

For immediate release

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An "off" program will bring Julian Assange to the Perugia Journalism Festival

Excluded from the official program of the International Journalism Festival in Perugia (#ijf24, April 17-21), Australian publisher Julian Assange will nonetheless make his presence felt there. Two "off program" events, organized by pro-Assange activists from all over Italy, will urge media professionals attending the Festival to recognize the co-founder of WikiLeaks as one of their own and his legal persecution as a heavy-handed attack on the independent press, a veritable "war on journalism."

"Stop the war on journalism: free Julian Assange" is, in fact, the title of the encounter that the activists will be holding on Saturday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m., at the ANPI Bonfigli Tomovic meeting hall on Via del Cortone 19. Speakers will be Vincenzo Vita, journalist for Il Manifesto and Articolo 21; Sara Chessa, independent journalist and author of the book "Destroying Assange - to put an end to Press Freedom," Ed. Castelvechi; Tina Marinari, Coordinator of the Free Press campaigns of Amnesty International Italy; and Mauro Volpi, Constitutionalist and expert on the Assange case. Gianni Magini of AllertaMedia will moderate. They will be asking what it means to be a journalist and if Assange fits the description.

During the encounter, footage will be shown of the 2010 Ted Talk in which Julian explains the meaning of his mission. This will be followed by a video greeting from Stella Moris Assange, Julian's wife, and an excerpt from the speech she gave at the University of Perugia last month when she received, for her husband, the Federico Caffè Prize for Journalism Serving People.

The day before, Friday April 19 at 11 a.m., a press conference will be held at the iconic newspaper kiosk at Porta Pesa, during which there will be an artistic happening staged by Liberi Edizioni to honor Julian Assange as the greatest investigative journalist of all time.

During the course of the Festival, *Activists for Assange at #ijf24* will distribute the flyer found here: www.freeassangeroma.it/6

Supporting the initiative, in addition to the ANPI chapter in Perugia, are Amnesty International Italia, Turba, AllertaMedia, Liberi Edizioni and Perugia per Assange.

