

Resolution in Support of the Right to Publish Leaked Documents and
for the Dismissal of Charges Against Julian Assange

WHEREAS, We are living in a media environment where publishers and journalists are now routinely attacked from the highest levels of government; and

WHEREAS, This environment in the United States has opened the door for similar prosecutions in other countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks, has recently been indicted with seventeen charges under the Espionage Act for engaging in the normal journalistic practice of soliciting leaked government documents; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association signed a 2010 open letter with many other organizations asking the United States government to reverse 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; and

WHEREAS, As Daniel Ellsberg recently said, prosecution of Julian Assange under the Espionage Act is the most serious attack on the First Amendment since his own prosecution in 1971, and is a broad threat against all publishers in the United States, and no matter what one thinks of Julian Assange, this is a case concerning "straight journalism," undertaken for political motives because of political offenses; and

WHEREAS, In the Pentagon Papers case, the Supreme Court explained that every person has the right to disseminate truthful information pertaining to matters of public interest even if the information was obtained by someone else illegally; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Library Association calls for the dismissal of charges under the Espionage Act against Julian Assange.

Mover: Mark Hudson
Secunder: Al Kagan