



It's the biggest intelligence breach in U.S. history - the leaking of more than half-a-million classified documents by WikiLeaks in 2010. Behind it stand two very different men: Julian Assange, the Internet activist who published the documents, and an Army intelligence analyst named Bradley Manning, who's charged with leaking the secret cables - along with a video showing US gunners "lighting up" Iraqi civilians - in the hope of inciting worldwide discussion, debates and reforms. Assange's mission has been to force the U.S. and other governments into maximum transparency through his whistle-blowing website.

Sweden's chief prosecutor had dismissed the original arrest warrant, saying there was no case for Assange to answer. Both the women involved said they had consented to have sex. On the facts alleged, no crime would have been committed in Britain.

However, it is not the Swedish judicial system that presents a "grave danger" to Assange, say his lawyers, but a legal device known as a Temporary Surrender, under which he can be sent on from Sweden to the United States secretly and quickly. The founder and editor of WikiLeaks, who published the greatest leak of official documents in history, providing a unique insight into rapacious wars and the lies told by governments, is likely to find himself in a hell hole not dissimilar to the "torturous" dungeon that held Pvt. Bradley Manning, the alleged whistleblower.

Manning has not been tried, let alone convicted, yet President Barack Obama declared him guilty with a dismissive, "He broke the law ...". However, when he was running for president, Obama, himself a constitutional lawyer, said, "Whistleblowers are part of a healthy democracy and must be protected from reprisal."