



Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

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Teach Laighean
Sráid Chill Dara
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Mr Paul Johnston Ambassador,
Embassy of the United Kingdom,
Ballsbridge,
29 Merrion Rd,
Dublin 4

22/02/2021

Dear Ambassador,

As a group of Irish parliamentarians, we are writing to request a video meeting with the imprisoned journalist and publisher Julian Assange. We make this request because while we welcome the Court decision not to extradite Julian, we are deeply concerned his continued imprisonment endangers his life and therefore violates his human rights. We wish to speak to him directly via a video meeting to establish his situation.

At the hearing last September in the Old Bailey a week was spent considering the medical evidence in relation to Julian Assange. While the court refused to make these statements public, unlike other expert witnesses, we have been made aware of the harrowing details.

On December 4th Judge Baraitser accepted most of the doctors' and psychiatrists' conclusions. Julian has both personal and family history of being at risk of suicide. He suffers deep, long-term depression. He also has Autism spectrum disorders. The harsh environment of Belmarsh high security prison is not compatible for someone with his perilous health problems.

Indeed, it is the independent view of Prof Nils Melzer, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, that Julian's imprisonment amounts to "psychological torture".

As Irish parliamentarians we cannot fail to notice the uncanny coincidence that the decision to keep Julian Assange imprisoned was taken in the very same courtroom where the Guildford 4 were wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1975.



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Taking all of this into account we believe it is our international duty as parliamentarians on the neighbouring island of Ireland to seek a video meeting with him.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Andrews TD	Thomas Pringle TD
Richard Boyd-Barrett TD	Brid Smith TD
Martin Brown TD	Pauline Tully TD
Pat Buckley TD	Violet-Anne Wynne TD
Sorca Clarke TD	Senator Frances Black
Joan Collins TD	Senator Paul Gavan
Catherine Connolly TD	Senator Vincent P. Martin
Pa Daly TD	Senator David Norris
Mairéad Farrell TD	Senator Fintan Warfield
Johnny Guirke TD	
Gino Kenny TD	