



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador says his country would 'open its doors to Julian Assange'

Description

MEXICO/USA: Mexico's President says he will ask US President Joe Biden to address WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's case when the two men meet in July.

Key points:

- Mr Assange is due to be extradited to US from the UK to face criminal charges
- He is wanted on 18 counts, including a spying charge, relating to WikiLeaks' release of confidential records
- Mr Lopez Obrador is set to meet US President Joe Biden in July, where he says he will address the issue

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador raised Mr Assange's case at a regular news conference on Tuesday, saying his country would open its doors to the Australian if he was released.

On Friday British Home Secretary Priti Patel approved the WikiLeaks founder's extradition to the United States to face criminal charges.

Mr Assange's wife Stella Moris vowed to fight using every possible legal avenue.

"I'm going to ask President Biden to address this issue ... humanism must prevail," Mr Lopez Obrador said.

Mr Lopez Obrador says Julian Assange's detention is an "embarrassment to the world".(
Reuters: Henry Romero)

Mr Lopez Obrador is set to meet his US counterpart in July.

He skipped the recent US-hosted Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles to protest against the White House's exclusion of the Cuban, Venezuelan and Nicaraguan governments from the event.

Mr Assange is wanted by US authorities on 18 counts, including a spying charge, relating to WikiLeaks' release of vast troves of confidential US military records and diplomatic cables, which Washington said had put lives in danger.

His supporters say he is an anti-establishment hero who has been victimised because he has exposed US wrongdoing in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that his prosecution is a politically motivated assault on journalism and free speech.

The Mexican President praised Mr Assange.

"He is the best journalist of our time in the world and has been very unfairly treated, worse than a criminal," he said.

"This is an embarrassment to the world."



Julian Assange will be allowed to seek a Supreme Court appeal against his extradition

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