

Comment from Michael C H Jones

One Day in the Life of WikiLeaks - 7th March 2011

It has become a global circus - one suspects never ending.

Each day hundreds of cables are published with so far about 5000 out of 250,000 - that is virtually a never ending story for over 50 media outlets around the world. I may have got my numbers mixed up so I apologise in advance - who cares about accuracy in our world today !!

What does it all mean - do people have the time to read them or the training academic or otherwise to understand their implications - I seriously doubt it.

The facts are that generally speaking WikiLeaks has confirmed what we all already knew - that we have been lied to by generations of self-serving political operators, men and more recently women with serious character defects, whose overwhelming ambition is to carve out a niche of whatever description for themselves - Julia Gillard is a classic example in Australia only kept in power by the horror of a Tony Abbott. With all their personal flaws Kevin Rudd and Malcolm Turnbull had at least some scintilla of integrity.

Look at this One Day of the 7th March - an absolute sewer of abnormality in all countries of the world. To say it is American culture is perhaps to give them too much credit. Rather it is a money culture, an absolute worship of property, a belief that if it does not have a dollar value then it is worthless.

Our heroes have changed certainly during the last 20 years. Here are the top ten of the new ones:

1) Carlos Slim Helu & family, 71 (Mexico): \$74 billion (telecom)

The Mexican business magnate of Lebanese ethnicity and philanthropist is the richest person in the world. He is the chairman and CEO of telecommunications companies Telmex and América Móvil and has extensive holdings in other Mexican companies through his conglomerate, Grupo Carso SAB.

2) Bill Gates, 55 (US): \$56 billion (Microsoft)

"We've really achieved the ideal of what I wanted Microsoft to become."

3) Warren Buffett, 80 (US): \$50 billion (Berkshire Hathaway)

Widely regarded as one of the most successful investors in the world. He is the primary shareholder, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway - and is consistently ranked among the world's wealthiest people.

4) Bernard Arnault, 62 (France): \$41 billion (LVMH)

Founder, chairman, and CEO of LVMH, a large luxury goods conglomerate consisting of over fifty luxury brands, including Louis Vuitton, Dior, and Fendi.

5) Larry Ellison, 66 (US): \$39.5 billion (Oracle)

Oracle has acquired 75 companies over the years worth \$40 billion, and figured out a way to turn a profit on its latest big buy, Sun Microsystems, in 2010. One of the highest-paid executives in the U.S., Ellison reaped \$960 million in compensation in the past five fiscal years, mostly from exercising stock options; he recently cut his salary to \$1.

6) Lakshmi Mittal, 60 (India): \$31.3 billion (Steel)

In 2006, Financial Times named him "Person of the Year". In 2007, Time magazine included him in their "100 most influential persons in the world".

7) Amancio Ortega, 74 (Spain): \$31 billion (Zara)

The railway worker's son started as a gofer in a shirt store. With then-wife Rosalia Mera, also now a billionaire, started making dressing gowns and lingerie in their living room.

8) Eike Batista, 54 (Brazil): \$30 billion (Mining, Oil)

Batista, one of seven children of a high-level government official, got into gold at an early age and eventually controlled mines from Chile to Russia. In addition, he has been involved in energy, water, and steel companies. Now Batista is betting that Brazil will be a major oil power.

9) Mukesh Ambani, 53 (India): \$27 billion (Petrochemicals)

According to Forbes Magazine forecasts, he is expected to regain the title of the richest man in the world in 2014.

10) Christy Walton & family, 56 (US): \$ 26.5 billion (Walmart)

The world's richest woman, she got an extra bump in her fortune because of her late husband's early investment in First Solar; shares up nearly 500 percent since its 2006 initial public offering.

Our heroes are a growing list of world billionaires. Forbes Magazine which compiles a recognized rich list announced recently that the number of billionaires world-wide has increased in the last twelve months by two hundred and fourteen (214) to a new record of one thousand two hundred and ten (1,210).

"As we examine this bit further we see that the top ten are now worth \$US 406 billion and this can translate to more than the than the GDP of most of the countries in the world with only twenty-six (26) countries being worth more. An extension of this might be to look at projected world growth in the coming years and the ten richest people in the world could be big enough to join the G20".

WikiLeaks may survive its revelations of governments but it will not survive its revelations of global corporatism.