

NATION | WORLD

Ensure Assange faces rape case, UK urged

By Gregory Katz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — British lawmakers are heaping pressure on the government to make sure that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faces Swedish justice if prosecutors there reopen a rape investigation against him.

There is mounting concern that Assange should not be allowed to sidestep the Swedish investigation stemming from his 2010 visit to Sweden. The complaints from two women eventually led him to seek refuge in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London rather than return to Sweden for questioning.

Some are calling for the British government to extradite Assange



Assange

More than 70 British lawmakers signed a letter late Friday urging Home Secretary Sajid Javid to “do everything you can to champion action that will ensure Julian Assange can be extradited to Sweden in the event Sweden makes an extradition request.”

Prominent Conservative Party lawmaker Alistair Burt, a former Foreign Office minister, said Saturday that it’s “quite disturbing” to see the sexual allegations minimized.

to Sweden, if it makes an official request, rather than to the U.S., which seeks him on conspiracy charges.

He said the testimony of the two women makes it “essential” that Assange face justice, to either be cleared in a Swedish court or be convicted.

Assange, 47, has denied the sexual misconduct allegations, which he claims are politically motivated. He claims the sex was consensual.

Sweden suspended its investigation into possible sexual misconduct against Assange two years ago because he was beyond their reach while he was living in the embassy with political asylum status. Prosecutors said the investigation could be revived if his situation changed.

Assange was arrested Thursday after Ecuador withdrew his asylum. He is now in Belmarsh

Prison in southeast London, waiting to be sentenced for jumping bail in Britain and facing an extradition request from the United States on charges of conspiring to break into a Pentagon computer.

WikiLeaks says Assange will fight the U.S. extradition request and has been meeting with his legal team to plan his defense.

He has not had a chance to enter a plea in response to the U.S. charge, but he says all of his WikiLeaks actions are those of a legitimate journalist.

If Britain receives competing extradition requests, lawyers say the Home Secretary would have some leeway in deciding which takes priority. Considerations usually include which request

came first and which alleged crime is more serious.

Most of the lawmakers who signed the letter are from the opposition Labour Party, whose leader, Jeremy Corbyn, wants Britain to refuse to send Assange to the U.S. After Assange’s arrest, Corbyn praised him for exposing U.S. atrocities committed in Iraq and Afghanistan when WikiLeaks released tens of thousands of confidential U.S. documents in 2010.

British politicians are free to lobby the government for a certain course of action, but it’s up to the courts to decide whether the U.S. request for Assange’s extradition — and a possible future request from Sweden — should be honored.

Fashion brand’s fight over trademark hits high court

By Jessica Gresko
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Erik Brunetti’s four-letter fashion brand starts with an “F” and rhymes with “duct.” The federal government calls it “scandalous” and “immoral” and has refused to register the trademark. Brunetti has a different word for his brand and designs: “thought-provoking.”

“We wanted the viewer to question it: Like, is that pronounced the way I think it’s pronounced?” he said of his streetwear brand “FUCT,” which began selling clothing in 1991.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear Brunetti’s challenge to a part of federal law that says officials should refuse to register trademarks that are “scandalous” or “immoral.” Brunetti says it should be struck down as an unconstitutional restriction on speech.

The government is defending the century-old provision. The Trump administration says in court papers that the law encourages trademarks that are appropriate for all audiences. It argues it isn’t restricting speech but rather declining to promote it.

Brunetti and others like him who are denied trademark registration under the “scandalous” provision can still use the words they wanted to register for their business, nonprofit or brand. They just don’t get the benefits that come with registering a trademark. For Brunetti, that would largely mean a better ability to go after counterfeiters who knock off his designs.

Brunetti would seem to have a strong argument. Two years ago, the justices unanimously invalidated a



Damian Dovarganes / Associated Press

Los Angeles artist Erik Brunetti says the name of his streetwear clothing line is “thought-provoking.”

related provision of federal law that told officials not to register disparaging trademarks. In that case, an Asian-American rock band sued after the government refused to register its band name, “The Slants,” because it was seen as offensive to Asians.

In court, the justices had no trouble saying the band’s name, but Brunetti’s brand may be different. His lawyer, John R. Sommer, says he plans to say the individual letters of the name, “F-U-C-T,” which Brunetti sometimes does too. Another possible workaround: explaining the brand is something of an acronym for “Friends U Can’t Trust.”

Part of Sommer’s argument is what he sees as the arbitrary nature of the United States Patent and Trademark Office’s decisions about what gets tagged as scandalous or immoral. A lawyer working for the office who is from the South might find something “not nice” that wouldn’t faze a lawyer from the Bronx, Sommer said. That means “you can register profanity if you’re lucky” and you get assigned a lawyer who allows it, Sommer said.

Two New York Universi-

ty professors gave that argument substantial support in a brief they filed in the case. They showed that the office routinely refuses to register trademarks both by saying something is scandalous and, ironically, too confusingly similar to something that is already registered. For example, the office refused to register “FUKIT” for being scandalous and immoral but also confusingly similar to the already-registered “PHUKIT.” “MIDDLEFINGER” was denied after “JONNY MIDDLEFINGER” was registered, and “Ko Kane” was rejected after “Kokanee” was registered. And those are just some printable examples.

The trademark office declined to comment on the case.

If Brunetti wins, the public is unlikely to notice a whole lot of change, his lawyer said. Retailers will decide what products are appropriate for their customers, and Target and Walmart aren’t going to carry Brunetti’s brand, Sommer said.

Brunetti said he’s never met anyone truly offended by his brand.

“Most people find it clever,” he said.

Dems defend Omar from Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Top Democrats on Saturday rushed to defend Rep. Ilhan Omar after President Donald Trump retweeted video that was edited to suggest she was being dismissive of the significance of the worst terrorist assault on U.S. soil.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi scolded Trump for using the “painful images of 9/11 for a political attack” against the first-term Minnesota

Democrat.

And presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren accused Trump of “trying to incite violence and to divide us.”

The video Trump retweeted Friday pulls a snippet of Omar’s recent speech to the Council on American-Islamic Relations in which she described the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center as “some people did something,” and includes news footage of the

hijacked planes hitting the Twin Towers. Trump also tweeted, “WE WILL NEVER FORGET!”

Omar’s remark has drawn criticism largely from conservatives who say the lawmaker, one of the first Muslim women to serve in Congress, offered a flippant description of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Omar told CAIR in Los Angeles that many Muslims saw their civil liberties eroded after the attacks.

“For far too long we have lived with the discomfort of being a second-class citizen and, frankly, I’m tired of it, and every single Muslim in this country should be tired of it,” she said in the March 23 speech. “CAIR was founded after 9/11 because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties.”



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Request for Proposals RFP 19-02
Phase I Environmental Assessment Services
The Harris County Housing Authority (“HCHA”) is requesting proposal submissions from experience environmental consultants to conduct Phase I Environmental Assessment(s) for sites/properties identified by the Harris County Housing Authority. This project will be federally funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department through the Texas General Land Office (GLO), and administered by the Harris County Community Services Department (HCCSD). Bidders shall comply with regulations governing the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program. Applicable requirements include, but are not limited to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, Fair Labor Standards, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968, and contracting with small, minority, and disadvantage firms, as detailed in the RFP Packet. **Proposals Due:** April 29, 2019 at 2:00 PM. **Proposal Submission - Sealed submissions shall be submitted to:** Harris County Housing Authority, 3933 Interchange Drive, Houston, TX 77054, Attn: Affordable Housing Department. RFP #19-02 will be posted on and can be downloaded from HCHA’s website www.hchatexas.org.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON MAY 1, 2019, FOR THE FOLLOWING:
AP AUTOMATION SERVICES (RFP-1085)
A PRELIMINARY MEETING WILL BE HELD FOR THIS PROCUREMENT AT EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 E. LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 ON APRIL 16TH, 2019, AT 3:00 P.M. SO THAT PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT. FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR THIS PURCHASE MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFP FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY’S WEBSITE, <http://byspeed.poha.com/bso>, WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND “PROCUREMENT PACKAGE” DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

Sealed request for pro posals addressed to Spring Branch Independent School District, ATTN: Director of Purchasing will be received in the SBISD Purchasing Office at 1031 Witte Rd., BLDG T-1A, Houston, TX 77055-6016 until: **MAY 1, 2019 @ 11:00 AM FOR: ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYEE TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES (13365)**
PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE APRIL 17, 2019 @ 10:00 AM at the SBISD Purchasing Department, 1031 Witte Rd., Bldg. T-1A, Houston, TX 77055. Proposals will be publicly opened and read at 1031 Witte Road, Building T-1A, Houston, TX 77055, immediately following the deadline for the receiving of the proposals.
For information contact the SBISD Purchasing Department at (713) 251-1103
Proposers may register on Ion Wave website at: <https://springbranchisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Sealed request for pro posals addressed to Spring Branch Independent School District, ATTN: Director of Purchasing will be received in the SBISD Purchasing Office at 1031 Witte Rd., BLDG T-1A, Houston, TX 77055-6016 until: **MAY 1, 2019 @ 2:00 PM FOR: ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR EMPLOYEE TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES (13367)**
PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE APRIL 17, 2019 @ 10:00 AM at the SBISD Purchasing Department, 1031 Witte Rd., Bldg. T-1A, Houston, TX 77055. Proposals will be publicly opened and read at 1031 Witte Road, Building T-1A, Houston, TX 77055, immediately following the deadline for the receiving of the proposals.
For information contact the SBISD Purchasing Department at (713) 251-1103
Proposers may register on Ion Wave website at: <https://springbranchisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON MAY15, 2019 FOR THE FOLLOWING:
PURCHASE OF NEW BUSES FOR BARBOURS CUT AND BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINALS
THERE IS NO PRE-BID CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR THIS PROJECT.
VENDORS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING BIDS FOR THIS PROCUREMENT MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE PACKAGE FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY’S WEBSITE, <http://byspeed.poha.com> /bso, WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND “PROCUREMENT PACKAGE” DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

Sealed Proposal Solicitation #RN11-19
Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program
Rentals-Equipment & Portable Facilities
Pre-Proposal Conference: 4/20/19 @ 9am
Response Deadline: 6/26/19 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 6/26/19 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.
713-993-4554 or www.hgacbuy.org for info

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
FB No. 4019000102: Bike and Sidewalk Enhancements along the Red Line (Cavalcade between Fulton and Airline). Solicitation will be available on or about 04/7/2019.
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO’s website at: <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

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NOTICE OF DEEPWATER PORT APPLICATION
Texas COLT, LLC. has submitted an application under the federal Deepwater Port Act for a license to construct and operate an oil export deepwater port in the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed project includes onshore crude oil pipelines, a storage facility, and booster station in Brazoria County, and offshore pipelines terminating at a mooring buoy system about 27.8 nautical miles off the coast of Brazoria County. The application and related documents may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> under docket no. MARAD-2019-0012.

Notificación del Programa de Vales Basados en Proyectos (PBV) de la Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado de Harris para la Apertura de la Lista de Espera para The Villas of Eastwood

La Autoridad de Vivienda del Condado de Harris (HCHA) está abriendo su lista de espera de Vales Basados en Proyectos (PBV) para The Villas at Eastwood. **Preferencias de Vales PBV de HCHA:**
1) 1) La HCHA ofrecerá la primera preferencia local en la lista de espera a los antiguos inquilinos elegibles que residen en el desarrollo de ocupación de habitación individual (SRO) de Northline a partir del 24 de agosto de 2017.
2) 2) La HCHA ofrecerá la segunda preferencia local en la lista de espera a las personas elegibles que anteriormente se encontraban sin hogar o que fueron derivadas a través del Sistema de Acceso Coordinado de la comunidad a través de la Coalición de Atención Continua del Condado de Harris (CoCC). **Las unidades para PBV son eficientes y apartamentos de una (1) habitación en The Villas at Eastwood ubicado en 1933 Hussion St., Houston, TX.**

Las solicitudes de PBV estarán disponibles en línea por un período de inscripción limitado desde el lunes 29 de abril de 2019 a las 8:00 a.m. hasta el martes 30 de abril de 2019 a las 5:00 p.m.
Los solicitantes pueden presentar su solicitud las 24 horas del día en nuestro sitio web: <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/TX1735>. No se aceptarán solicitudes en papel en ninguna de las propiedades de HCHA o en la oficina central. Los solicitantes que necesitan ayuda para completar la solicitud debido a una discapacidad pueden realizar una solicitud de adaptación razonable a HCHA al 713-578-2100 o www.hchatexas.org.
Todos los solicitantes entrarán en una lotería de la cual se seleccionarán 1000 solicitantes para la lista de espera de PBV. Una lotería aleatoria generada por computadora se llevará a cabo el miércoles 1 de mayo de 2019. Después del 1 de mayo de 2019, los solicitantes pueden visitar <http://www.waitlistcheck.com> para determinar si fueron seleccionados al azar para la lista de espera de PBV.

Harris County Housing Authority Project-Based Voucher Program (PBV) Notification for Opening of Waitlist for The Villas at Eastwood
The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) is opening its Project-Based Voucher (PBV) waitlist for The Villas at Eastwood.

HCHA PBV Voucher Preferences:
1) The HCHA will offer the waiting list **first local preference** to eligible former tenants residing at the Northline Single Room Occupancy (SRO) development as of August 24, 2017.
2) The HCHA will offer the waiting list **second local preference** to eligible individuals who were formerly homeless or referred through the community-wide Coordinated Access System via Harris County Continuum of Care Coalition (CoCC).
The units for PBV are efficiencies and one (1) bedroom apartments at The Villas at Eastwood located at 1933 Hussion St., Houston, TX.

The PBV applications will be available online for a limited enrollment period from Monday, April 29, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. to Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants may apply 24 hours a day at our website: <https://www.waitlistcheck.com/TX1735>. Paper applications will not be accepted at any of HCHA’s properties or central office.
Applicants who need help completing the application due to a disability can make a reasonable accommodation request to HCHA at 713-578-2100 or www.hchatexas.org.

All applicants will be entered into a lottery from which 1000 applicants will be selected for the PBV waitlist. A computer-generated random lottery will be conducted Wednesday, May 1, 2019. After May 1, 2019 applicants may go to www.waitlistcheck.com to determine if they were randomly selected for the PBV waitlist.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
RFP No. 4019000120 For: Turnkey Operation of Northwest BOF. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/15/2019.
RFP No. 4019000087 For: Auto, Truck, Motorcycle & Property Appraisals. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/15/2019.
RFP No. 4019000089 For: 1900 Main Deep Cleaning. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/16/2019.
IFB No. 4019000073 For: Ekoslide Rollers. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/15/2019.
IFB No. 4019000074 For: Rail Grinding Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 4/15/2019.
IFB No. 4019000106 For: Track Geometry Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 04/15/2019.
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO’s website at: <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

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