

Comment by Michael C H Jones

The decision by Bank of America to discontinue any dealings with WikiLeaks following so soon after similar decisions by MasterCard, PayPal, Visa Europe and others indicates an escalating "attack" on the financial viability of that organisation. But these are dangerous moves by US corporate interests most likely under intense pressure from the US Government.

Dangerous because at best they confirm at least the unofficial linkages between US government and business, which is the controlling sector is always debatable, and at worst has unleashed a global war against FOI (freedom of information) adherents including within the USA.

For example are the "dealings" of, or the assets of, Academy Award Winner Mike Moore, who has offered to host WikiLeaks in the USA, to be discontinued/frozen. Or are the business interests of Julian Assange "minder" Vaughan Smith, reputedly a multi-millionaire successful financier, to be "halted". These decisions could equally be "based upon our reasonable belief that WikiLeaks (Moore/Smith) may be engaged in activities that are, among other things, inconsistent with our internal policies for processing payments."

What about Australia?

Is any organisation - say Senator Bob Brown and the Greens Party as an example - that decides to host/finance/materially assist in any way the organisation of WikiLeaks or the activities of Julian Assange (or any member of his Executive and/or Advisors such as Phillip Adams of ABC late-night radio fame), to be subjected to the same treatment by US global financial institutions/corporations?

America and its people have to begin to understand that they are not an "exceptional" or unique country. Rule of law in a global society applies equally to all nations without exceptions. Otherwise global civil disobedience will simply fill US prisons where-ever people are rendered, and/or tortured.

When I was in Beijing during October my group received a 15 minute lecture from Wang Zhongwei, Vice Minister - The State Council Information Office. on the democratisation of global institutions, in other words ending US control. I received no reply when I raised the question of the democratisation of China's domestic institutions. The significance of WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange and Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Liu Xiaobo for both the USA and PRC are not completely dissimilar.