

Britain's extradition process

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is in custody in Britain after being arrested under a “fast-track” European Arrest Warrant (EAW) issued by Sweden over alleged sex crimes

Dec 7: Assange makes appearance in City of Westminster **Magistrates' Court** under EAW. **He is refused bail and remanded in custody at London's Wandsworth prison**

Dec 14: Extradition hearing in same court. If District Judge is satisfied that Assange is wanted for crimes in question, that extradition will not breach his human rights, and there are no other legal bars, then court will order him to be extradited within 10 days. **To date Assange has not been charged with alleged crimes in Sweden**

Dec 21: Deadline for Assange to appeal against extradition. Appeal process at London's **High Court** must commence within 40 days – by end of January – although court can extend period in **“interests of justice”**

Supreme Court: Should High Court uphold extradition, further appeal can be made to Britain's **Supreme Court** but only on point of law. **Supreme Court ruling is end of process**

Extradition to America: Britain and U.S. signed treaty in 2003 that lightened burden of proof needed for extradition. **U.S. need show only “reasonable suspicion” that a crime has been committed under U.S. law for Britain to hand suspect over**