

## Heaven Can't Wait

### Information Paradise

I was leading when the investigation into the causes of the Icelandic financial crisis...and I was very impressed by the work of WikiLeaks. We wondered how the big bankers were able to lead the country to ruin and no one has seen anything. Julian Assange then arrived with the idea to make Iceland a place where journalists could not be pursued, a kind of information paradise. This concept has had a huge impact and led to the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative project, to which I belong and which is still ongoing.

—Eva Joly, anti-corruption investigating judge, French member of the European Parliament. Rise Up Times/Paris Match, April 18, 2014



*Birgitta Jónsdóttir, member of the Icelandic parliament and an antiwar, transparency and internet activist. She produced the documentary, "Collateral Murder" with Julian Assange, and works with the Icelandic Modern Media Initiative and in defense of whistleblowers.*

*Photo: Creative Commons*

### Eternal Sunshine of the Optimist's Mind

I'm a chronic optimist. Whenever something goes wrong I see opportunities. I don't know how many times I speak to people in the States and they're all, "We can't change anything." As soon as we allow ourselves to believe that things are fixed then they're unchangeable. But there is absolutely nothing fixed....Everybody needs to understand—I don't care who it is, that is receiving this message—if you live in a democracy I got news for you: It is work. It is work, and it's a lot of work, and particularly if your democracy is all wrong like most of our democracies. We need to

recreate new systems. We've been fed these constant lies about that there are no alternatives. But they're everywhere. We just need to find likeminded people, and they're everywhere, too. We're not alone.

—Birgitta Jónsdóttir, interview: “Icelandic Activist Birgitta Jónsdóttir Reveals How WikiLeaks Changed Her Country Forever,” from the series, “Eyes Wide Open,” October 17, 2013, [takeapart.com](http://takeapart.com)

#### Blessed with 100% Renewable

A perfect storm of climate and geology—the “Fire and Ice” of volcanic heat and glacial rivers has blessed the island with natural energy resources. Together with political will and contemporary technology, it has shed its former dependence on fossil fuels so that presently hydro- and geothermal resources supply almost 100% of Iceland's consumption of electricity and heating, the highest percent of renewable energy in the world. Due to the fact that Iceland is not dependent on fossil fuels, its residents pay very little for energy, which enhances their ability to maintain a comfortable standard of living. Its power plants have been called “spotless” with some even acting as “stunning examples of modern industrial architecture,” and it has nearly eliminated global warming gases.

—Orkustofnun, National Energy Authority of Iceland, [nea.is](http://nea.is); ASKJA Energy, [askjaenergy.org](http://askjaenergy.org); Renewable Economy, [reneweconomy.com](http://reneweconomy.com)