reasons, she cannot give more information concerning this matter at the moment.

Julian Assange has been detained in his absence

2010-12-02

Julian Assange has been detained in his absence suspected of rape, sexual molestation and unlawful coercion. Mr Assange had appealed the detention decision issued by Svea Court of Appeal.

Today the Supreme Court has taken a decision not to grant Julian Assange leave to appeal. If the Supreme Court is to hear an appeal, leave to appeal must first be granted. Leave to appeal is only granted if the case is assessed as being very important to the application of the law or if other extraordinary reasons apply.

The arrest warrant is based on the detention decision that has now been examined by all three legal instances. The additional information requested by the British Police concerns the penalties for the other crimes, in addition to rape, that Julian Assange was arrested for. This information will be supplied immediately. The previous arrest warrant stands.

British Police supplied with requested information concerning Assange

2010-12-06

Director of Prosecution Ms. Marianne Ny has supplied the British Police with the requested additional information.

The matter is being dealt with by competent judicial authorities, as defined in the European Arrest Warrant Act. At the moment the prosecutor will give no further information concerning the handling of the arrest warrant.

British Police have arrested Mr. Assange

2010-12-07

Statement from Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny

Today British Police have arrested Mr. Assange. Director of Prosecution Ms. Marianne Ny has issued the European arrest warrant, due to which the arrest was executed. The arrest warrant is based on an order for arrest and detention by the Svea Court of Appeal.

Marianne Ny states:

- Apart from the arrest, nothing new has happened in the investigation, but the arrest is a prerequisite for continuing the investigation. I cannot give information on the next step, as the matter at the moment is handled by British authorities.

The prosecutor emphasizes that this matter exclusively concerns Mr. Assange as a private person.

- I would like to clarify that there have by no means been any political pressure on my decision making. I act as a prosecutor due to suspicions of sexual crimes in Sweden in August. Swedish prosecutors are completely independent in their decision making, says Ms. Ny.

Cyber attack on the web site

2010-12-08

On Tuesday evening the web site of the Swedish Prosecution Authority was attacked. Due to an unusual amount of visitors the site became overloaded and crashed. The site was restored on Wednesday morning.

The Internet suppliers of the authority has confirmed that it was a deliberate attack. The incident has been reported to the Police.

Julian Assange granted bail at Westminster Magistrates Court in London

2010-12-14

At a hearing on Tuesday 14 December, Westminster Magistrates Court in London decided that Julian Assange should be granted bail.

- As I have already stated, I cannot at the moment provide information concerning the development of the matter, as it is handled by British authorities, says Director of Prosecution Ms Marianne Ny.

As soon as new information can be released, it will be published on the web site www.aklagare.se.

Julian Assange granted bail in The High Court

2010-12-16

At a hearing on Thursday 16 December, The High Court in London decided that Julian Assange should be granted bail.

From the Swedish prosecutor's perspective, the decision does not change the state of the case itself.

- As I have already stated I cannot, at the moment, provide information concerning the development of the matter. The question concerning surrender is handled by British authorities, says Director of Prosecution Ms. Marianne Ny.

As soon as new information can be released, it will be published on the web site www.aklagare.se.

British court hearing on the Assange case

2011-02-04

On 7 and 8 February a court in England will hear the case concerning the surrender to Sweden of Julian Assange in accordance with the European arrest warrant issued against him.

The case will be heard at Belmarsh Magistrates Court in London. After hearing the case the Court will announce when their ruling will be made public. Information on this will be published on the Swedish Prosecution Authority website.

The case is currently in the hands of the British legal authorities and the Director of Prosecution Marianne Ny has no further information to give concerning the processing of this case.

Statement by the Prosecutor-General of Sweden concerning the Assange case

2011-02-10

Anders Perklev comments on critical statements concerning the Swedish legal system and the Director of Public Prosecution.

During the hearing in London concerning the surrender of Julian Assange, several, extremely critical, views have been stated concerning the Swedish legal system and the actions of the Director of Public Prosecution, Marianne Ny. Both the possibilities of a fair trial in Sweden and the authority of the Director have been questioned.

As a consequence of this criticism, the Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev makes the following comments:

- This criticism has been put forward as a part of Julian Assange's defence and consequently is a plea made by one of the parties in an ongoing legal case. As a result, neither I myself nor Marianne Ny have any reason to respond in any detailed manner to this criticism, apart from the actual response made during the trial itself.

Julian Assange is, of course, entitled to construct his defence in any manner he so wishes, and he, as with all other suspects of crimes, is to be regarded as innocent until proved guilty in a court of law

- Concerning the fact that certain comments were aimed personally at Marianne Ny I would, however, like to clarify that Swedish law, in contrast to some other legal systems, contains what is known as the absolute duty to prosecute. Consequently, a prosecutor is in principle obliged to, as far as possible, follow up a crime investigation and, when there is sufficient evidence, take a decision to prosecute. Marianne Ny has thus acted fully in accordance with her role as public prosecutor and she evidently possesses the necessary authority to take all the decisions that have been made in this case.

Assange to be surrendered (updated)

2011-02-24

The City of Westminster Magistrates' Court has made a decision to grant the request for surrender of Mr. Julian Assange.

The decision can be appealed.

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, will not give interviews about the matter concerning surrender of Julian Assange as long as the matter is handled by British authorities.

Link to the court's decision: <https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/>

Hearing in London on the Assange matter

2011-07-13

Hearing in High Court in London concerning surrender according to the European Arrest Warrant.

Mr. Julian Assange to be surrendered

2011-11-02

The High Court has today dismissed an appeal by Mr. Julian Assange against his surrender to Sweden. The decision can be appealed.

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, will not give interviews about the matter as long as it is handled by British authorities.

Assange granted leave to appeal

2011-12-16

Today, the Supreme Court of Great Britain took a decision to grant Julian Assange leave to appeal in the matter of his surrender to Sweden in accordance with a European Arrest Warrant.

The issue under examination is whether a Prosecutor can be considered to have the legal authority to issue a European Arrest Warrant. The Supreme Court will sit on 1 and 2 February 2012.

Decision in the UK Supreme Court

2012-05-29

Wednesday 30 May, the UK Supreme Court will issue the judgement in the matter concerning Julian Assange's surrender to Sweden.

More information will be published on this web site as soon as possible after the decision is issued (9.15 GMT, 10.15 CET).

Director of Prosecution, Ms. Marianne Ny, will not give interviews about the matter as long as it is handled by British authorities.

Link: <http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/index.html>

Decision from the Supreme Court

2012-05-30

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has today decided to uphold and grant the request to surrender Julian Assange to Sweden.

Two lower instances had previously decided that Julian Assange should be surrendered to Sweden in accordance with the European Arrest Warrant Act. These were appealed by Assange and on 1-2 February 2012 hearings were held in the Supreme Court, which has now issued its decision.

In accordance with the regulatory framework on European arrest warrants, the Court's decision means that Julian Assange will be surrendered to Sweden within 10 days after a legally binding judgment.

The Director of Public Prosecution, Marianne Ny, cannot supply any information regarding the case at the moment, but will give interviews in connection with a detention hearing in Sweden.

Assange granted 14 days to apply for re-opening

2012-05-30

The counsel for Mr Assange, Ms Rose, this morning indicated that she may make an application to re-open the UK Supreme Court's decision.

The Supreme Court has granted Ms Rose 14 days to make such an application.

In accordance with the regulatory framework on European arrest warrants, Julian Assange will be surrendered to Sweden within 10 days after a legally binding judgement.

Assange to be surrendered to Sweden

2012-06-14

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has dismissed the application from Mr Assange to re-open the appeal. In addition, the Court has ordered that the required period for extradition shall not commence until the 14th day after today.

In accordance with the framework on European arrest warrants, the Court's decision means that Mr Assange will be surrendered to Sweden within 10 days after the 14th day.

Further information from the prosecutor

Director of Prosecution, Marianne Ny, cannot supply any information regarding the case at the moment, but will give interviews in connection with a detention hearing in Sweden

Assange to have sought political asylum in Ecuador

2012-06-19

Director of Public Prosecution Ms Marianne Ny cannot comment the recent information concerning political asylum.

An application for asylum does not concern the criminal investigation in Sweden.

Mr Assange granted asylum in Ecuador

2012-08-16

Director of Public Prosecution Ms Marianne Ny will not comment on the matter as long as it is handled by British authorities.

The fact that Julian Assange has been granted asylum in Ecuador does not effect the Swedish criminal investigation. As the Ecuadorean embassy in London is situated on British soil, the case is still a matter for British authorities. The prosecutor cannot supply any information concerning the matter at the moment.

The prosecutors' report in the Assange matter

2014-07-08

The prosecutors have submitted a report concerning the request for review of the detention order.

The report was submitted to the Stockholm District Court on 1 July 2014.

Invitation to a press conference

2014-07-14

After the remand hearing of Julian Assange Wednesday 16 July, a press conference will be held. The Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny and Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren will be participating.

Place: Stockholm County Police, Kungsholmen, hall to be decided later.

Time: Wednesday 16 July, 4 pm (approximately)

Registration/Entry: Registration from individual journalists can unfortunately not be taken into account since the numbers of seats are limited. Registration shall be made for each editorial office to informationsavdelningen@aklagare.se, no later than 9 am Wednesday 16 July.

Please notify the names of participating journalists.

Please note that the prosecutors will not give individual interviews after the press conference.

Link: <http://domstol.se/Om-Sveriges-Domstolar/Sveriges-Domstolars-pressrum/Nyheter-och-pressmeddelanden/Stockholm-City-Court-to-examine-whether-the-detention-order-against-Julian-Assange-is-to-remain-in-place-or-be-set-aside/>

Julian Assange to remain in custody

2014-07-16

Stockholm City Court has today decided that Julian Assange will still be detained, suspected on probable cause for rape, less serious crime, unlawful coercion and two cases of sexual molestation.

Julian Assange has the opportunity to appeal the detention order to the Svea Court of Appeal.

More information will be provided after the prosecutors' press conference.

The press conference will be held at Stockholm County Police, hall 200, Kungsholmsgatan 45 at approx. 6.30 pm

Julian Assange still detained

2014-07-16

The prosecutor comments on the fact that Stockholm City Court has decided that Julian Assange is to remain detained.

Stockholm City Court has today decided that Julian Assange will still be detained, suspected on probable cause for rape, less serious crime, unlawful coercion and two cases of sexual molestation.

Julian Assange has the opportunity to appeal the detention order to the Svea Court of Appeal.

- Julian Assange has chosen to evade the criminal justice system by seeking asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy. My view has been, and remains the case, that he should make himself available for interview and, if needed, trial for the offences to which he is suspected of in Sweden dating back to August 2010, says Marianne Ny.

Report concerning the detention of Julian Assange

2014-09-23

The prosecutors have submitted a report to Svea Court of Appeal, as a reply to the lawyers' appeal of the detention of Julian Assange. In the report, the prosecutors contest the request to annul the detention order.

In the report, Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny and Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren state that Julian Assange is still, on probable cause suspected of the criminal acts he is detained for, and that the risk of evasion stands. The prosecutors' opinion is that there is no need for an oral hearing in the Court of Appeal.

The detention hearing in the Stockholm City Court took place 16 July 2014. The court decided that Julian Assange should remain detained, suspected on probable cause for rape, less serious crime, unlawful coercion and two cases of sexual molestation.

The report to Svea Court of Appeal is submitted in Swedish.

The prosecutors cannot supply any further information regarding the case at the moment.

Statement by the prosecutor in the Assange matter

2014-10-29

Due to details in the media concerning the Assange matter, Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny states:

- As to the question of interviewing Assange in London, I refer to my earlier statement, which is available on the Swedish Prosecution Authority's web page. I have no other information to submit today. The Swedish proceedings are underway and I will await the Court of Appeal's decision on the detention of Julian Assange, which is expected in the near future.

Background

On 16 July 2014 Stockholm City Court decided that Julian Assange should still be detained. The decision has been appealed and will be tried by the Svea Court of Appeal. Relevant documents concerning the detention are available (in Swedish) in conjunction to the chronology.

New information will be submitted after the decision from Svea Court of Appeal.

Assange to remain in custody

2014-11-20

The Svea Court of Appeal today decided that Julian Assange will still be detained in his absence, suspected on probable cause for rape, less serious crime, unlawful coercion and two cases of sexual molestation.

- Julian Assange has chosen to evade the criminal justice system by seeking asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy. My view has been, and remains the case, that he should make himself available for interview and, if needed, trial for the offences to which he is suspected of in Sweden dating back to August 2010, says Marianne Ny, Director of Public Prosecution.

In its decision, the Court of Appeal notes that the investigation has come to a halt and considers that the failure of the prosecutors to examine alternative avenues is not in line with their obligation to move the preliminary investigation forward.

- It has been a complicated situation and we have continuously considered the matter. As the Court notes, there is every reason to pursue considering how the investigation should be moved forward, says Marianne Ny.

The Court's decision can be appealed to the Supreme Court which, however, above all is a precedent body. Furthermore, Julian Assange has the possibility to come back later with a new request for review of the detention order.

The prosecutor requests to interview Assange in London

2015-03-13

Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny has today made a request to Julian Assange's legal representatives whether Assange would consent to being interviewed in London and have his DNA taken via a swab.

If Assange gives his consent, the prosecutor will promptly submit a request for legal assistance to the British authorities to further continue the investigation. English law states that a person being interviewed within the regulation of international legal assistance in a criminal case must also provide his or her consent. A request will also be sent to the Ecuadorian authorities regarding permission to perform investigative measures at the country's embassy in London.

The reason the prosecutor now decides to request permission to interview Julian Assange in London is chiefly that a number of the crimes Julian Assange is suspected of will be subject to statute of limitation in August 2015 i.e. in less than six months' time.

-The Supreme Court of England and Wales decided in June 2012 that Julian Assange should be surrendered to Sweden. He has prevented this submission by taking refuge at the Ecuadorian embassy, says Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny.

- My view has always been that to perform an interview with him at the Ecuadorian embassy in London would lower the quality of the interview, and that he would need to be present in Sweden in any case should there be a trial in the future. This assessment remains unchanged. Now that time is of the essence, I have viewed it therefore necessary to accept such deficiencies to the investigation and likewise take the risk that the interview does not move the case forward, particularly as there are no other measures on offer without Assange being present in Sweden, says Marianne Ny.

In November 2014 the Svea Court of Appeal decided that Julian Assange should remain detained in his absence. The Court further viewed the investigation to be at a standstill and stated that the prosecutor had not fully fulfilled the duty to drive the investigation forward.

- Over the past two months we have fully considered and deliberated upon the views made by the Court of Appeal regarding how best to move the investigation forward. This has resulted in the decision I have now taken, namely to try to get permission for an interview in London. As stated, it remains unclear what this may result in. However, I have now decided to try to carry out an interview as the statutory limitation nears, says Marianne Ny.

If Julian Assange provides consent to continue the investigation in London, this will be performed by the supporting prosecutor to the case, Chief Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren, together with a police officer.

- I cannot comment further on the case at this point, not least when such an interview will take place nor other details, says Marianne Ny.

Julian Assange has appealed the Court of Appeal's detention order to the Supreme Court, which recently requested the Prosecutor-General to submit an opinion concerning the Court's subsequent dealing of the matter.

Letter of Response to the Supreme Court regarding the detention on remand of Julian Assange

2015-03-24

The Prosecutor-General is of the opinion that Julian Assange should continue to be detained in his absence, however would endorse the Supreme Court's adjudication on the question.

Given the fact that Julian Assange has appealed the detention on remand from the Svea Court of Appeal, the Prosecutor-General, on request, has submitted a letter of response to the Supreme Court. In the letter of response, the Prosecutor-General acknowledges that more than four years have elapsed since the original detention order. In the way the case has developed, it has come to contain a number of difficult considerations where different interests are opposed to each other. It would be valuable if the Supreme Court would give its view on those considerations. The Supreme Court has not previously given its view on how to regard a situation where a suspect is detained in his absence, but the decision cannot be executed.

– I would welcome an analysis of the case by the Supreme Court. When judging whether the detention should remain, we have, on the one hand, society's and the victims' interest for a suspected crime to be investigated and potentially tried in court, and on the other hand the delay of the case and Julian Assange's situation at the embassy in London, says Prosecutor-General Anders Perklev.

– Like the District Court and the Court of Appeal, my opinion is that the arguments for detention still take precedence over the arguments for setting the detention aside. I support the prosecutor's reasoning and view to await to hold an interview with Julian Assange at the embassy in London. The question of detention should, however, continuously be reviewed based on how the matter develops, says Anders Perklev.

Background

In July 2014, the Stockholm District Court decided that Julian Assange should continue to be detained in his absence for the crimes which he is suspected of. The Court of Appeal affirmed the District Court's decision in November 2014. Julian Assange has appealed the Court of Appeal's decision to the Supreme Court.

Leave to appeal is required for a case to be heard by the Supreme Court. As a rule, the Supreme Court requests the Prosecutor-General to provide an account of his understanding of the case in a letter of response. The court has, in this case, specifically requested the Prosecutor-General's view regarding how the investigation has been carried out to date and regarding the application of the principle of proportionality.

The Prosecutor-General submits approximately 60 letters of response annually to the Supreme Court.

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The prosecutors ask Assange for clarifications

2015-04-17

The prosecutors have received Julian Assange's consent, with some reservations, to be interviewed in London and have his DNA taken. The prosecutors have asked for clarifications concerning the reservations.

– As soon as it becomes clear that there are no obstacles for the planned investigation matters, we will submit a request for legal assistance to the British authorities to further continue the investigation. A request will also be sent to the Ecuadorian authorities regarding permission to perform investigative measures at the country's embassy in London, says Director of Public Prosecution Marianne Ny.

At present, it is not possible to estimate when the interview will take place.