



Sevim Dağdelen

Member of the German Bundestag

Bijan Djir-Sarai

Member of the German Bundestag

Frank Heinrich

Member of the German Bundestag

Frank Schwabe

Member of the German Bundestag

Margit Stumpp

Member of the German Bundestag

Cross-party Free Julian Assange working group founded in the German Bundestag

Members of the German Bundestag Sevim Dagdelen (The Left Party), Bijan Djir-Sarai (FDP), Frank Heinrich (CDU), Frank Schwabe (SPD) and Margit Stumpp (Alliance 90/The Greens) issued the following statement on the founding of the Free Julian Assange working group:

“We founded this working group out of great concern for the life of journalist and Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, who has been in solitary confinement and in a critical condition for over 18 months at the high security Belmarsh Prison in the UK and whose extradition to the US is to be decided upon on 4 January 2021. As a joint initiative of members of all democratic parliamentary groups in the German Bundestag, we want to send a clear signal of support for the protection of the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press, which are threatened by Julian Assange’s impending extradition.”

Sevim Dagdelen (The Left Party) stated the following: “Julian Assange’s extradition to the US, where he faces up to 175 years in prison, must be prevented at all costs. The extradition process sets a precedent for journalists worldwide – defending Julian Assange’s freedom is about no less than defending freedom itself.”

Bijan Djir-Sarai (FDP) stated the following: “Julian Assange’s state of health is extremely precarious after years of being subjected to systematic surveillance, isolation and harassment. Medical reasons alone are sufficient grounds to justify Julian Assange’s release from prison. Human rights are universal and indivisible.”

Frank Heinrich (CDU) stated the following: “Regardless of where you stand on Assange’s political views, calling for him to enjoy a fair trial and for his civil rights to be defended must be a matter of course.”



Frank Schwabe (SPD) stated the following: “Julian Assange published classified information about corruption and war crimes. Freedom of the media is a basic prerequisite for a functioning democracy.”

Margit Stumpp (Alliance 90/The Greens) stated the following: “This trial is an acid test for the Western community of shared values. Thanks to a wide range of protests and expressions of solidarity, the Assange case has entered the public consciousness. We must now continue to bring political pressure to bear together.”