

By David Edwards

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Former Bush political strategist Karl Rove may be connected to a Swedish effort to prosecute WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, sources for several legal experts suggest.

Rove is a longtime adviser to Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, who recently tapped the Republican operative to aid his 2010 reelection campaign.

Speaking to Legal Schnauzer's Robert Shuler, an unnamed source [suggested](#) that Rove is likely "playing a leading role in the effort to prosecute" Assange. The founder of the secrets website [was arrested](#) Dec. 7 in London after Sweden issued a warrant for alleged sex crimes.

After Assange's release on bail, *Guardian* obtained and published [leaked details](#) of the allegations against him. A WikiLeaks source [told](#) [The Australian](#) that the leaked police reports were "a selective smear through the disclosure of material."

And there's no coincidence that the charges against Assange originate in Sweden, Shuler's source said.

For at least 10 years, Rove has been connected to Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik. More recently, Fredrik, who is known as "the Ronald Reagan of Europe," has contracted Rove to help with his 2010 re-election campaign.

Rove was said to have [fled to Sweden](#) during the prosecution of former Alabama Democratic Gov. Don Siegelman, who believes his prosecution to have been politically motivated.

"Clearly, it appears that [Rove], who claims to be of Swedish descent, feels a kinship to Sweden . . . and he has taken advantage of it several times," the source added.

Shuler's source speculated that Rove could be trying to protect the Bush legacy from documents that WikiLeaks may have. "The very guy who has released the documents that damage the Bushes the most is also the guy that the Bush's number one operative can control by being the Swedish prime minister's brain and intelligence and economic advisor."

Following up on Shuler's report, Washington, DC legal reform advocate [Andrew Kreig](#) noted a "reliable political source" in citing Rove's Swedish connection.

"This all has Karl's signature," the source said. "He must be very happy. He's right back in the middle of it. He's making himself valuable to his new friends, seeing the U.S. government doing just what he'd like - and screwing his opponents big-time."

WikiLeaks and its partners in the mainstream media recently revealed that the Swedish administration kept anti-terrorism efforts with the US under the table and effectively hidden from parliament.

Julian Assange was recently released from a British prison on bail, pending an extradition hearing related to the Swedish allegations. US authorities said they were studying whether he could be prosecuted for espionage or conspiracy.