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Assange awarded Gold Peace Award

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1535706/assange-awarded-gold-peace-award>

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been given a peace award by the Sydney Peace Institute for his pursuit of human rights.

'The Sydney Peace Medal acknowledges Assange's courage and determination to increase the capacity of citizens all over the world to engage with democratic principles, emphasizing that truth is integral in any quest for justice,' the institute said on its website.

The Sydney Peace Foundation gave the gold award out for only the third time in its 14-year history, the other recipients being the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and Japanese Buddhist leader Daisaku Ikeda, according to London's Frontline Club for journalists.

The award was handed out at the Club where former World News Australia presenter and former Chair of the Foundation, Mary Kostakidis, described WikiLeaks as an 'ingenious and heroic' website that 'exposes what governments get up to in our name', the club's site reports.

Director of the Sydney Peace Foundation professor Stuart Rees said the Australian government should support a citizen who has 'broken no law.'

'By challenging centuries old practices of government secrecy and by championing people's right to know, WikiLeaks and Julian Assange have created the potential for a new order in journalism and in the free flow of information.'