

The Rt. Hon. Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF

30 March 2022

Dear Ms Patel,

Re: The life or death of Julian Assange.

We are writing to you as concerned citizens from Austria who followed the Assange case from the very beginning, but more particularly since the British authorities dragged him out of the Ecuadorian Embassy.

We watched as the judge sentenced him to 50 weeks in jail for jumping bail, the harshest ever sentence for such an offense meted out, we are told. Should we mention here that the judge (Lady Arbuthnot) had a conflict of interest and did not recuse herself from the case?

We watched the whole procedure at the Magistrate Court unfold and will refrain here from any comments on said proceedings, suffice it to say, they reflected very badly on the British system of justice. We read about judge Baraitser's ruling on the 18 points presented by the USA and again wondered about the British system of justice and interpretation of laws.

We could go into details; there are many examples to give of what we, the public, conceive as being harassment and torture. There are however the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture whose report was completely ignored by the UK Government. Is the function of this Rapporteur to be valid only for other, so-called totalitarian, countries and not in our "democracies"? The double-standard is intolerable.

We also watched as the extradition request was refused due to the well-known prison conditions in the USA and the danger to Mr. Assange's life.

We watched as the USA submitted their appeal, saying that Mr. Assange was malingering, and we watched their attempt to discredit the doctors who had

examined Mr. Assange and attempting to discard their reports because they had not mentioned Mr. Assange's family. We watched the total disregard of their opinions, including their own psychiatrist's who had also omitted mention of Mr. Assange's partner and their children.

We watched the High Court accept the USA diplomatic assurances, notwithstanding the fact that the USA had plotted to kill him. And we watched this decision being read on 10 December 2021, on Human Rights' Day of all days!

And we watched the Supreme Court stating there was no point of law to be clarified. We are stunned.

We watched the whole time he was kept in Belmarsh, under the harshest possible conditions though accused of no crime in the UK, and only at the behest of the USA; and we watched as, with every appearance, his health was disintegrating. We are not supposed to see Mr. Assange, we should forget him, and therefore, no photographs were allowed of him and his bride either. What a shame!

Julian Assange is a political prisoner who founded WikiLeaks for the truth. We all know that the truth is very often embarrassing when "crimes" are exposed, especially when they were covered-up under the seal of secrecy. In order to form our own opinion on any issue, we need to know about all the facets of said issue.

It is high time that the British authorities and government put an end to this surreal political persecution of a journalist and publisher. We ask you to do the right thing, i.e. you must reject the extradition request and set Julian Assange free in order to restore public trust worldwide in the honesty and justice of the UK's legal system. The final decision is in your hands and you have the power to please free Assange now.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of #candles4Assange Vienna