

## **Assange's imprisonment and threat to extradite him are assaults on press freedom around the world**

On 3 May 2022, World Press Freedom Day, journalists around the world make it their duty to pay tribute to Julian Assange.

Through his struggle, determination and example, Assange has been instrumental to advancing knowledge and protecting the right to information around the world.

Incarcerated in a maximum security prison in England and threatened with extradition to the United States, where he could face life imprisonment and the death penalty, his "crime" is well known. He revealed secrets of the war machines of the great powers, in particular the US empire and close allies.

He exposed lies, unmasked false heroes, and uncovered shady dealings between governments. He verified allegations of execution and torture of prisoners and journalists.

In an example of professional rigour, his revelations were always accompanied by extensive documentation, photos and videos whose veracity was never questioned.

This is the tragedy of freedom of the press on this May 3, 2022. Assange is being persecuted - and may lose his life - because he dared to tell the truth. He did not misrepresent the facts, he did not omit, he did not lie or deceive. Nor did he lack the courage to denounce what he discovered. He merely fulfilled his duty to state the harsh reality of this 21st century of ours.

Because of the responsibilities he took on, because of the risks he faced, Assange's stay in prison represents a step towards the creation of a state of exception on a global scale. A state-compatible with a new international disorder that is already on

the horizon, threatening the freedom of men and women and the self-determination of peoples.

In the name of his right to freedom - and for the preservation of conquests that concern all of humanity - there is only one right measure to take: Free Julian Assange now.

Brazilian Association of Journalism Education - ABEJ

Brazilian Press Association - ABI

Brazilian Association of Digital Media - ABMD

Brazilian Association of Journalism Researchers - SBPJOR

Association of Journalism Professionals - APJor

Centro Acadêmico Benedito Paixão - Journalism - PUC-SP

Centro Acadêmico Vladimir Herzog - Journalism - Cásper Líbero

National Federation of Journalists - FENAJ

Vladimir Herzog Institute - IVH

Brazilian Network of Environmental Journalism - RBJA

Network of Journalists for Diversity in Communication – Black Journalists (Rede de Jornalistas pela Diversidade na Comunicação - Jornalistas Pretos)

Union of Professional Journalists of Minas Gerais - SJMG

Union of Professional Journalist of Noth Paraná - Sindijor – Paraná

Union of Professional Day Laborers in the State of São Paulo - SJSP

Union of Professional Journalists of Rio de Janeiro - SJPERJ

Union of Professional Journalists of Bahia - SinjorBA

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Brazil - May 3, 2022.