

National Post

Kelly McParland: Sea Shepherd's Watson flees Germany, treating th his usual contempt

Kelly McParland Jul 26, 2012 – 12:31 PM ET | Last Updated: Jul 26, 2012 1:28 PM ET



Paul Watson, head of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, addresses supporters after his arrest in Germany

Paul [Watson](#), the self-aggrandizing Toronto-born founder of the Sea Shepherd Society, is officially a fu
Watson [skipped bail](#) in Germany and has disappeared, according to German officials. He was arrested
request of Costa Rica, which wants him on charges of endangering the crew of a fishing vessel that was

Japan, which has long sought Watson over his numerous attacks on Japanese vessels, is also believed to be jumping bail. Watson left behind his passport and forfeited bail of more than \$300,000.

His flight should probably not come as a surprise. Watson, an extremist too fanatical for his former colleagues, regularly treats human life as a secondary concern and the law as an inconvenience. He revels in his irreverent campaigning to rid the world of the whaling industry by whatever means necessary, and has glamourized enough to attract financial support from well-meaning backers and shallow Hollywood types willing to show contempt for the safety of others.

Watson was being sought by Costa Rica after ramming a boat he claimed was hunting sharks for their food on the authority of the Guatemalan government, but fled when Guatemala sent gunboats to intercept him. After he attempted murder, he fled again until being arrested in Germany. Now he insists the charges are political and he will be killed if returned to Costa Rica.

There is a lot in Watson that brings to mind another self-appointed crusader and fanatic, Julian Assange, who is at the British embassy in London, trying to avoid extradition to Sweden on rape charges. Both men see themselves as above normal legal standards, justify their actions on self-serving criteria, display overt signs of paranoia, and are terrified of ever facing the cost of their actions. Neither does their cause much good by treating it as a political issue.

National Post

Posted in: [Full Comment](#) Tags: [Costa Rica](#), [Greenpeace](#), [Julian Assange](#), [Paul Watson](#), [Sea Shepherd Society](#)



KELLY MCPARLAND

kmcparland@nationalpost.com

Kelly McParland: Home will look mighty good to 'kiss my ass' Romney campaign

Kelly McParland: Cellphone use in cars is a great method of population control

Barack Obama: 'Help me Bill Clinton'

Kelly McParland: China demands silence on wealth of president-to-be Xi Jinping

Kelly McParland: Romney unveils foreign policy that gets tough on Gorbachev

MC