

Office of the Hon
John Ruddick MLC



A free press is a free West

I salute the professional bravery and journalist integrity of veteran American journalist Mr Tucker Carlson.

Carlson recently ventured to Russia and has interviewed President Vladimir Putin regarding the ongoing military conflict in Ukraine.

Shortly after Carlson announced his interview he was subject to an onslaught of wild and aggressive accusations from European Union officials and progressive (regressive) politicians and pundits in the United States.

Belgian politician Guy Verhofstadt (who previously visited former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi) has called for a travel ban to imposed on Carlson, neo-conservative zealot Bill Kristol has called Carlson a traitor and the Ukranian government has officially decreed Carlson a Russian accomplice and demanded his arrest.

I strongly disagree with the neo-conservative agitators and propagandists who would seek to punish Carlson for fulfilling his duty as a journalist.

The United States has provided more than \$75 billion in military aid to Ukraine with more on the way and Australia so far has provided \$910 million in military aid.

We are invested in this conflict.



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English writer Robert Fisk interviewed Osama Bin Laden on several occasions, New York times journalist interviewed Gaddafi, freelance journalist Nate Thayer interviewed Pol Pot and a variety of CNN journalists have interviewed Putin over the years.

Are these journalists all traitors as well?

I for one will be watching to Carlson's interview with Putin when it airs at 10 am Sydney time; it is our duty as citizens of Australia to be widely informed and that means having a free press rather than a controlled media.

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