To the kind attention of
Mme Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Mr Charles Michel, President of the Council of the European Council
Mr Josep Borrell, High Representative/Vice President
Mr David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
Mme Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Values and Transparency

For the last 11 years Julian Assange, has been at the centre of a complex diplomatic and legal case with unprecedented geopolitical ramifications.

In 2006 Assange founded the website wikileaks.org (WikiLeaks) with the aim of offering a free space to whistleblowers willing to publish sensitive and compromising documents, anonymously and without the possibility of being traced.

In October 2010, WikiLeaks published videos and diplomatic documents related to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It was one of the biggest leaks in history documenting abuses by US forces, including the killing of dozens of civilians, including two Reuters journalists, by a US Apache helicopter gunship in Baghdad in 2007.

As of 11 April 2019, he has been incarcerated in the United Kingdom at Her Majesty Prison Belmarsh, first for breach of bail terms and then in connection with an overdue extradition request made by the United States of America for charges of conspiracy and espionage.

After almost 11 years, the ongoing case against Julian Assange represents a persecution against the person and a retaliation against the WikiLeaks project. Especially now that the current crisis in Afghanistan has put the controversial causes and dynamics of war back at the centre of global debate, we feel it is our duty as representatives of the European democracies to restate our support for those who fight for the sake of good information and transparency, at the service of the citizens.

For this reason, we ask EU institutions to use all the necessary tools to ensure that UK authorities match the gravity of Mr Assange’s situation with an appropriate level of protection, in line with the demands of the UN rapporteur on torture and the Council of Europe, the highest institution for the rule of law and the protection of human rights, of which the UK is a founding member.

This is an opportunity to implement the recommendations drawn up by this Parliament in November 2020\(^1\), which it recognises “the crucial role that investigative journalists play in

---

\(^1\) European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2020 on strengthening media freedom: the protection of journalists in Europe, hate speech, disinformation and the role of platforms (2020/009(INI))
holding power to account and performing their functions as watchdogs for democracy and the rule of law” and “condemns the use of SLAPP to silence or intimidate investigative journalists and outlets and create a climate of fear around their reporting of certain topics”.

With this letter, we call on EU institutions to take any useful initiatives within their competences, including under international conventions and specifically the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in order to ensure the protection and safety of Julian Assange under the custody of British authorities and to prevent his extradition.

Yours faithfully,

Rosa D’Amato, Greens/EFA
Eleonora Evi, Greens/EFA
Ignazio Corrao, Greens/EFA
Piernicola Pedicini, Greens/EFA
Diana Riba i Giner, Greens/EFA
Benoît Biteau, Greens/EFA
Mounir Satouri, Greens/EFA
Patrick Breyer, Greens/EFA
Markéta Gregorová, Greens/EFA
Marcel Kolaja, Greens/EFA
Mikuláš Peksa, Greens/EFA
Kateřina Konečná, GUE/NGL
Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó, Non attached
Antoni Comín i Oliveres, Non attached
Clara Ponsatí Oblols, Non attached
Anja Hazekamp, GUE/NGL
Martin Buschmann, Non attached
Milan Brglez, S&D
Pernando Barrena Arza, GUE/NGL
Clare Daly, GUE/NGL
Mick Wallace, GUE/NGL
Özlem Demirel, GUE/NGL
Ismail Ertug, S&D
Dietmar Koster, S&D
Síra Rego, GUE/NGL
Manu Pineda, GUE/NGL
José Gusmão, GUE/NGL
Michèle Rivasi, Greens/EFA
Kostas Arvanitis GUE/NGL
Stelios Kouloglou GUE/NGL
Sabrina Pignedoli, Non attached
Marisa Matias, GUE/NGL
Ivan Vilibor Sinčić, Non attached
Cornelia Ernst, GUE/NGL