



Members of the German Bundestag

To:

Mr Richard Burgon MP	Ms Claudia Webbe MP
Mr David Davis MP	Ms Kate Osborne MP
Ms Diane Abbot MP	Mr Ian Lavery MP
Ms Caroline Lucas MP	Ms Zarah Sultana MP
Mr Tommy Sheppard MP	Ms Joanna Cherry MP
Mr John McDonnell MP	Mr Martyn Day MP
Mr Jeremy Corbyn MP	Mr Stuart C McDonald MP
Mr Kenny MacAskill MP	Mr Hywel Williams MP
Ms Apsana Begum MP	Mr Grahame Morris MP
Mr Ian Byrne MP	Mr Ben Lake MP
Mr Neale Hanvey MP	Mr Tony Lloyd MP
Ms Bell Addy-Ribeiro MP	Ms Rachael Maskell MP

--- via e-mail ---

Berlin, May 3, 2022

Subject: Concern for Julian Assange, founder of the platform Wikileaks

Dear honourable Members of Parliament,
Esteemed colleagues in the United Kingdom,

As a cross-party group of parliamentarians of the German Bundestag, we have the honour to reach out to you, and to ask for your attention in a case that is currently of great concern to us, knowing that we share a mutual concern for the protection as well as the implementation of internationally recognized human rights. We have closely followed the fate of Julian Assange in the past; however, the current developments in his case arouse our concern all the more.

Mr Assange, founder of the platform Wikileaks, has not been granted to live in freedom for more than eleven years. Since April 2019 he has been imprisoned at HMP Belmarsh where he is waiting for the United Kingdom's decision on his extradition requested by the United States of America. Because of his investigative journalistic work, including exposing U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, he faces charges of up to 175 years in prison in the United States.

A free press, to which both the United Kingdom and Germany have committed, is a basic prerequisite for healthy democracies and a functioning rule of law. In line with several renowned human rights organisations, we are very concerned about the deterring effect that an extradition to and the persecution of Mr Assange in the United States might have on freedom of the press, investigative journalism, and freedom of expression worldwide. As elected representatives in the German Bundestag we consider an extradition as a fatal symbol for journalists and media publishers all over the world. Thus, we respectfully request you to use the means at your disposal to ensure that these potentially serious implications are taken into account in the final decision-making that now lies with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Rt Hon Priti Patel.

Additionally, we fear for Mr Assange's health as he currently remains and likely will remain in detention and prolonged isolation. The UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Professor Nils Melzer, has long warned that Julian Assange is showing symptoms of "psychological torture" and must therefore be released immediately. Mr Assange's poor state of health was indeed the main argument of the British judiciary in its judgement of January 4, 2021, which prohibited extradition to an unforeseeably long U.S. custody. Yet, Mr Assange remains in solitary confinement in HMP Belmarsh, because the U.S. government insists on the extradition to which the London High Court eventually agreed on December 10, 2021 neglecting the ongoing concerns for his health. The renewed appeal by Mr Assange's lawyers was not accepted.

We therefore kindly request you to ensure that the consequences an extradition might entail for Mr Assange's life and health continue to be carefully taken into account. Human rights and hence the obligations according to the European Convention on Human Right to which the United Kingdom has committed must lie at the core of the final decision.

Esteemed Members of Parliament, in acknowledgement of the Resolution 2317 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and in the mutual recognition of our partnership and the bond of our shared values, we sincerely hope you will help building bridges in Julian Assange's case. In your House and especially in your communication with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Rt Hon Priti Patel, we kindly ask you to underline the consequences – for Mr Assange's health as well as for freedom of the press worldwide – an extradition of Mr Assange would have.

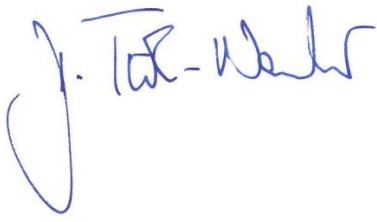
We are looking forward to engaging in a conversation with you on this matter.

Please accept the assurance of our most distinguished consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Max Lucks MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Derya Türk-Nachbaur MP, SPD Parliamentary Group



Peter Heidt MP, FDP Parliamentary Group



Frank Schwabe MP, SPD Parliamentary Group



Sevim Dağdelen MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



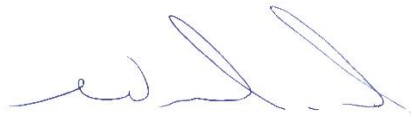
Jürgen Trittin MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Julian Pahlke MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Manuel Höferlin MP, FDP Parliamentary Group



Fabian Funke MP, SPD Parliamentary Group



Dr Gregor Gysi MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Deborah Düring MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Boris Mijatovic MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Erhard Grundl MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Janine Wissler MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Amira Mohamed Ali MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



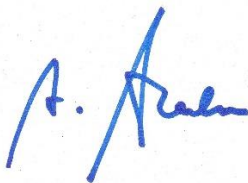
Tabea Rößner MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Axel Schäfer MP, SPD Parliamentary Group



Canan Bayram MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Dr André Hahn MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



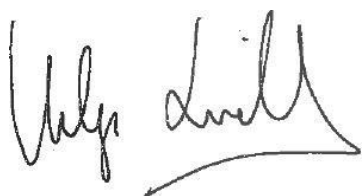
Dr Sahra Wagenknecht MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Matthias W. Birkwald MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Merle Spellerberg MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Helge Lindh MP, SPD Parliamentary Group



Christian Görke MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



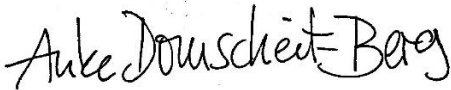
Misbah Khan MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Andrej Hunko MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Susanne Menge MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Anke Domscheit-Berg MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Dr Jan-Niclas Gesenhues MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Ates Gürpınar MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Johannes Wagner MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Thomas Lutze MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Kai Gehring MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Sören Pellmann MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Tobias Bacherle MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens



Dr Petra Sitte MP, Parliamentary Group The Left



Nyke Slawik MP, Parliamentary Group Alliance 90/The Greens