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1. Scathing attacks on Rudd revealed in US diplomatic cables, Philip Dorling, SMH, 2010-12-08

The Herald has secured access to hundreds of WikiLeaks documents that reveal US embassy assessments of Australia on a range of important issues. The US regards the Foreign Affairs Minister, Kevin Rudd, as an abrasive, impulsive "control freak" who presided over a series of foreign policy blunders during his time as prime minister, according to a series of secret diplomatic cables.

<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/us-condemns-rudd-20101207-18obr.html>

- [Secret US Embassy Cables](#), WikiLeaks

2. Rudd meets a brutal reality, John Garnaut, SMH, 2010-1-

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Rudd's unsolicited enthusiasm "to deploy force if everything goes wrong" and his willingness to posit Australia directly against China's growing military capability seems unnecessary, given the vast and growing gap between Australian and Chinese capabilities. It also seems short-sighted, given how tightly our economies, people and political and physical environments are intertwined. Australia should not be signalling to Washington, let alone Beijing, that it ranks China closer to an enemy than friend, given what's at stake if that favour is repaid.

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/rudd-meets-a-brutal-reality-20101207-18oaz.html>

- [Deploy force as necessary: Rudd](#), James Massola, Australian, 2010-12-06

3. Outrage and Apologies: Washington Fights to Rebuild Battered Reputation, Spiegel International Online, 2010-1-06

Her face has seemed frozen in place for days. She looks peaked, thin-lipped and serious, very serious. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is currently enduring the consequences of what is probably the biggest indiscretion in the history of diplomacy, and it shows.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,733088,00.html>

- [WikiLeaks Diplomatic Cables](#), Siegel Online, 2010-12-08

4. The WikiLeaks wake up call, John Naughton, Al Jazeera, 2010-12-07

The current row over the latest WikiLeaks trove of classified US diplomatic cables has four sobering implications. The first is that it represents the first really sustained confrontation between the established order and the culture of the Net. Secondly, the one thing that might explain the official hysteria about the revelations is the way they comprehensively expose the way political elites in Western democracies have been lying to their electorates. Thirdly, the attack of WikiLeaks ought to be a wake-up call for anyone who has rosy fantasies about whose side cloud computing providers are on. Finally, what WikiLeaks is exposing is the way the Western democratic system has been hollowed out

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2010/12/20101279213237416.html>

- ['The truth will always win' - Julian Assange writes](#), Australian, 2010-12-07
- [Blowing the whistle: Inside the guarded, sometimes paranoid world of WikiLeaks](#), Andrew Fowler, Al Jazeera, 2010-07-28

5. Call to beef up Torres Strait police, Sarah Elks, Australian, 201-12-07

Australian policing levels need boosting in the Torres Strait to cope with local concerns about security threats from Papua New Guinea. Alleged threats include gang rape, kidnapping and major theft. In a wide-ranging report on the Torres Strait, the Senate's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee recommended the Queensland government increase the powers of its community police officers in the region and suggested the Australian Federal Police review its presence in the Torres Strait.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/call-to-beef-up-torres-strait-police/story-fn59nm2j-1225966648488>

- [The Torres Strait: Bridge and Border](#), Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee, Parliament of Australia, 2010-11-26
- [Travel advice: Papua New Guinea](#), DFAT
- [The Torres Strait Treaty and You](#), DFAT

6. Cameron eyes 2011 Afghan pullout, Al Jazeera, 2010-1-07

The UK prime minister, visiting Afghanistan on an unannounced trip, has said British troops could start withdrawing from the country as early as next year. "In terms of next year I think that it is possible. We have to deliver on the ground what's necessary. What I have seen today gives me cause of cautious optimism," Cameron said on Tuesday. Cameron has earlier made clear he hopes all British troops will be out of Afghanistan by 2015.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2010/12/201012754011883421.html>

- [Foreign fighters bolster Taliban](#), Al Jazeera, 2010-12-07

7. Judge dismisses bid to remove Anwar al-Awlaki from US 'kill list', Warren Richey, Christian Science Monitor, 2010-12-07

A federal judge in Washington ruled on Tuesday that he lacks the authority to hear a lawsuit that sought to block the US government from carrying out the targeted killing of an American citizen hiding in Yemen who is suspected of involvement in terror operations. US District Judge John Bates dismissed a lawsuit filed by the father of Anwar al-Awlaki, a dual US-Yemen citizen, who is reportedly on a US "kill list" of terrorism suspects. His ruling clears the way for the Obama administration to conduct the targeted killing - without judicial oversight.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2010/1207/Judge-dismisses-bid-to-remove-Anwar-al-Awlaki-from-US-kill-list>

- [Targeted Killing: "A Unique and Extraordinary Case"](#), Blog of Rights, ACLU, 2010-12-07
- [Al-Awlaki Decision Leaves Key Questions Unanswered](#), Daphne Eviatar, Human Rights First, 2010-

12-07

- [Study on targeted killings: Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions](#), Philip Alston, Human Rights Council, General Assembly, United Nations, 2010-05-28 [188 Kb PDF]
- [Yemen: Background and U.S. Relations](#), Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, 2010-11-01 [452 Kb PDF]
- [Legal challenge to US assassination policy divides rights groups](#), Guardian, 2010-11-15

8. 2010 PwC Melbourne Institute Asialink Index, Asialink, 2010-12-03 [5 Mb PDF]

Tracking 2009 along seven critical indicators - trade, investment, research and business development, education, tourism, migration and humanitarian assistance - the Index reveals that recent growth in our engagement was substantially curtailed, and there were falls in three components. Under pressure of the global financial crisis, the flattening was driven by trade - specifically a decline in imports - and overall investment flows between Australia and Asia. A slowdown in the rapid growth of recent years in the education and migration components was also a contributor.

http://www.asialink.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/33646/PwC-MI-Asialink_Index_2010.pdf

9. Two thirds of states seen highly vulnerable to climate change by 2030, Megan Rowling, Reuters AlertNet , 2010-12-03

Around two thirds of countries will become highly vulnerable to climate change by 2030, unless efforts to tackle global warming are stepped up fast, according to an international index launched on Friday. Those hardest-hit today are mainly fragile or failed states, including Afghanistan, Haiti, Myanmar and Somalia, as well as west African countries prone to food shortages.

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/two-thirds-of-states-seen-highly-vulnerable-to-climate-change-by-2030>

- [The State of the Climate Crisis](#), Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010, DARA and Climate Vulnerable Forum
- [Cancun Climate Summit: Can Rainforests Be Saved With Cash Injections?](#) Christian Schwägerl and Gerald Traufetter, Spiegel Online, 2010-12-07
- [No REDD - A Reader](#), Joanna Cabello and Tamra Gilbertson (eds.), REDD Monitor and Carbon Trade Watch, December 2010 [3.4 Mb PDF]

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