

UN panel calls WikiLeaks founder's UK sentence excessive

May 3 2019

A panel of legal experts affiliated with the United Nations has criticized the 50-week sentence a British judge imposed on WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for jumping bail.

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said Friday that Assange's punishment was "disproportionate" for his "minor violation." The panel questioned why he is being held in a high security prison "as if he were convicted for a serious criminal offense."

A judge in London sentenced the 47-year-old Assange on Wednesday for taking refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy while he was on bail awaiting extradition to Sweden

The U.N. panel declared in a non-binding 2016 opinion and again in December that Assange was being arbitrarily deprived of freedom because he feared arrest if he left the embassy.

The British government rejected the panel's conclusions.

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: UN panel calls WikiLeaks founder's UK sentence excessive (2019, May 3) retrieved 2 August 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-05-panel-wikileaks-founder-uk-sentence.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is

provided for information purposes only.