

The Rt. Hon Priti Patel
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
19 May 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you with deep concerns for the safety of Mr Julian Paul Assange who is facing extradition to the United States. I am writing to ask you to reject the US government's extradition request of Mr Assange, a decision now under the responsibility of the Secretary of State.

On 4 January 2021, the British court barred Mr Assange extradition on the grounds of section 91 of the Extradition Act 2003. [The court ruled](#) that Mr Assange's "*suicidal impulses would come from his psychiatric diagnoses rather than his own voluntary act*", rendering "oppressive" in terms of the law to extradite him". The Court recognised that there is a great likelihood that if extradite, that Mr Assange will end his own life.

The [United Nations Official report](#) also concluded on 1 November 2019 that "[u]nless the UK urgently changes course and alleviates his inhumane situation, Mr. Assange's continued exposure to arbitrariness and abuse may soon end up costing his life." The extradition to the United States will aggravate those conditions. Over [60 doctors](#) from around the world raised concerns about the precarious state of Mr. Assange's physical and mental health which included fears for his life. [The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute states](#) that, in view of Mr Assange being a victim of psychological torture, his extradition to the USA would be also illegal under international human rights law.

The [Council of Europe](#) considers that Mr Assange's treatment to be among "the most severe threats to media freedom".

[Amnesty International](#), human rights organisations, [legal](#), [medical](#) and other professional associations have called for Mr Assange's immediate release. They condemned the illegality of this extradition proceedings under procedural (breach of the right of a fair trial) and material grounds.

The [EU Parliament](#), Parliamentarians, [head of states and former head of States world-wide](#), legal practitioners and legal academics express concerns about the violations of Mr. Julian Assange's fundamental human, civil and political rights and the precedent his persecution is setting.

I join the growing collective concerns, which have been expressed about the violations of Mr. Julian Assange's fundamental human, civil and political rights and the precedent his persecution is setting for press freedom and the assertion of the universal jurisdiction of the United States of America. The United Kingdom, a sovereign country with longstanding tradition in the upholding the rule of law, should refuse the abusive and illegal extradition request by the United States of America.

Former Secretary of State for the Home Department, Theresa May, has correctly halted Gary McKinnon's extradition in recognition of the same psychiatric condition as Mr Assange.

There could be potentially fatal consequences if the United Kingdom chooses to pursue this extradition. Therefore, I urge you, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, to uphold the rule of law and reject the extradition order. Alternatively, to allow his case to be heard in the criminal justice system in the UK.

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

Nobel Prize for Peace