



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Robert Buckland QC  
Secretary of State for Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
102 Petty France  
London, SW1H 9AJ

16 December 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

**Request for a Video Meeting between UK Parliamentarians and Julian Assange**

We are writing to request that provision be made to hold an online video discussion between Julian Assange and a cross-party group of UK parliamentarians.

As you will be aware, Julian Assange is currently on remand in HMP Belmarsh. He faces extradition to the USA for his journalistic work with Wikileaks including information exposing US war atrocities in Afghanistan and Iraq. In the US, Julian Assange faces a prison sentence of up to 175 years, meaning he could spend the rest of his life in jail.

This case has important implications for press and publishing freedoms in the UK, for the US-UK Extradition Treaty including its ban on extradition for political offences and for wider human rights.

Amnesty International has expressed concern about the implications of this case on press freedom stating that “prosecuting Julian Assange on these charges could have a chilling effect on the right to freedom of expression”.

A group of UK parliamentarians recently met with Nils Melzer, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, regarding the Julian Assange case and were concerned with his conclusions that Mr Assange’s human rights are being violated. We would also like to discuss this with Mr Assange.

Mr Assange is held in HMP Belmarsh only on remand, awaiting the extradition hearing and not for any violations of UK law. Given this, provision should be made for him to

communicate with UK lawmakers deeply concerned by the implications of this unprecedented extradition case.

We would like to discuss these issues with Mr Assange ahead of the extradition decision in his case that will be taken at the Old Bailey on 4 January 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgon MP

Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP  
Apsana Begum MP  
Baroness Blower  
Ian Byrne MP  
Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Rt Hon David Davis MP  
Lord Hendy QC  
Ian Lavery MP

Kenny MacAskill MP  
Angus MacNeil MP  
Rt Hon John McDonnell MP  
Kate Osborne MP  
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP  
Zarah Sultana MP  
Claudia Webbe MP  
Mick Whitley MP